

CREATION OF THE HOME

Genesis 2:4-25

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: God, Adam, and Eve

Key-location: Garden of Eden

Key-repetition:

- Lacking at creation of earth and sky: no plants (Gen 2:5); no rain (Gen 2:5); no people (Gen 2:5); no suitable companion for man (Gen 2:18).
- God's actions: made the earth and sky (Gen 2:4); formed a man (Gen 2:7); blew breath of life into man's nostrils (Gen 2:7); planted a garden (Gen 2:8); placed fruit trees in the garden (Gen 2:9); put man in the garden (Gen 2:15); warned man (Gen 2:17); said (Gen 2:18); formed all animals and birds (Gen 2:19); brought animals to man (Gen 2:19); caused the man to sleep, took out one of man's ribs, and closed up the place (Gen 2:21); used rib to make a woman (Gen 2:22); brought woman to man (Gen 2:22).
- Responsibility given to first man: to work and care for creation (Gen 2:15); to name the animals (Gen 2:19); leave parents to unite with wife (Gen 2:24).

Key-attitudes:

- God's love; he created a paradise for mankind.
- Risk: God established boundaries and there was a risk that man would violate them.
- Man's loneliness before the creation of woman.
- Man's joy when he met Eve.

Initial-situation:

God created the heavens and the earth, and everything he created was good.

Initial-problem:

When the Lord God made the earth and the sky, there were no plants on the land, no rain, nor was there any person.

Final-situation:

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. They were naked, but felt no shame.

BIBLE STORY

Garden of Eden

At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the sky, there were no plants on the land, no rain, nor was there any man. Mist that rose from the earth and underground springs watered the earth.

The Lord God formed man from the dust of the earth. The Lord God blew the breath of life into man's nostrils and man became a living being (Gen 2:4-7).

The Lord God planted a garden in a place called Eden. He placed different beautiful trees with good tasting fruit in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. A river flowed through Eden and watered the garden (Gen 2:8-14).

The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to farm it and take care of it. The Lord God warned the man, "You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden except from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, you will die" (Gen 2:15-17).

Creating the Home

The Lord God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I'll make man a suitable companion." The Lord God had formed from the soil all the animals and birds. He brought them to the man so the man could name each of them. Whatever the man called each creature, that became its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, birds, and wild animals.

But the man found no suitable companion for himself. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. The Lord used the rib to make a woman. The Lord brought the woman to the man.

The man exclaimed, "This is it! Her bones come from my bone and her flesh from my flesh! She shall be called 'woman,' because she came from a man" (Gen 2:18-23).

That is the reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the man and woman will become one flesh.

The man and woman were both naked, but they felt no shame (Gen 2:24-25).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did God declare about his creation that was not good?
2. What responsibilities did God give to Adam?
3. What responsibilities do people today have in relation to God's creation?
4. Why did God ask the man to name all the animals?
5. How did God make the woman?
6. How did man react when the Lord brought the woman to the first man?

7. What guidelines are given for the establishment of a home?
8. How do we relate to the fact that God gives people both responsibilities and restrictions?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **People's life and worth come from God's Spirit.** The fact that God formed man from the dust of the earth implies that there is nothing of value in man until God brings it to life with the breath of his life-giving Spirit. When God removes his life giving Spirit, people's bodies once again return to dust (Gen 2:7).
2. **Neither the man nor the woman is superior to the other.** If Eve had been formed of the dust of the ground, as Adam had been formed, Adam could have seen her as a second and inferior creation. God shaped Eve from Adam and showed that men and women share his image equally (Gen 2:21). Adam realized this and greeted Eve, "Her bones come from my bone and her flesh from my flesh!" (Gen 2:23).
3. **God is the God who acts.** Some of the things God did: made the earth and sky (Gen 2:4); formed a man (Gen 2:7); blew breath of life into man's nostrils (Gen 2:7); planted a garden (Gen 2:8); placed fruit trees in the garden (Gen 2:9) put man in the garden (Gen 2:15); warned man (Gen 2:17); said (Gen 2:18); formed all animals and birds (Gen 2:19); brought animals to man (Gen 2:19); caused the man to sleep, took out one of man's ribs, and closed up the place (Gen 2:21); used rib to make a woman (Gen 2:22); brought woman to man (Gen 2:22).
4. **God made the family to be a priority for man.** When marrying, the man should leave his parents. The relationship with his parents becomes less important than that with his wife (Gen 2:24). The most important relationship for a married person should be with his own spouse.
5. **God is the creator of the family and gives guidelines on how to establish a healthy marriage (Gen 2:24):**
 - 1st Leave one's father and mother.
 - 2nd Unite.
 - 3rd Become one flesh.God's plan is for a man and a woman to participate in the sex act after they have left their parents and have made a commitment to remain united as husband and wife for as long as both are living.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Series of Tableaux:

The storyteller narrates the Bible story from beginning to the end. Then drama participants plan a series of frozen images that, together, tell the story with a beginning, middle and end. Designate three drama participants. Each is designated to represent a person from the story:

- God.
- Man.
- Woman.

The storyteller starts retelling the Bible story. Drama participants stand around the performance area. When the storyteller pauses, drama participants interpret the narrated event by stepping into the performance area and establishing a frozen image in relation to one another until the tableau is complete. The storyteller will pause after narrating the following events and allow drama participants to interpret each event with a frozen image:

- The Lord God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone."
- But Adam found no suitable companion for himself.
- The man exclaimed, "This is it! Her bones come from my bone and her flesh from my flesh!"