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God Is the Creator

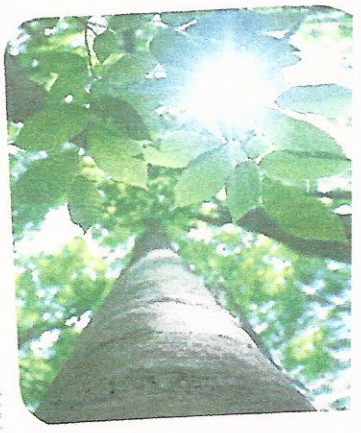
A Wonderful World

God has filled our world
with so many wonderful gifts.





Which of God's wonderful gifts are your favorites?
Describe these gifts in words or through art.



We Will Learn...

- 1 God created the universe.
- 2 God promised to send a Savior.
- 3 There are three Persons in one God.

1 God created the universe.

The **Bible** is the book about God's love for us and about our call to live as God's people. God is the author of the Bible since he guided the writers to record the things he wanted to share with us. We call the Bible the Word of God.

As we read the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we learn that everything in the universe was created by God. In the story of Creation, we read that after God created the sky, the bodies of water, the land, and the animals, God created human beings. God loved human beings so much he created us in his image and likeness. "God created man in his image; . . . /male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

God gave the first human beings, whom we call Adam and Eve, the ability to love, to think and wonder, to ask questions and look for answers, and to make choices. God's plan for human beings was that they be happy with him forever.

God gave the first humans the whole of Creation to enjoy and protect. God wanted people to love and to be happy and to share in his goodness and beauty. We can read the whole story of Creation in Genesis 1:1—2:4 and Genesis 2:4–25.

When we see the beauty of Creation, we realize a loving God has given us everything. We should take time to thank him. We can do this by respecting each person because she or he is made in the image and likeness of God. We can also do this by taking care of the world—God's gift to us—so that we can share its goodness with all people.

In what ways can you show respect for others this week?

In what ways can you care for God's gifts of Creation?

Do You Know?

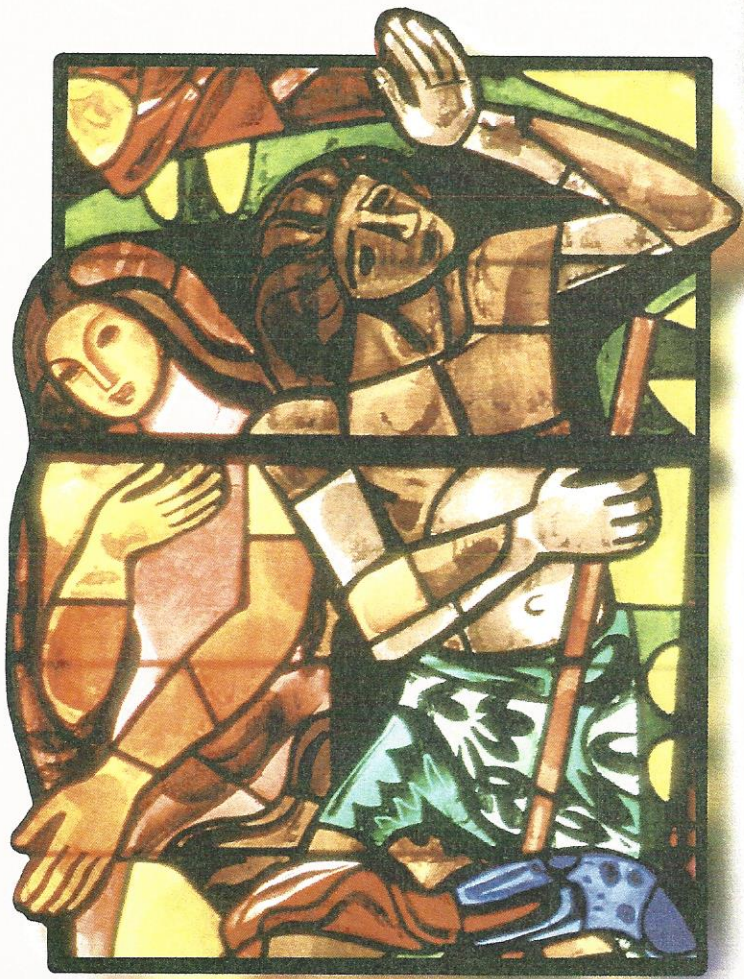
God alone created the world. He created each person in his image and likeness. Each person is a unity of body and soul. The soul is the invisible and the spiritual reality that makes each of us human. The soul is immortal, which means it will never die. At death the soul is separated from the body. But the soul will be reunited with the body when Christ comes in glory at the end of time.



2 God promised to send a Savior.

One of God's greatest gifts to humans is the gift of free will. The first humans were free to choose either to do good or evil. God would not force them to do anything. God trusted them to act out of love for him rather than selfishness. In God's plan, humans would live in peace and harmony. They would never be sick or die.

But in Genesis, we learn how evil entered the world. We read that tempted by the devil, Adam and Eve chose not to use their freedom wisely. They chose to act selfishly and to turn away from the loving God who had created them. When they chose to turn away from God, they committed the first sin, called **Original Sin**. This sin weakened human nature and brought ignorance, suffering, and death into the world.



From then on all human beings have been born with Original Sin.

Even though the first humans sinned, God still loved them. He promised that he would not turn away from his people. God promised that he would send a Savior—someone who would save them from sin. In God's plan, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Father would send his only Son to save all people from sin.

Why do you think free will is one of God's greatest gifts?

3 There are three Persons in one God.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three Persons in one God. We call the three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the **Blessed Trinity**. The Blessed Trinity is a mystery of faith. It is a belief that we will not fully understand until we are sharing life forever with God in Heaven. The Blessed Trinity is the central belief of our faith and of our life of faith.

One way to show our belief in the Blessed Trinity is to pray the Sign of the Cross.

When will you pray the Sign of the Cross this week?

The Sign of the Cross

In the name
of the Father, ¹
and of the Son, ²
and of the ³
Holy Spirit. ⁴

Amen.



Review

Complete the following sentences.

1. God created people in his _____ and likeness.
2. The _____ is the book about God's love for us and our call to live as God's people.
3. God promised to send us a _____ to save us from sin.
4. We call the three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the _____.

Discuss the following.

5. What did God want people to do with the world he had created?
6. What are the effects of Original Sin?
7. What was God's promise to Adam and Eve after they sinned?

Faith Words

Bible (page 8)

Original Sin (page 9)

Blessed Trinity (page 10)

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

1

God created the universe.

2

God promised to send a Savior.

3

There are three Persons in one God.

PRAYING TOGETHER



Praise the Blessed Trinity often this week by praying:

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Living Our Faith

This week remind your family members that God gave us the world to enjoy and protect. Together list ways you can protect the environment. Choose one or two ways from your list to work on together this week.
