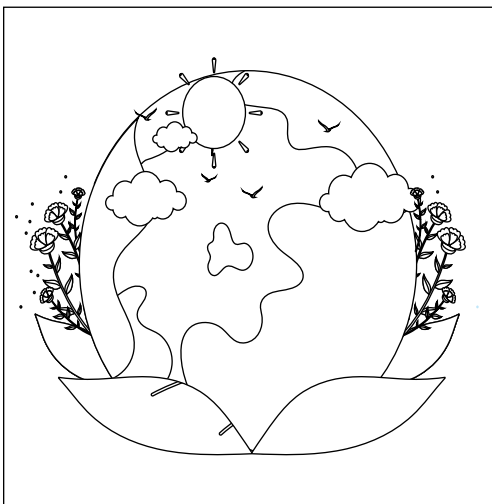
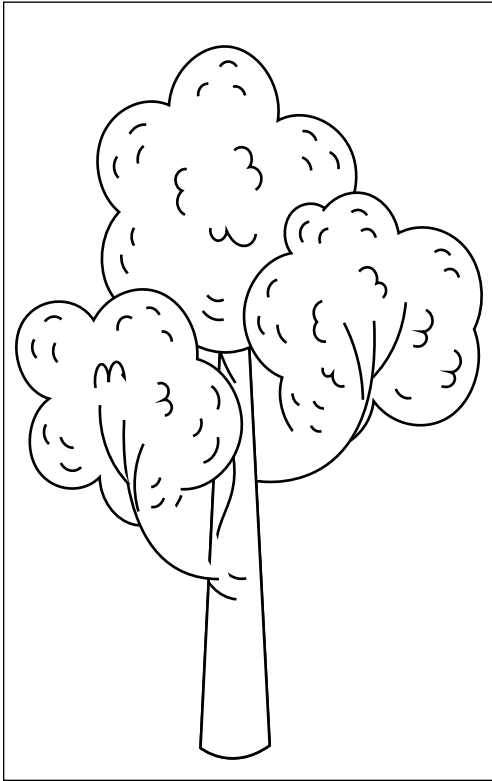




THE STORY OF
Creation

Colour me!



Genesis 2:4b-9; 15-22

When the Lord God made the heavens and the earth, no grass or plants were growing anywhere. God had not yet sent any rain, and there was no one to work the land. But streams came up from the ground and watered the earth. The Lord God took a handful of soil and made a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing. The Lord made a garden in a place called Eden, which was in the east, and he put the man there.

The Lord God placed all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of the trees gave life—the other gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.

The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. But the Lord told him, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong. If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!” The Lord God said, “It isn’t good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him.” So the Lord took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame animals and the birds and the wild animals. That’s how they got their names.

None of these was the right kind of partner for the man. So the Lord God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of the man’s ribs. Then after closing the man’s side, the Lord made a woman out of the rib. The Lord God brought her to the man.

Commentary

The Bible begins with two parallel stories of creation, of which this is the second. In this version the focus is on how special human beings are. Although formed from the raw material of the soil, the man is special because God breathes life into him. God gives him a special place to live—a beautiful garden called Eden—and a special role as caretaker of a world full of beauty, with ‘pure gold, rare perfumes, and precious stones’. This specialness is also seen in the way God gives the man the freedom to make his own choices.

The warnings about the tree of knowledge of good and evil are clear, but God graciously leaves it up to the man to decide whether to listen to them or not. Finally, God gives him a special friend, because being alone is not in his plan for human beings. Togetherness is something we all need, and it also seems to be part of God’s own character.

Questions

- ▶ If you could create your own perfect world, what would it be like?
- ▶ How can you play your part in caring for God’s world?
- ▶ Why do you think God put such a dangerous tree in the garden?
- ▶ Why do you think human beings are so special to God?



Visual aid

Blow up a number of balloons with your own ‘breath of life’ and draw faces of people on them. Maybe you could also try some animal balloon modelling. Check the internet for instructions and the appropriate balloons to use.



Activity idea

Play an alphabet creation game, choosing words for different parts of creation—for example, **A**ntelope, **B**utterfly, **C**amel, **D**affodil, and so on. Talk about how you can best look after each part of God’s world. This Bible story also underlines how special God thinks each one of us is. Play a second alphabet game celebrating people and places—for example, **A**dam, **B**razil, **C**anada, **D**iana, and so on.



Prayer idea

Using a blow-up globe, big picture atlas, nature calendar or images from the internet, look at the variety of this world—human, animal and plant life, as well as the colours and shapes of the mountains, valleys, rivers and oceans. Let each person choose his or her favourite part of creation and make up a special prayer to say ‘thank you’ to God for it.

Key verse

The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it (Genesis 2:15).

New Testament story link

Revelation 21:1-7: Here is a word picture of the new Eden that God will give us all one day, because of what Jesus Christ has done to mend our broken world.



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