

The whole world was like one big, beautiful garden. It was a fantastic place to be, but God wanted to make a really special place, a garden for Adam and Eve to live in and have all that they needed.

He created a place called "The Garden of Eden" and there he put the first people He'd made. It was such a wonderful place to be. There were no thorns or harmful plants. The trees had plenty of fruit, and other types of food were growing in the garden.

Adam and Eve were perfectly safe there, and enjoyed exploring and helping to care for this garden that God had given them the job of looking after.

It was the most beautiful place that ever existed on Earth.



Have you ever gone on a fun picnic, but then there were some things that made it not as nice as you would have liked?

Perhaps there were bothersome flies or mosquitoes that would not leave you alone, or it began to rain just when you were starting to eat. Or perhaps there was broken glass and trash carelessly left around the area, and thorn bushes that made things less than ideal.

None of these things were a problem for Adam and Eve, who had the privilege of living and working in God's special garden, called "The Garden of Eden".



The world's first people were placed there to care for it, and to enjoy it as well.

All was perfect. All was beautiful. They could walk without shoes and

nothing hurt their feet. There were no thorns or pests, no biting bugs, or sickness.

Adam and Eve ran happily through this garden, picking fruit and berries when they got hungry, or drinking from crystal-clear refreshing waters.

God enjoyed watching these first two people that He'd made having fun in such a beautiful place.

They had lots to learn and explore, made discoveries, and had a great time there in this special garden, created and planted by God Himself.

How lovely it was. Wouldn't you have loved to walk in it too? Maybe one day God will re-create it, so we can see just how marvellous it was.

### **Activity**

\*Have a picnic outside, or nibble fruit under the shade of a tree, or while looking at photos of nature or gardens.



The whole world was beautiful, but God chose to make a special place, His own special garden, His special creation, made with all the wonders and beauty that He had planned.

Adam and Eve were put there, to live in it and enjoy it, and also to take care of the place. They had a job to do, but it was fun and easy, and very inspiring and enjoyable.

It wasn't just work, work, work. These caretakers of God's garden had time to play, to watch the animals, to see the sunset, to run and to enjoy all that was there.

They didn't have to worry about stepping on thorns, or about mosquitoes or any bugs biting them, nor about poisonous plants, or anything that troubles people nowadays. It was perfectly beautiful then.



They didn't have to worry about what to make for dinner, or fret if the crops didn't produce enough food that season. Food was plentiful and easy to find. God grew the food for them on the trees and plants that He had created.

It was as fun as picking whatever fruit you wanted and enjoying it. There were no restaurants in those days, just fast foods—the right kinds, filled with only the best kinds of ingredients: fruit from trees, berries from bushes, and foods from plants.

This garden, which God had formed specially for Adam and Eve, was better than any place you've ever seen. More splendid, more imaginative, more varied than any nature reserve, jungle or botanical garden.

There were so many species of plants and flowers, trees and vines, and breath-taking views all in this one place. It truly was a spectacular place of splendour and wonder, beautiful in every way. When God does something, He does it better than anyone else could—and far surpasses anything that you could ever dream up.

Can you imagine waking up, after sleeping on a bed of soft grass, or perhaps in a nook of a large tree, and breathing in heavenly beauty from morning till night? You could just eat along the way as you explored and helped to care for this magnificent garden.

Everything that you thought looked fun to eat, you could eat. There would be no poisonous berries, only tasty treats growing here and there on trees, bushes, vines, or along the ground, and even under the ground.

What if you never had house chores or clean-up to do, and there were no dishes to wash? What if laundry and dirty clothes were never a part of life? And what if you never got too cold or too hot but felt perfectly comfortable and healthy all the time?



Can you imagine a

place where all the worrisome things, the things that cause troubles, the things that get you down, the things that harm health and add to

unhappiness were completely eliminated? Wouldn't that be the best place in the world to be?

And what if all the people who lived there only had good ideas, kind thoughts, and were friendly and gentle—people who took care of the surroundings, never hurt you or others, and lived just to make sure things stayed pleasant and well taken care of?

Well, that gives an idea of what it would be like to be living in the Garden of Eden—God's special garden—at the beginning of Earth's history.

### Let's Talk About It

\*Where you live isn't the Garden of Eden, but perhaps there is something you can do to make things a bit more pleasant. Is there anything you can think of that you'd like to do or have done to make things nicer in some way? For example: Flowers planted in the yard, house being more organized or tidy, people being kinder and more friendly to one another, nature pictures posted around, potted plants in the house, people talking more gently and respectfully to each other, etc.

### **Activity**

\*Learn about types of flowers in pictures or outside. List the parts of a flower. Make a simple bouquet of flowers.



### Connect and Communicate

\*If you were Adam or Eve, what would you say when you woke up in the morning? What if you were Mary or Elijah? Say a prayer or praise as if you're someone from the Bible, and have others quess who you are thinking of!

## Study Fun

Mark: What jobs Adam was to do. Mark what things God alone did.

<u>Look up</u>: Some of the geographical areas mentioned, in an atlas or on Bible maps.

List: All the things it says here that were in the Garden of Eden.

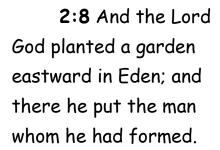
#### Genesis

- 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,
- 2:5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused



it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

2:6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.





- 2:9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- 2:10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.
- 2:11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;



- 2:12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.
- 2:13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.
- 2:14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.
- 2:15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

## **Activity**

\*Learn about pressing flowers, and do it! Or learn about canning foods to preserve them.



## Isaiah 51:12a,13

I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man and forgettest the



Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

Romans 8:31b If God be for us, who can be against us?

## Books of the Bible—First 5 Books

#### Praise

**Psalms 34:1** I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

\*Hum a tune, have others guess the song, and guess what you are thinking of that you are thankful for, that the song reminds you of.

#### Genesis

\*Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament section of the Bible. Genesis is a history book. It tells the life stories of many important people. For example: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers. It talks about how God created the Earth, mankind, and the universe.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

#### **Exodus**

\*Exodus is a history book in the Bible's Old Testament, and is also a law book. The people called Hebrews were slaves in Egypt, and God sent Moses to free them and to bring them out of Egypt. The journey to their new land was through a desert. God did many wonderful things to help the people as they travelled through the desert. God gave the law to Moses on a mountain called Sinai, and instructed the Hebrews to make a special tent for Moses' and the priests' times of prayer.

**Exodus 15:26** And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

#### Leviticus

\*The book of Leviticus is in the Old Testament part of the Bible. It contains many rules and laws for the Hebrew people at that time, and the duties of priests during the time of the Old Testament.

Leviticus 26:12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

#### Numbers

\*The book of Numbers is a law book in the Old Testament section of the Bible, but Numbers is also a history book. It is the story of the people whom Moses led through the desert. Moses counted the people in Numbers 1 and Numbers 26.

Numbers 6:24-26 The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

### Deuteronomy

\*The book of Deuteronomy is the last book of Moses. It is in the Old Testament part of the Bible. It contains the instructions that Moses gave to the people. He reminded them about the things that happened in the desert. He taught them God's law. He encouraged them that if they obeyed God, God would help them and good things would happen. If they did not obey God, they would suffer. Moses appointed Joshua to lead the people after his death.

**Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

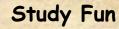
## Activity

\*Play a game: Read a small, age-appropriate portion of one of the books of the Bible listed above, and see if anyone can guess what book it is from!



Topic Treasures

Doing OurCreator's Plan



<u>Mark</u>: The "do" instructions in these verses. What is our part to do, in order to get the benefits mentioned?

Look up: The definitions to the words "honour" and "prosperity".

<u>List</u>: The benefits, both in these verses and others you can think of, that we gain through obedience to God's will and plan for our lives.

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**Deuteronomy 28:2** And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Isaiah 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isaiah 51:3 For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.



Isaiah 51:4 Hearken unto me, my

people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

Jeremiah 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

**Revelation 4:11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**Proverbs 3:19** The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.



# Daily Diary

\*Pick a flower or leaf or blade of grass, and tape it into your book. Write beside the flower or grass the verse from Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

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