

January 1

Genesis 1:1-2:3

In this opening passage of the Bible, we read that God created the heavens and the earth. Once God created the pinnacle of His creation - human beings - "God saw all that he had made and it was very good."

Question to Consider:

Because our world was created by God, how might we better care for His creation?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for creating the world, the universe, and for giving us life. We give our lives to you and ask you to help us care for all that you have made. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

January 2

Genesis 2:4-25

These verses tell the story of the creation of human beings in greater detail than is found in the previous reading. It tells of the Garden of Eden and about the first people, Adam and Eve, before sin entered into what God had made.

Question to Consider:

These verses tell of God creating people. Think about how God has made you. What makes you a special person created by God?

Prayer:

Dear God, you made the heavens and the earth, and you made each of us. We thank you for giving us life and we pray that we always live our lives in ways that please you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

January 3

Genesis 3:1-24

This passage tells the story of sin entering the world that God had created.

Question to Consider:

Sin, disobeying God, enters our lives every day. Think about how sin entered your life today. How did you disobey God today?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I know that I have sinned against you today and I ask you to forgive me, and I pray that you will help me to live more for you tomorrow. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

January 4Genesis 6:1-22

Sometime after creating the heavens and the earth - and we don't know how long - God became distressed about how people were filled with sin. He decided it was time to start over, and these verses tell about how God instructed a good man named Noah to build an ark in order to prepare for the destructive flood that was to come.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever made something or started a project and then had to scrap the whole thing and start over? Recall that experience and what you learned from it.

Prayer:

Merciful God, I know there are things about my life that need to change. Please help me to understand what needs to change so that I might live more for you and give you greater glory with my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

January 5Genesis 7:1-24

The great flood is described in this passage as God sought to begin anew with His created world.

Question to Consider:

Noah obeyed God and built the ark. Then, he entered it with his family and the animals they had gathered together. Noah's neighbors must have thought his behavior to be very strange. Do you think you would be willing to obey God, even if it would mean appearing foolish to your friends and neighbors?

Prayer:

Loving God, the day may come when you ask me to do something unusual or difficult, and it may seem strange to the people I know. When that day comes, help me to have the courage I will need to fully obey you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.