WEEK 2

Life in God's Garden

Big Idea: God is loving. He created me.

Memory Verse

***"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good"* (Genesis 1:31).**

Word of the Week

"Loving" - When you are loving, you show kindness and care for others. Loving people make others happy. Who is loving in this story?

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 1:25-31**; **2:7-9**; **15-24**; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44-47.

Sunday

"Good Morning, Friday!"

Five whole days had come and gone since God had started creating the new world. Now it was the sixth day. The golden sun shone brightly over the colorful gardens. Birds flitted between trees, singing happy songs. What a beautiful world!

God could see that it was good, but He wasn't finished yet. What did He do next? Read **Genesis 1:24, 25**.

God spoke and it happened, just like that! When God's powerful voice spoke, all kinds of different animals were created. Some animals had soft, silky fur. Others had tough, rough skin. Some had huge ears, and others had teeny, tiny tails.

God made a male and female (boy and girl) of every kind of animal: two barking dogs, two big elephants, two galloping horses, two fast leopards, and two mooing cows. God then commanded the animals to "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:22). He wanted all the pairs of animals to have cute baby animals, and for their families to grow bigger. Yes, God thought of everything!



What did God think of all that He had made? Read **Genesis 1:25**. God had created something good, because He is good, and He is loving and kind and so very generous. Now it was time to make the most exciting creation of all.

I Wonder

» What is one animal you have never seen, but would like to see one day?

» What would you like to say to God about the animals He created?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for being so powerful and creative and for making all the animals in our world.

Do

This week, learn about some animals that you might not have heard of before: dugong, aye-aye, dumbo octopus, gerenuk.

Monday

The Best Creation of All

Roar went the lions. *Buzzzz* went the bees. *Neigh* went the horse. *Baaa* went the lambs.

God must have smiled on the sixth day as He looked at all the noisy and playful animals He had just made. They were all so different: different colors, different sizes—they even lived in different places. Some swung up high in trees, while others burrowed underground. Some hid away, and others pranced in the wide-open meadows.

Yes, God was happy with everything He had made. And now it was time to make the best creation of all.

All of heaven watched as God bent down and "took dust from the ground" (Genesis 2:7, ICB). With His strong, kind hands God began to shape the dirt into two feet and two long legs. He made a chest, two arms, and 10 fingers. Shaping a head, God made ears, a nose, two eyes, and a mouth.

God was making a . . . ? Read the first part only of **Genesis 2:7** to fill in the gap.

The very first human ever! This man that God made was perfect. He was created with God's very own hands!

When God made you, He also took special care. There's not one other person in the whole wide world just like you. What a loving God He is!

I Wonder

» Why do you think God shaped the first person with His own hands instead of just talking, as He did when He made the animals?

» Do you think you could shape a person out of dust with your hands? We can be thankful that nothing is too hard for God!

Prayer Idea

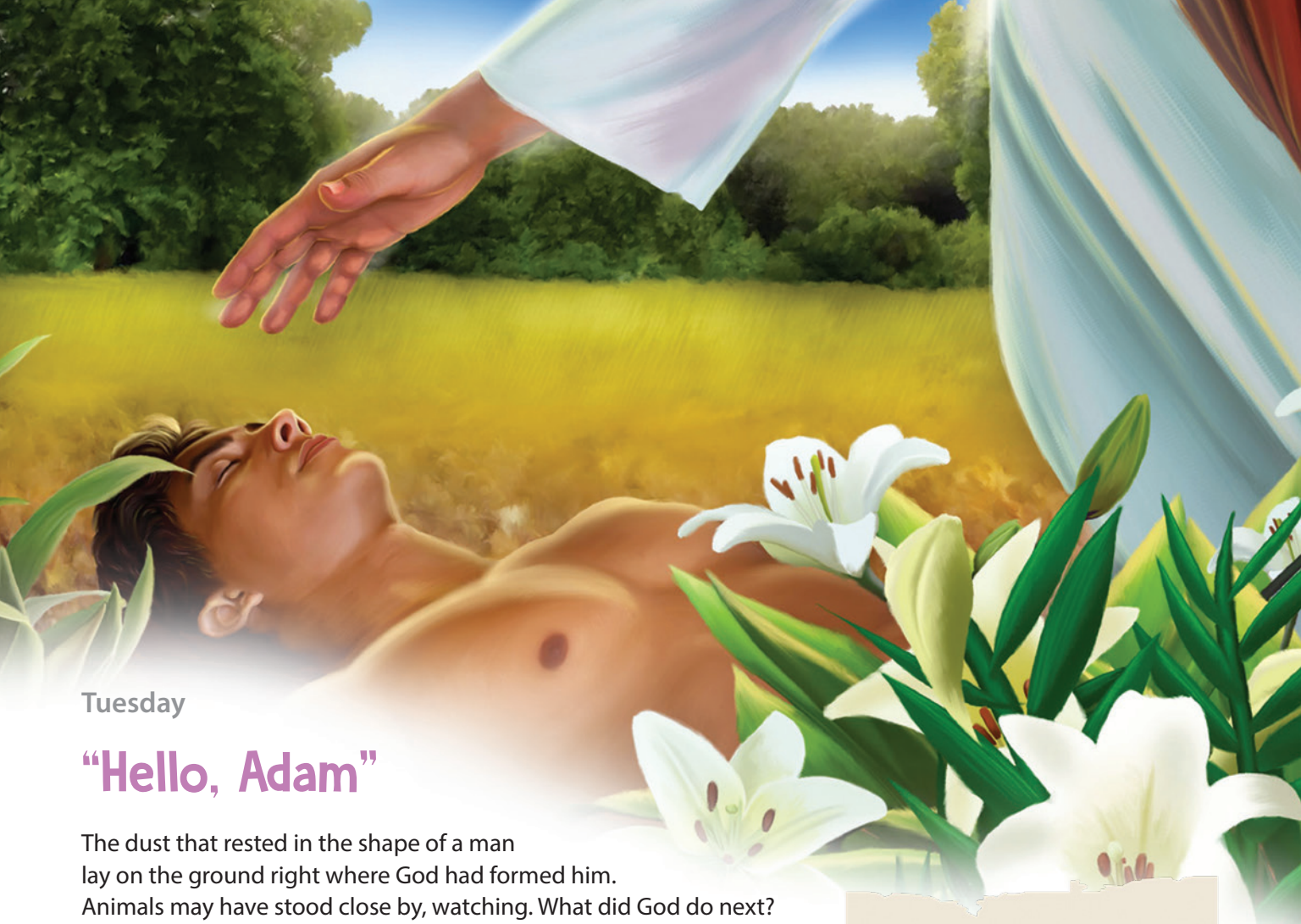
Thank God for making you and your family.

Do

Make a person from some clay, mud, or snow. Making a person isn't easy, but God was very creative and clever when He made Adam!

Memory Verse





Tuesday

"Hello, Adam"

The dust that rested in the shape of a man lay on the ground right where God had formed him. Animals may have stood close by, watching. What did God do next? Read **Genesis 2:7**.

God bent down and breathed into the nose of the man, and all of a sudden life went into him. The man who had been just a shape on the ground started to breathe and move. His eyes blinked open, and he looked into God's kind, beautiful face.

God gave this man a name. (Do you know what it was?) Adam! This word means "ground" or "man." Adam was very, very tall—as tall as two men standing on top of each other! He was strong and handsome and very smart. God had made Adam in His likeness. He also gave Adam special clothes to wear, made out of light, like the angels wore.

The Bible says that God knew you even before you were born. It says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5). God knows everyone in the whole wide world. He knows every child, every mommy and daddy, and every grandma and grandpa. He knew them even before they were born.

The Bible tells us that God created everything right at the beginning, but more than that, it tells us how wonderful God is to have made it all. What a loving God He is!

Fast Fact

Did you know you have exactly 24 rib bones in your chest? If you aren't too ticklish, maybe you could try to count them.

I Wonder

» What do you think it will be like when you look into God's face for the first time?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He loves us and that He knows us by name.

Do

Sing "God Is So Good" or another of your favorite songs about how much you love Jesus.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

A Garden Home

What a special first day it was for Adam on our earth! He listened to different birds sing. He watched the animals play. He smelled the beautiful, sweet flowers. He tasted yummy fruit. Everything was perfect! And God had made it all. Everything around him was perfect. Adam's heart filled with so much love for God!

God had a special gift for Adam—a beautiful home. "God planted a garden . . . in a place called Eden" (Genesis 2:8, ICB). This garden would be a special place for Adam to live. It was filled with fields, forests, and flowers. A river flowed through Eden to water the plants. Adam felt so happy to care for his new garden home.

God gave Adam everything he needed to keep him healthy--nutritious food, a beautiful nature home, and he would exercise as he cared for the garden. God wants us to keep our bodies healthy today too.

God was so loving to Adam. What a wonderful time they had, walking together in the garden—smiling, talking, and noticing the beautiful things God had made. Then God told Adam that He had something very special for him to do. What was it? **Genesis 2:19**.

What a fun job! Imagine Adam pointing to the different animals and saying these names: "Penguin." "Horse." "Dolphin." "Koala." "Parrot." "Leopard." "Spider." "Sloth." The Bible says that "whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name" (Genesis 2:19).

I Wonder

» How can you show that you are happy to help with the jobs you are given in your home?

Prayer Idea

Ask for God to help you to obey your mommy or daddy happily when they ask you to do special jobs for them around the house.

Do

See how quickly you can guess the names of these animals:

- I have soft fur and I hop.
- I have a long nose and big ears.
- I have the longest neck of all the animals.
- I can purr.
- I can jump and kick.

Memory Verse



Thursday

Something Missing?

Adam had a wonderful time patting and naming all the animals. But after a while he noticed something. What was it? Read **Genesis 2:20**.

Adam saw a male and female (boy and girl) penguin; a male and female elephant; and a male and female koala—in fact, *every* animal had a partner, except for him.

Where would *he* find another person to love—someone he could talk to and laugh with? But God already knew what Adam needed. He knew that creation was not finished without this special someone for Adam. He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him" (Genesis 2:18, ICB). He would give Adam a special partner.

"So the Lord God caused the man to sleep very deeply" (Genesis 2:21, ICB). Then God then did something very unusual. Do you know where your rib bones are? Can you feel them? While Adam slept, God took out one of Adam's ribs, and used it to create something beautiful. What was it? Read **Genesis 2:22**.

Adam's eyelids fluttered open. Who was this? His heart filled with joy. *Oh! She's my match.* And Adam loved her.

Adam called her "woman" because she was like him. Later Adam called her Eve, because "she is the mother of everyone who ever lived" (Genesis 3:20, ICB). God made Eve from Adam's side, so that she could stand next to him as his helper and friend.

I Wonder

» Who is your special friend? What kind of things do you like to do together?

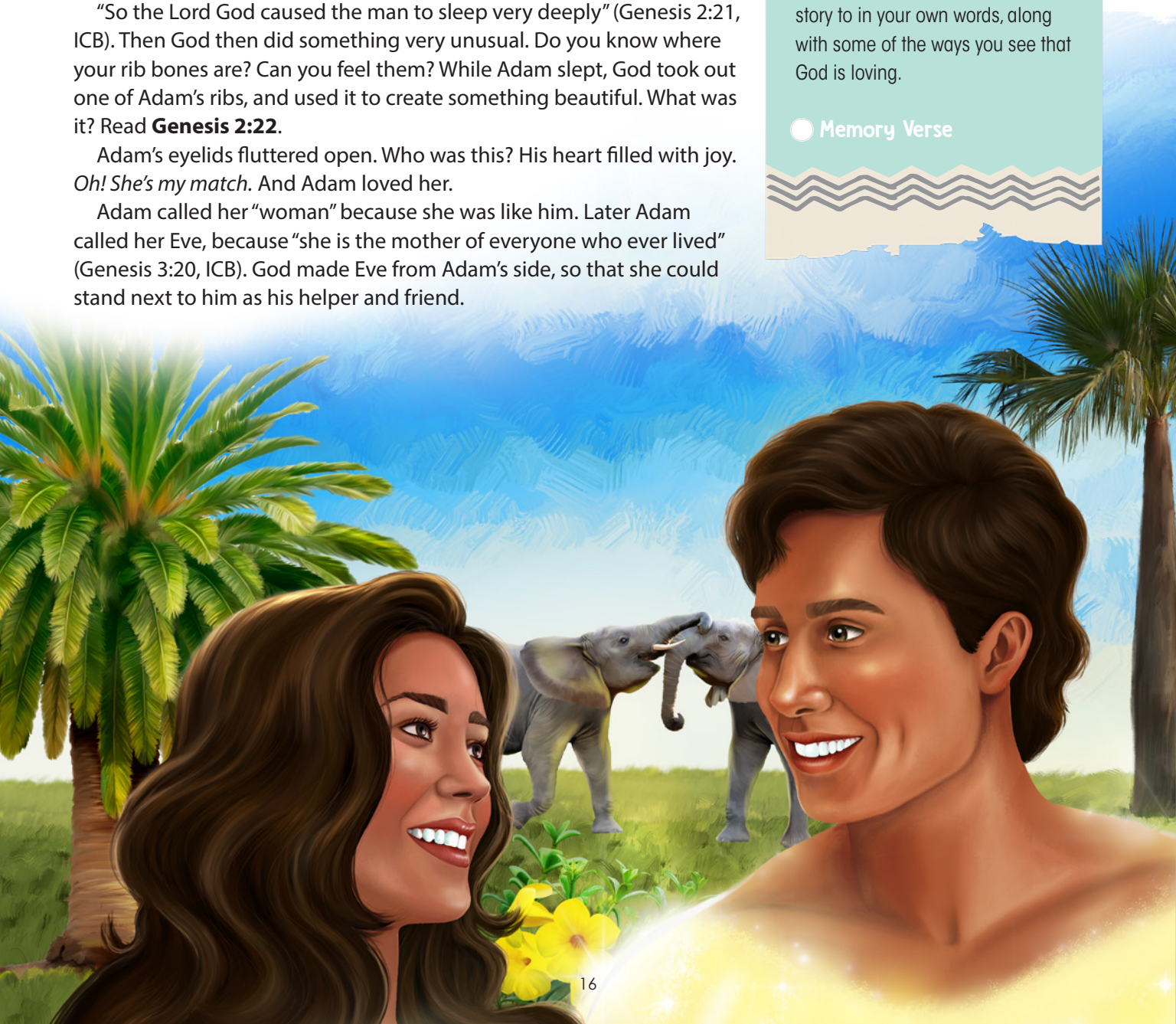
Prayer Idea

Say your memory verse. Thank God for making your family and your friends.

Do

Think of someone you can tell this story to in your own words, along with some of the ways you see that God is loving.

Memory Verse





Friday

The First Wedding

God had created a new and beautiful world. It was filled with beautiful plants, birds, creatures, lovely smells, and delicious food. Most of all, God Himself was there! Adam and Eve couldn't be happier!

On that first day, right there in the garden, Adam and Eve had a wedding. Side by side they stood, as God, their Creator and loving friend, married them. They loved each other purely and were very, very happy. What does God Himself tell us about getting married? Read **Genesis 2:24**.

The rest of that Friday must have felt like the best day of their lives for Adam and Eve. They had so much to explore and learn! There were raspberries to eat, roses to smell, and tigers to chase.

As the sun set at the end of the sixth day, Adam and Eve stood beside God in wonder. The sky turned orange, pink, and purple—God's world was beautiful! Soon twinkling stars began to glimmer in the darkness. Adam and Eve were full of thanks to God for His great love.

All was perfect. All was peaceful. All of creation sang a song of thanks to God (Job 38:7). God was very happy too—His work was now done. "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

I Wonder

» Have you ever been to a wedding? What was it like?

» Why do you think God, on the sixth day, said His creation was **very** good?

Prayer Idea

Go on a hunt to find things in your home that remind you how much God loves you, or of the things He has given to you. Praise God for His great love.

Do

Go outside to welcome in the Sabbath together as a family. Watch the sun set, sing, and thank God for all the wonderful nature gifts and love gifts He gave you this week.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Say your memory verse out loud. Invite each family member to think about a time this week during which God has shown His love to you, or someone in your family has been loving. Write these examples in your family journal. Then thank God for His love for you.

For You, Parents

"The things of nature are the Lord's silent ministers, given to us to teach us spiritual truths. They speak to us of the love of God and declare the wisdom of the great Master Artist" (Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 146).

Sabbath

Our Creative, Generous God!

*(**Parents:** Use the following as a guide to spend time with your child outside, in awe of God's nature.)*

LISTEN: Close your eyes and have Daddy or Mommy lead you out to the middle of your yard, or a park nearby. Then sit down. Be quiet. What sounds do you hear? Maybe rustling leaves, or bird songs?

LOOK UP: Now open your eyes! Lie down and look up into the sky. What do you see? Do you see any clouds? What shapes do you see? Do you see any birds? Count them! When you see two of the same kind, think about how much God loves to make animals and people to be together.

LOOK DOWN: Now roll over onto your stomach. Look very, very closely in the grass, and you may be able to watch a whole new world! What do you see? Can you see any little bugs? Maybe an ant colony? Watch how the bugs climb all over the grass.

LOOK AROUND: Go for a walk. Look at everything God has made for you! All of creation tells us more about God and His love for you. He knew that some kids would like to collect colored leaves or different-shaped rocks. He knew other kids would like to pick up interesting bugs. God knew that some would love to climb trees, and that many would love to explore. He thought of YOU when creating all the wonderful things you see!

Every time you go outside, or every time you see beautiful pictures of nature, remember that God created the earth as a gift for you and others. What a creative, loving God He is!

