2

The Creator's Best Gift

Key References: Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:8-11; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 2, pp. 47, 48; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 57-60; Our Beliefs, nos. 20, 6, 19















powertext

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 19.

powerpoint

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.

Why do you like vacations? What would your life be like if you never stopped to rest? Try to picture what the first Sabbath Adam and Eve spent with God in the Garden of Eden might have been like.

A light breeze whispered gently over the garden and made the leaves rustle. The fiery orb of the sun began to rise on the seventh day of the first week. It made the dewdrops sparkle like millions of diamonds on the sleeping flowers. Little by little the woods of Eden started to awaken at the sound of bird song. Soon the garden was teeming with all kinds of creatures, each unique and attractive.

All of a sudden Adam and Eve remembered the words of their Creator. He promised to spend this day with them. Eagerly Adam and Eve hurried through the paths of the garden to the meeting place with God. Once they arrived, they felt indescribable joy in the company of the Creator. With great interest they listened to His words on this day that completed God's work of creation. Now God could rest in the joy of spending time with Adam and Eve.

2

Sunday

READ Read Genesis 2:2, 3 and this week's story, "The Creator's Best Gift."

LEARN Use the bookmark that you made in Sabbath School, or create one with the power text on it. Start to memorize the power text, Genesis 2:2, 3.

THINK What important instructions from these verses can you use to keep the Sabbath holy?

PRAY Praise God for the Sabbath and for the gift of His friendship.

Monday

READ Read Exodus 20:8-11.

DISCUSS Ask a family member why it is important for us to work six days a week and to rest on the seventh day.

PLAN Participate in some Sabbath activities that will remind you of the Creator (e.g., nature walk with your family).

PRAY Ask God to help you finish your work for the week so you can enjoy the Sabbath.

Tuesday

READ Read Ezekiel 20:12.

THINK What does this verse mean to you? Reflect on the signs of your relationship with your friends. How could people tell that you are friends?

SHARE Tell someone that the Sabbath is God's special mark of friendship with you.

PRAY Thank God for teaching you about the special sign of His friendship.

The Creator had eagerly waited for this day. On the first day of Creation, when He changed the darkness into light, God thought of them. As He arched the sky above the earth on the second day, Adam and Eve were on His mind. The Creator wanted them to feel at home. So on the third day He decorated the landscape with grass, flowers, shrubs, and trees. God reached out on the fourth day and framed the sun, the moon, and the stars, sources of light and energy. Everything around was spotless but very still. So on the fifth day the Creator filled the sky with cheerful bird song and the waters with lively creatures. At His life-giving words on the sixth day, a multitude of animals covered the land with vibrant life. When everything was prepared, God created human beings, who would enjoy the wonderful world He had made for them.

Adam and Eve were in awe. Their hearts were filled with love and admiration for their Maker.

"You are such an awesome God!" they exclaimed. "As we consider Your masterful works, our hearts are filled with praise and adoration. Please remain with us."

The Creator promised to meet with them during the week, and on the seventh

day of each week He would spend the entire day with them. Spending this day with their Friend would make the seventh day the best day of the week for Adam and Eve. "Our loving Creator," echoed the grateful voices of Adam and Eve, "this is the best gift of all!"

The Creator called their attention to the holiness of the Sabbath. "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:3). Often thereafter Adam and Eve would recall God's instructions. They



Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 12:9-12.

THINK In what ways could you help others by doing good on the Sabbath?

WRITE In your Bible journal, create a plan of how you will use the Sabbath hours to get to know God better and to help others.

PRAY Ask God to help you worship Him by serving others on the Sabbath day.

Thursday

READ Read Revelation 14:6, 7.

REFLECT What do you think is the message of these texts?

THINK Reflect on the importance of worshipping the Creator on His holy day as a test of faithfulness in the last days. Will you be faithful to God's call to worship?

PRAY Ask God to help you remain faithful to Him by keeping the Sabbath even in trying times.

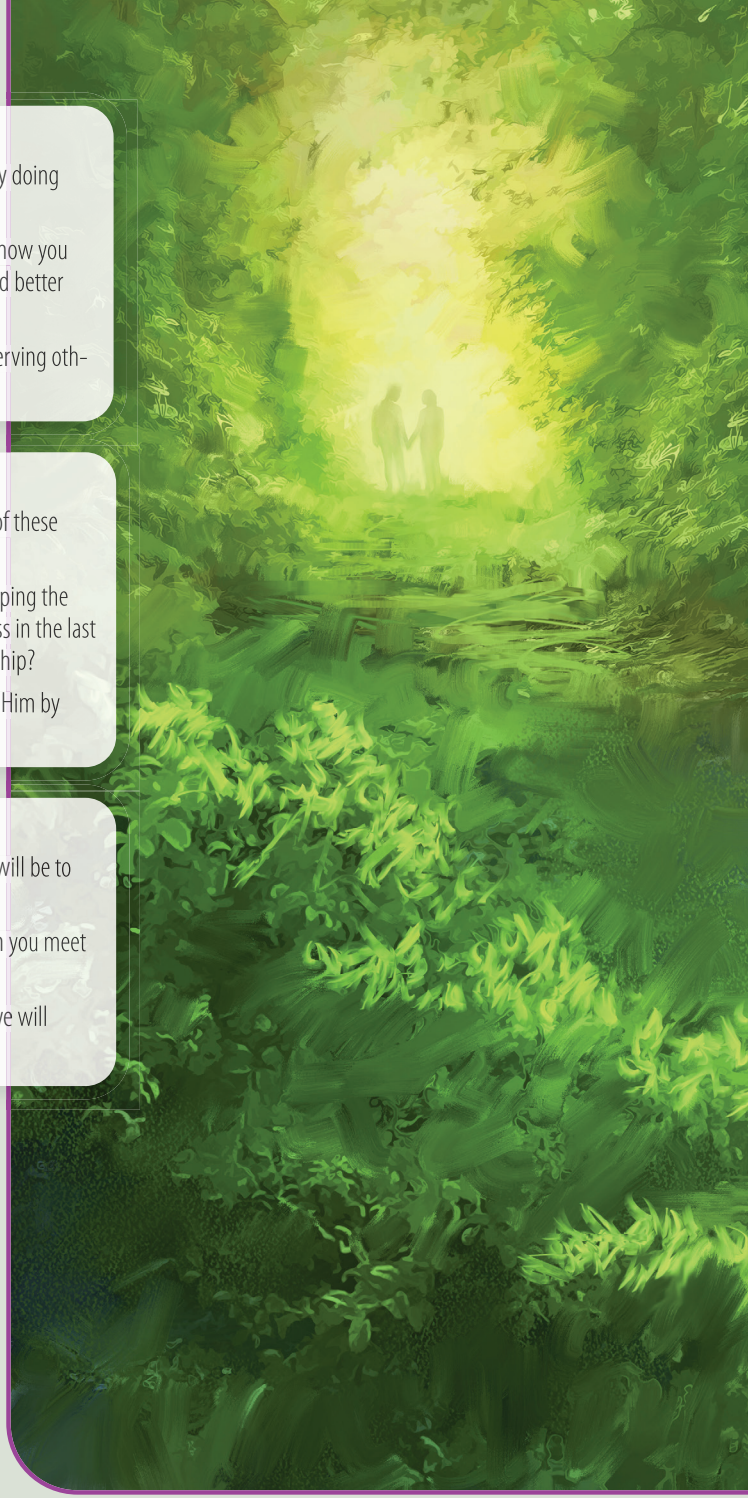
Friday

READ Read Isaiah 66:22, 23.

SHARE At family worship, talk about how it will be to celebrate the Sabbath in heaven.

THINK What would you like to ask God when you meet Him face to face in heaven on Sabbath?

PRAY Thank God for the promise that soon we will spend the Sabbath together in heaven.



could almost hear Him say each week: "The Sabbath is a day of rest for you. Just as I worked six days to make this new world, you are to work six days taking care of this garden. Just as I rested on the seventh day from My work of creating, you are also to rest on this day from your usual activities. Remember to honor My holy day." Just as God took time to meet with them, they were to remember to take time and meet with Him.

Adam and Eve had a day packed with exciting discoveries and unforgettable conversations with their Creator and Friend on the first Sabbath of their lives. As they walked home through the meadows of the garden they watched the sun descend beyond the horizon. Soon the white globe of the moon moved into the sky, casting its glimmer on their happy faces. They looked into the distance at the glow of the stars. As they spotted the Pleiades star cluster Adam may have asked his companion, "What do you think that is?"

"I don't know," Eve could have replied. "The Creator will tell us."

Adam and Eve listened to crickets and watched the sparkle of fireflies here and there. They smelled the fragrance of lilies. They felt perfect peace, contentment, and joy. *What an awesome God is our Friend!* they thought as they rested securely in the love of their Creator.



PUZZLE 2

A HOLY DAY

Instructions: Fill in the blanks from the word list to complete these two Bible texts. Some words are used more than once.

Bible Text One

"By the _____ day God had _____ the _____ he had been _____; so on the _____ day he _____ from _____ his _____. Then God _____ the _____ day and _____ it _____, because on it he _____ from _____ the _____ of _____ that he had _____."

Bible Text Two

"_____ the _____ day by _____ it _____. _____days _____ shall _____ and do _____ your _____, but the _____ day is a _____ to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any _____, neither _____, nor your _____ or _____, nor your male or female _____, nor your _____, nor any _____ residing in your towns. For in _____ days the Lord _____ the _____ and the _____, the _____, and all that is in them, but he _____ on the _____ day. Therefore the Lord _____ the _____ day and _____ it _____."

Word list

seventh	work	earth	blessed	animals
sea	six	rested	made	daughter
remember	doing	all	holy	heavens
finished	you	labor	creating	foreigner
Sabbath	keeping	servant	done	son