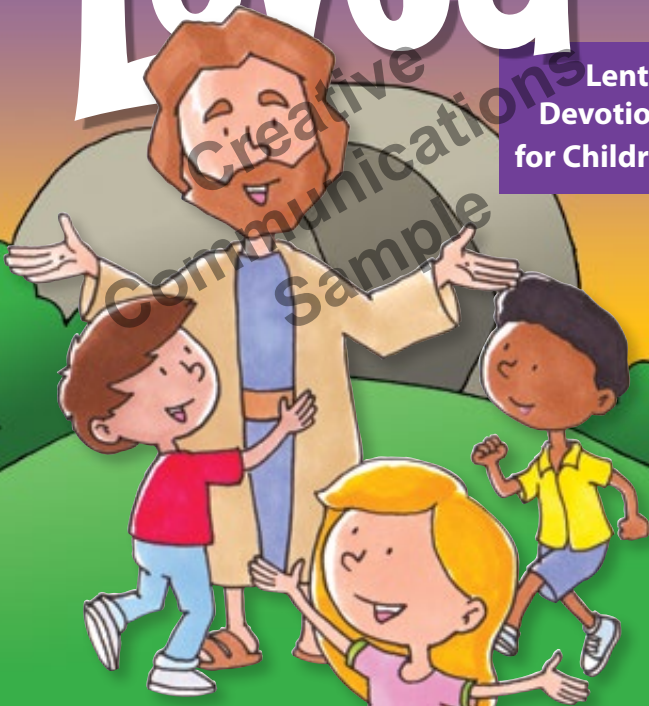


For GOD so Loved

Lenten
Devotions
for Children



For God so loved the world when he made it ...

Breath of Life

Ash Wednesday

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Genesis 2:7



When God made the world, he created every single thing. He thought of how to make tall, snowy mountains and fish to live deep in the ocean. He imagined the salamander's smooth skin and the cactus's prickly thorns. He even thought of a special creature who he would make a little like God himself. This person would have a soul to connect to God in special ways. He would be the first person of many. God breathed into Adam with all his love on that special day.

*Heavenly Father, thank you for creating and loving the world.
Amen.*

Created with Love

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

God made Creation for people, and he made people to take care of that Creation. The love of God shows through us when we take care of the earth and the animals. We know that God gives them to us so that we can survive and live a healthy, God-pleasing life. As we live, we care for ourselves, for our communities, and for God. Our loving relationships are all around us. That love comes from God. And, it pours out through us.

Dear God, help your love to show through me as I care for all creation.

Amen.



A Gift from God

Friday after Ash Wednesday

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness." Genesis 1:26*

When God made the world, he made people to be kind of like him—in his image. They were the best of the creation, because they could talk with God and have love for him and from him in ways that nothing else can. People are very special parts of God's creation.

Adam and Eve, and you and me, were made in God's image, so we can have a special relationship with God. In the beginning, it was perfect. Adam and Eve walked and talked with God and never sinned. They had no problems, no hurts, no worries. They had a perfect relationship with God.

*Heavenly Father, thank you for
making people a special part of
your creation. Amen.*



God Said it was Good

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. Genesis 2:2

When we finish something, we sometimes sit back, look at it, and smile. We like what we've done and feel good about it. That's what



God did on the last day of Creation. After six full days of making the sun and moon, the mountains and oceans, and all the living creatures that started our world, he said "All of it is good!"

God made people to be his special friends. God had made the rest of Creation first, before people, so that people could live life with plenty of food and drink and safe places to live. They would be healthy and happy. It was definitely good!

Holy God, help me to appreciate Creation just as you do. Amen.

**For God so loved the world when he
made a plan for its salvation ...**

The First Sunday in Lent

*God so loved the world that he
Made it perfect—heavenly!
God gave only one command
To the woman and the man.*

*Eve and Adam disobeyed.
From God's plan the two had strayed.
Now, because of that first sin,
They must live apart from him.*

*Yes, God so loves me.
Yes, God so loves me.
Yes, God so loves me.
The Bible tells me so.*

The Plan to Live

Monday of the First Week

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat..." Genesis 2:15-17

We might think that Adam and Eve sat around in the Garden of Eden all day. The Bible tells us they had jobs. They took care of the earth and themselves. They had lots of good work to do.

God also gave them one rule. He told them they could eat fruit from any tree except one. If they ate from the one tree, they would die. That is a harsh consequence, but that was the rule.

God gave Adam and Eve a plan to live—follow the one rule and take care of Creation. God promised also to be there and help them do everything necessary to live.

Dear God, help me to live as you command. Amen.



What Did God Say?

Tuesday of the First Week

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" Genesis 3:1

Has a parent or teacher ever told you to do something, and then you forgot? Or maybe she told you NOT to do something, and you did something different. Then you know what happened in Eden.

Remember the one rule God gave Adam and Eve? Don't eat from that one tree. It's important! That's a pretty simple rule, but the devil used a snake to talk to Eve. The snake said, "Did God really say that?" She thought she knew the answer, but the little question got her thinking.

When we disobey our parents by trying to twist the words, we know what happened to Eve that day.

*Heavenly Father, forgive me when I disobey.
Help me change. Amen.*



I Did it

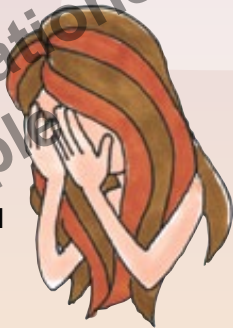
Wednesday of the First Week

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:13

"It's not my fault!" A lot of times, that's the first thing we say when we get accused of doing something wrong. We look to blame someone else.

Eve said the snake tricked her. Notice she went on to say, "And I ate it."

We might feel like it's not all our fault, but we should confess when we sin. We should admit what we did was wrong (even when we feel like blaming someone else.) That sin gets in the way of our love for others, including God. When we confess our sin, we can be forgiven and work on loving others better.



Dear God, help me confess my sin and receive forgiveness. Amen.

Easter Sunday!

*God so loved the world he gave
His own son the world to save.
They laid his body in the tomb,
Went to hide in grief and gloom.*

*Three days later Christ appeared
To women who he held so dear.
The women went and told the rest
Jesus is alive and we are blessed!*

*Hosanna to the king of kings
Salvation, hope, and love he brings.
Praise the Lord who rose that day.
He saved us and we can say:*

*Yes, God so loves me.
Yes, God so loves me.
Yes, God so loves me.
The Bible tells me so.*

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