

Grade 6
ENCOUNTER Session 2: August 3
Genesis

Opening Prayer

God, our Father, thank you for creating us and loving us, even when we fail to love you. Please open our eyes to see your presence in our lives more clearly. Open our ears, to hear your truth more deeply. Open our hearts, to love you and follow you more closely. Help us to remember that we are more than our sins and failures, that because of our baptism, we are your sons and daughters. Amen.

Did you remember your Verse? Here are a couple of bonus questions from last session:

- What does the word “Bible” mean? (books).
- How many books are in the Catholic Scriptures? (73)

Today we have a new verse to remember:

- “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them.”

Session Two video is going to be talking about the Early World, and first half of the book of Genesis.

- Do you know which stories you might find in the book of Genesis? *Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the serpent, God, and Noah.*

A quick overview of the Genesis—basically it opens with the story of Creation. God creates heaven and the Earth from NOTHING. He creates the world by speaking into the darkness and calling into being light, sky, land, vegetation, and living creatures over the course of six days. On the sixth day, God creates people in “his own image,” Adam and Eve are in the Garden of Eden and can have anything in the garden except they cannot eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In the garden, Eve encounters the serpent who convinces her to eat the tree’s forbidden fruit, basically lying to her and assuring her that she will not suffer if she does. Eve shares the fruit with Adam, and the two are immediately filled with shame and remorse. God, of course who knows everything, discovers their disobedience and the consequence of their actions is that they are banished from Eden.

Sent out into the world, Adam and Eve give birth to two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel both make sacrifices to God, but Cain doesn’t give the best to God, and Abel gives the best of his herd to God, so God is pleased with Abel but not pleased with Cain. Cain become jealous and enraged and kills his Abel. God exiles Cain from his home to wander in the land east of Eden. Adam and Eve give birth to a third son, Seth. Through Seth and Cain, the human race begins to grow.

Ten generations pass, and humankind becomes more evil. They become so evil that God makes plans to destroy humankind completely. However, one man, Noah, has earned God’s favor because he has followed the way of God. God speaks to Noah makes a covenant, or a promise, with Noah and his family. He instructs Noah to build an ark, or boat, large enough to hold Noah’s family and two of each kind of living animal. Then God sends a great flood to destroy the earth. Noah builds the Ark and he and his family and all the animals enter the ark, and rain falls for forty days, the earth is under water for more than a year. Finally the waters finally recede, and Noah’s family is able to find land and leave the ark. God promises never to destroy the earth again, and he shows Noah a rainbow to be a symbol of his covenant.

Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Able and Noah that we are going to hear about today.

Watch Video: Early World/Genesis (35 minutes)

Print Session 2 Handout. Follow along and answer questions that go with the video.

Questions to Think About

- What are the four ways humans are in the image of God?
 - a. *Rational Souls*
 - b. *Intellect*
 - c. *Free Will*
 - d. *Capacity to Love*
- What would you have done if you were Adam and Eve and the serpent had spoken to you?
- How do you struggle with being obedient? To God? To your parents? To teachers and other leaders?
- How would you describe “sin” in your own words to someone who didn’t know what it was?
- Are you more like Cain or Abel most days? Why?
- Where do you see the hand of God in the world around you?

If time allows, look at the scientific facts on Page 8 of the workbook. We just discussed parts of God’s creation that we can see. What do you think about those parts of God’s creation that we can’t see? Everything around us, from the tiniest of molecules to the largest of creatures and landscapes is created by God, and He created all of those things, including you, with love and purpose.

Closing Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all of your creation and for the incredible beauty that exists on this earth.

Please help us this week to notice the detail and the attention you have put into the world.

Help us remember each day that we are made in your image, and that we too are beautiful, and that you created each of us with intention and with great attention to detail.

Please help us not take for granted all those things around us in nature that you created from nothing to make our world not only beautiful, but perfectly designed for us.

In your Son’s name we pray – Amen.