



## LESSON 1

# TODAY'S EPIC STORY: CREATION

GENESIS 1:1-25

## THE STORY HOME

The EPIC story of God creating everything from nothing is a story more about God, the Creator, than about what He actually created. In the creation narrative, we learn what God is like. Each creative act shows His authority and power. God said, “Let there be” and it happened. God spoke the world into existence! Our response to the Creator should be praise, worship, and thankfulness for who He is AND for all He has done.

### PARENTS AND KIDS QUESTIONS:

- I wonder, how do you think God felt about all He had created?
- If you could tell God anything about the world He created, what would you tell Him?
- The creation story is about God, but it is also a story about us. I wonder, how does it make you feel to know that you are a part of God's creation and His plan for the world?

## TOGETHER HOME

Take a walk with your family and pick up different nature objects. Be sure to respect your neighbor's property and regulations in public parks and walkways. When you return home, provide thin paper such as tissue or tracing paper. Peel away the paper from broken crayons. Then put a nature item under the paper and rub over it with the side of a crayon. Notice the pattern that emerges. Is it faint or pronounced? Is it lacy, ribbed, or pitted? Talk about God's amazing creativity as reflected in His creation. Look up Psalm 104:24, read it, and memorize it.

## BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.” (Nehemiah 9:6) This is the memory verse for the first month. The underlined portion is what the younger kids will learn. Write this verse on an index card or sheet of paper and post it somewhere in your home that you will see it often. It and say it for each other. You can have older kids write the verse, and then all ages can decorate the card or paper.

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## LESSON 2

# TODAY'S EPIC STORY: ADAM AND EVE

GENESIS 3:1-24

## THE STORY HOME

God created man to have relationship with Him. Adam and Eve were created for that specific purpose; relationship with God. God loves people and wants what is best for them at all times. However, sometimes people think they know what's best for them, and they ignore "God's best." This is what Adam and Eve did when they chose to disobey God. As a result of their choices, sin entered the world and their perfect relationship with God was broken. Even though God had to punish the sin, God's EPIC story doesn't end there. God set a plan into motion to redeem and save His people.

### PARENTS AND KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Think about a time when you didn't want anyone to know about something you did. What did you do?
- How did you feel?
- How did you try and hide it?

## TOGETHER HOME

As a family, talk about the rules you have in your home. Allow everyone to voice why they think they are fair or unfair. Then talk about the consequences of following or not following these rules, good & bad. Remind each other that rules are there to keep us safe and close to each other.

## BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you" (Nehemiah 9:6). This is the memory verse for the first month. The underlined portion is what the younger kids will learn.

Practice the verse together. Talk about what it means. Name two things God has made that amaze you.

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Lesson 2, Take-home



## LESSON 3

# TODAY'S EPIC STORY: NOAH AND THE PROMISE

GENESIS 8—9:19

## THE STORY HOME

In God's story He tells us of a man named Noah who was obedient and loved God while the world around him fought against that type of love. God took care of Noah because of his obedience and saved him, his family, and all the animals from a flood that destroyed the earth. God not only saved Noah but made a great promise and has kept that promise. God is faithful to keep His promises.

### PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Use your imagination, how do you think Noah arranged all the animals?
- Why do you think God used something as beautiful as a rainbow to remind us of His promise to Noah?
- If you were going to create a symbol of your promise to God, what would it be?
- Have you ever broken a promise?
- How does it make you feel to know that God always keeps His promises?

## TOGETHER HOME

Create a rainbow out of different colored materials in your home. Talk through how each color could remind us of a particular part of God's love for people. Talk about the promise that God made to Noah after the flood. Have you ever made a promise to someone? Share the promises you've made to others.

## BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you" (Nehemiah 9:6). This is the memory verse for the first month. The underlined portion is what the younger kids will learn. Have each family member draw a picture of his or her favorite animal. Then print the verse on the picture. Practice saying the verse.

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## LESSON 4

## TODAY'S EPIC STORY: ABRAHAM RECEIVES A PROMISE GENESIS 15:1-7; 17:1-10, 15-21

### THE STORY HOME

Have you ever had to wait for something you wanted right this second? Of course, we all have. So did Abraham and Sarah! They so desperately wanted to be parents that God had to set them straight and remind them of His promise—Abraham would be the father to more children than the stars in the sky. Wow! And God remained true to His promise just as He remains true to all of His promises.

#### PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- I wonder why God made Abraham and Sarah wait so long for a son.
- I wonder what Sarah and Abraham thought about as they were waiting for God to fulfill His promise. I wonder if they doubted God.
- I wonder what some of the things are that people ask God for today. Do you think God hears people when they tell Him what they want? Do you think sometimes people doubt God or doubt that God hears their prayers? What might make someone doubt God's promises?
- I wonder if it sometimes takes as long for God to answer people's prayers today as it did for God to answer Abraham's prayers.

### TOGETHER HOME

#### What are you waiting for?

Together as a family make a list of times or things that you have to wait (*waiting for the bus, cookies in the oven, in the car on a long trip, etc.*). After you've made your list, talk about what you can do while you wait for those things to happen. Remember that God's timing is always perfect even if we think it is crazy and takes way too long. God is always with you and knows what is best for you. Don't forget, God always keeps His promises!

### BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you" (Nehemiah 9:6). This is the last week for this memory verse. Make sure your children have learned the verse. Let each family member make a large paper star. Write the verse on the stars. Work together to memorize the verse and say it for each other.

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## LESSON 5

# TODAY'S EPIC STORY: JACOB TRICKS ISAAC

GENESIS 27:1-40

## THE STORY HOME

God's story continues as we see how we tend to listen to God's plan yet still take things into our own hands. This usually happens when we think God's way is not right or it's just not what WE want. This part of the story is just that. Rebekah does not like it that her favorite son, Jacob, is getting the lesser (though traditionally accepted) of the deal when it comes to birthrights and blessings. So she and Jacob take matters into their own hands and trick Isaac into giving Jacob what is not rightfully his. Trust is a big part of relationships and trust was broken in this family

### PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- How do you think Jacob felt about being the younger brother?
- Do you think that Isaac could ever trust Jacob again, even if he had come back home? What about trusting Rebekah?
- How do you feel when someone doesn't tell you the truth?

## TOGETHER HOME

Trust Fall: Have your child stand with his or her back to you and you have your arms stretched out ready to catch him or her. Your child will then fall back into your arms trusting that you will catch him or her. Do the same with your spouse or other family members. Talk about the importance of trust with each family member and in your home. Talk about how you can trust God no matter what. You or your child may have done something like this before, that is OK, and it is a good reminder of trusting each other.

## BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Read together: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). This is the memory verse for the next four weeks. The underlined portion is what the younger kids will learn. Write this verse on an index card and post it somewhere in your home that you will see it often, i.e. refrigerator or bathroom mirror. Work together to memorize it and say it for each other.

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Lesson 5, Take-home



## LESSON 6

# TODAY'S EPIC STORY: JACOB RETURNS HOME

GENESIS 31:17-18;  
32:3—33:20, 35:1-15

## THE STORY HOME

In God's story we see how forgiveness is not only something that He offers us but expects us to forgive others as well. Last week we saw how Jacob stole his twin brother's birthright and how he fled for his life. Today we look at how Jacob returns home in hopes of restoring his relationship with his family. Check out the outcome of this great story and how forgiveness is an important part of God's redemptive story.

### PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS

- I wonder why Jacob was so frightened of his brother Esau.
- I wonder why Jacob decided to give some of his wealth to Esau.
- Esau forgave his brother Jacob. I wonder how God wants us to treat our families when we are not getting along.
- When has someone forgiven you? How did you feel afterward? I wonder if Jacob might have felt like you did.

## TOGETHER HOME

Get a cardboard box or cylinder to use to represent a well. Have each family member write down on a piece of paper the name of someone that he or she needs to forgive. Remind each other that this is a safe place to share feelings and that forgiveness is available to everyone. Have them place the papers in the 'Forgiving Well' and say "I forgive \_\_\_\_\_." (filling in the name on the paper) Read Matthew 6:12 and pray together asking God to continue to forgive you as you forgive others.

## BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). This is the memory verse for the next month. The underlined portion is what the younger kids will learn. Practice this verse each day.

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Lesson 6, Take-home



## LESSON 7

### TODAY'S EPIC STORY: JOSEPH: FROM FAVORED SON TO SLAVE

GENESIS 37:1-36;  
39:1-2

#### THE STORY HOME

Joseph is a key character in God's story. There is a lot that happens to him. He's the favorite of 12 sons and his brothers know it. Out of their jealousy they scheme to get rid of Joseph yet God is with Joseph and takes care of him in the midst of the hurt from his brothers. Read the story with your family and discover how our sinful attitudes and actions can hurt our families.

##### PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What are some things you think Joseph did wrong?
- What are some things that his brothers did wrong?
- What could have been done to prevent this type of tragedy?
- How important is it for families to try to work out their differences?

#### TOGETHER HOME

Read together Genesis 37:1-36 & 39:1-2. Make two columns and label one Good and the other Bad. Write down all the good and bad things that happened to Joseph in the appropriate columns. Discuss all the things that happened to Joseph. How would you feel toward your siblings? Would you seek revenge or would you forgive? What are some ways that you would seek to forgive?

#### BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). This is the memory verse for this month. The underlined portion is what the younger kids will learn. Create a poster where everyone can write something about forgiveness.

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Lesson 7, Take-home



## LESSON 8

# TODAY'S EPIC STORY: JOSEPH: FORGIVENESS HEALS A FAMILY

GENESIS 46:1-7,  
26-34; 47:1-11;  
50:15-26

## THE STORY HOME

As God's story continues we see how forgiveness heals a family. Joseph had been living in Egypt for many years and was second in command to Pharaoh. His brothers are suffering through a famine and go to Egypt for food, not realizing that the brother they threw in a pit and sold as a slave is in leadership. Can you imagine being so hungry and then seeing that the sibling you treated wrongly can make things better or worse for you? Joseph responded with grace and forgiveness. He forgave his brothers and the family was reunited.

### PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Do you think it was difficult for Joseph's brothers to believe that he had actually forgiven them? Why?
- I wonder if anyone has ever treated you kindly when you were mean to them. I wonder how you felt then.
- I wonder if forgiveness heals both the forgiven and the forgiver.
- Share about a time you have forgiven someone. How did you feel after you forgave them?

## TOGETHER HOME

Read together Matthew 6:12, 14-15. Talk about what 'debts & debtors' mean according to these scriptures. Think about someone that you have wronged either in your family or outside your family. Now think of someone that has wronged you. What do you need to do to forgive them? Pray together asking God to help you forgive that person and to mend that relationship just as He did with Joseph and his brothers. Bake some cookies and deliver to the person as a sign of forgiveness.

## BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). This is the last week for this memory verse. Let each family member try to say the verse without help.

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Lesson 8, Take-home