



The *Family* Devotional

53 Weekly Devotions
For the Apostolic Home

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Week 1



Creation

Genesis 1:1–2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.



Key Point: God is the Creator, and He is creating something special out of you.



Bible Story

Genesis 1 gives us a timeline of Creation. At the start, the earth was “formless and empty” (Genesis 1:2, NLT). We don’t know exactly what our planet looked like in this state, but we do know it was shapeless, unsightly, and lifeless. The scenic wonders we enjoy today—from snowcapped mountains to springtime flowers—were absent. There was only desolate emptiness.

Then God’s Spirit began moving, and everything began to change. It didn’t happen overnight;

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God worked methodically, one step at a time, for six days: (1) He spoke light into existence, dividing day and night; (2) He divided the waters, and dry land appeared; (3) vegetation sprouted and grew thick and lush; (4) the sun began emitting solar energy and the moon began orbiting the earth, creating the seasons; (5) the oceans teemed with fish, and birds swooped through the air and nested in trees; (6) God spoke into existence the animals out of the earth's substance. Then, as His crowning act of creation, He formed humans. When all His work was finished, He stepped back to inspect it. Genesis 1:31 declares, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." After that, He rested.

God created the world in six days through the power of His spoken word, but saving people from their sins took much, much longer. Like Creation, redeeming fallen humans was a process. From animal sacrifices to the angelic announcement of Jesus' birth, the story unfolded one step at a time.

God is working in your life too. Step by step and day by day He is transforming you into something special. Others may not recognize your value or potential, but God does. He sees who you are now, but He also sees who you can become. He is committed to your transformation.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) says, "We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." According to this verse, God's plans for you have

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been a long time in the making. Masterpieces aren't created overnight: they take time. God is patiently molding you into the person He has planned for you to be.



Illustration

Have you ever created some sort of artwork for your mom or dad? Many kids enjoy drawing or painting for their parents. (Just don't draw or paint on the walls!) Even if the quality of your artwork doesn't compare with Michelangelo's or Monet's, your parents probably expressed appreciation for and admiration of your artistic skills. Your handiwork may never be displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, but it likely found a home on the refrigerator or in a workplace office.

Whatever the level of your artistic abilities, your parents appreciate your artwork primarily because of the identity of the artist. They love your work because they love you. Even if the family portrait you drew doesn't look exactly like your parents and siblings, they still appreciate your artwork because they know it is an expression of your love.



Application

God loves us in the same way. Even when our efforts fall short, He does not cast us aside. Instead, He continues to work with us and through us. As He did with the earth in the opening chapter of Genesis, His Spirit is working to transform us into

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His masterpiece. Day by day He is making something beautiful out of us.

Prayer Prompts



- Thank God for his faithful love.
- Ask Him to forgive sins, and transform us into His likeness.
- Ask for His help to trust His process and timing as He works in us.
- Pray that God would help you trust Him with every aspect of your life.
- Ask Him for grace and understanding regarding His process and timing regarding any uncertainty in your life.

Questions for Reflection



1. What lessons can we learn from the Creation account?
2. Why do you think the process of saving humanity from sin has taken longer than the process of the earth's creation?
3. What do you think it means to be "God's masterpiece"? (Ephesians 2:10)
4. Share a testimony of a time when God took something that seemed negative and turned it into something good.

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Questions for Review



1. How many days did Creation take?
2. On what day did God create people?
3. According to Genesis 1:27, God created people in whose image?
4. As God looked over everything He had made, what did He think about His creation?
(Genesis 1:31)