

My Family

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Let's go to Pentecost

Bible Stories and prayers in this book, move from Creation to Revelation to guide us through the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost.

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| Week One: | God gets Creative.
The story of creation and Adam and Eve. |
| Week Two: | Moses and the Ark of God.
God lives with Israel. |
| Week Three: | Jonah has a whale of a time.
God forgives the people of Nineveh. |
| Week Four: | Star Light and Angels.
Mary says "Yes" to God and Jesus is born. Our Father. |
| Week Five: | The Last Hours of Jesus' Life.
Last Supper (Holy Eucharist) and Crucifixion of Our Lord.
Two friends and a stranger go to Emmaus. |
| Week Six: | Getting into the Holy Spirit of Things.
The Church spreads its message. |
| Week Seven: | Day by Day to Pentecost. |

Pentecost

The Israelites of the Old Testament held a Harvest Festival at the end of May to celebrate the wheat harvest, fifty days after Passover. The Jewish name for this festival is Shavnoth, meaning the Feast of Weeks. The Greek name for this festival is Pentecost meaning "fiftieth": 50 days since Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his friends.

Praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

The importance of praying together as a family has always been stressed. It is a major part of our Christian tradition.

The Church is a family which is made up from the families that are part of it together with Jesus Christ. As we pray we grow together in love for God and for one another.

"Jesus loves you.

Where does this love begin?

In your family.

How does it begin?

By praying together.

A family that prays together, stays together."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

God Gets Creative

God made our world.

He had great fun making loud noises,

Bangs and explosions

As he made the stars, planets and moons.

He made the seas and the rivers,

The plants and the animals.

He made people.

Over all this he breathed his Holy Spirit like a gentle wind.

Everything was very good.

Everything made by God was filled with love from the beginning.

God made angels.

They joined him in seeing how beautiful the universe was.

They sang songs full of love and wonder to God.

But some of the angels became angry with God

And his beautiful creations.

They wanted to destroy it all.

Their leader was one of the brightest angels.

He shone before God and was called Light-bearer that is Lucifer.

But he refused to hold the Light of God any longer,

And decided to go to war against God and the other angels.

So Lucifer who is Satan gathered his army and went to war.

The very first book of the Bible tells us a story of what happened next:

God was sad that so many had become wicked, but he continued to love the things he had made.



He made Adam and Eve the first people and he loved them very much. God gave them a beautiful place in which to live.

"This is the Garden of Eden." He told them, "I want you to be happy here. All the food you need is here. It will always be warm enough. All the animals will be your friends, so take of it all. It is the perfect place to bring up a family, so have lots of children. It's all yours — but not the Tree in the middle. Please don't eat from that or you will be destroyed."

Adam and Eve were happy.

Satan saw this and it made him cross, so he decided to spoil it for them. In the shape of a snake he slithered into the garden where he found Eve standing near the Tree.

"The fruit on thisss Tree is the besst." He said. "You really sshould try ssome."

"God asked us not to." Eve replied, "We might be destroyed."

"Sssilly," hissed the snake, "You won't die. You'll be wisse. You'll know everything there iss to know. Try ssome you'll ssee. Just a little bite — what harm can it do?"

What harm indeed? Thought Eve and took some of the fruit and shared it with Adam.

"It won't hurt to try a little." Said Adam.

Adam and Eve both knew that God loved them and wanted them to be happy. But they took the fruit anyway, even though they knew it was wrong, when God had asked them not to.

Later that day when God came to talk to them, they hid. They did not go to him and say sorry.

God was very sad.

"Now I have to send you away because you broke your trust." He told them.

"Now you know good and bad because of the Tree. You need never have known evil."

Adam and Eve were sad now.

God sent them away but gave them his Holy Spirit to help look after them. God's world was still beautiful, but now people needed someone to help save them from all the bad things that they did.

(Genesis 1-3)

Week One

Prayers

In the name of the Father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dear Lord,
Thank you for making the world;
All the trees and the flowers
All the food that it gives us
All the colour and scents.
Thank you for making all the
Animals and all the people.

Help us to take care of your world.

Help us to share all the good things it gives us.
Forgive us when
we are greedy Lord,
Taking more than we should.
Forgive us when we forget to share
Or are careless with what we have.
We are sorry for all we do that makes you sad.
We are happy for all the things we do that make you glad.

Holy Spirit of God,
Guide me.
Help me do what is right.
Protect me.
Be with me each day and each night. Amen.

Now spend a couple of minutes quietly:
Imagine you are walking in the Garden of Eden.
It is full of flowers and beautiful trees. All sorts of animals peep out at you, and
birds chatter and sing in the trees.
There's a little waterfall and a stream full of multicoloured rainbow fish.
Jesus comes to walk with you.
Don't say anything, just walk along quietly together looking at the garden.
Your favourite animal is there. Point it out to Jesus.
God bless the whole world. Amen.

Draw a picture
of your garden
of Eden

