

Second Creation: “The Falling Apart and Coming Back Together in a New Way”

Genesis 2:4–3:24

This lesson comes from Volume 6 of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*. The lessons in Volume 6 are all Old Testament Extension Lessons. We generally introduce these lessons to children who have spent at least three years working with the Core Lessons in Volume 2 and are now developmentally ready for more.

In the early years of Godly Play, the children work with the story of Creation from the Book of Genesis, chapter 1, which tells of the seven great gifts of creation, given over seven days. This lesson extends that lesson with the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It tells the story of *Adam-Eve* (the first person called “Adam” in the Bible—but we call that person *Adam-Eve* because, as the story says, Eve was always there [Genesis 2:21–23])—and how they “fell apart” from God, from each other, from God’s creation, and from the image of God in their deep selves. This telling highlights God’s love for the creation and its creatures, as well as the redemptive power of this love and its creative force. God never gives up on the People of God.

How to Use This Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense relives—the experience of today’s lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today’s story?

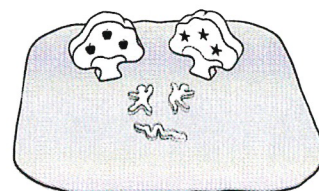
Just listen. This is not a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about their own

creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to listen in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today’s presentation offered below. Whether you read the lesson or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the presentation can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

The Presentation

God created everything with love, and it was good. In the middle of everything, God created a garden in the land of Eden. The rocks and plants and animals were so close to God and each other that they were all in all.



Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of this story you like the best?
- **I wonder** what part of this story is the most important?
- **I wonder** where you are in the story and what part is about you?

God placed the first person in the garden. This person became everyone, so he was called Adam, which means “everyone.” Eve came from Adam so they were a kind of Adam-Eve together with each other, the garden, and God. And God put God’s own image on Adam-Eve.

There were two mysterious trees in the garden. One was the Tree of Knowledge. If you eat its fruit, you begin to notice differences, like the differences between good and evil or up and down. The other mysterious tree was the Tree of Life. If you eat its fruit, you live forever. God told Adam-Eve to not eat the fruit of either tree.

One of the cleverest creatures in God’s garden was the serpent. He got Eve and Adam to eat the fruit of the tree of differences. When they did, things fell apart. Adam-Eve became Adam and Eve. When God called to them in the evening, they hid. They no longer knew how to be as close to each other and to God as they had been.

God gave Adam and Eve a gift when things fell apart. They could now take the differences they saw and put them back together in new ways. They could not make something from nothing like God did, but they could sometimes make something good from what they knew.

Adam and Eve longed to return to the way things were, but they could only go forward. God went with them, but God also placed a flaming sword and a fierce angel at the edge of the garden to be sure they did not go back to eat the fruit that would make them live forever. They were made from dust and would return to the dust, but in their lives they could still create some of the love and goodness they remembered from God’s garden and God traveling with them and us.

Godly Play Defining the Types of Lessons, Part I

In every Parent Page, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. Today we will begin a discussion of the different types of lessons in the Godly Play curriculum: Core Lessons, Extension Lessons, Enrichment Lessons, Afterwards Lessons, and Synthesis Lessons.

■ **Core Lessons** are the key Sacred Story, Parable, Liturgical Action, and Silence Lessons. These lessons are in every Godly Play room and are generally placed on the top shelf.

■ **Extension Lessons** extend the Core Lessons by adding new material or details. The Extension Lessons are placed on the lower shelves in the room, under the Core Lesson or lessons they extend, to help the children connect the stories visually. For example, today’s lesson extends the Core Lesson about Creation so is placed under that lesson in the room. Extension Lessons are generally added after the children have a few years’ experience with the Core Lessons.