

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 1:27

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

The Constant Gardener: Planting seeds of a covenant relationship

Read Genesis 2:7-17.

When God formed Adam, He gave him breath and life. Then God planted the Garden of Eden and placed Adam within it. God gave Adam a home, a place to live. Within the new home for Adam, God had placed trees for Adam to eat fruit from. God gave Adam food. Then God talked with Adam about what he was to do in the Garden. God gave Adam a purpose, a job. Work was part of the original covenantal relationship between God and Adam.

Then God told Adam there was one thing he should not eat: fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told Adam he would die if he ate from it. God gave

Adam boundaries and showed him how to keep the life he had in the garden from ending. God provided everything Adam needed to thrive.

Your students may ask why God would have placed such a tree in the garden. The only way for Adam to exit his perfect relationship with God and all He provided was disobedience. Jesus said the way we love Him is directly connected to the way we obey Him (John 14:23-24). For Adam, every day he walked past the forbidden tree and did not eat the fruit, he was showing God he loved Him. Just like Adam, we have a choice to obey or disobey God's covenant. Just as there is an exit from a covenant relationship (Romans 3:23 says we all have chosen to exit), God provided an entrance: Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

Connect . . .

Create your own biosphere on paper, complete with rules for the creatures that live there.

Discuss: What rules exist within this house that make you wonder why they are in place? Are there any rules you would like to change? If so, why?

Explore . . .

Read Read Genesis 2:7-17; John 14:23-24.

Discuss:

- Do the rules that exist in your biosphere have a different motivation than the rules that exist in the world God created?
- Or do the rules that exist in your home have a different motivation than the rules that exist in the world God created?

Transform . . .

Discuss:

- What choices do you make with your lives that demonstrate you are in relationship with God?
- What if the home God has provided for you was a laboratory that allowed you to experiment with how to obey God?
- What would it say about you?