

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

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**Nihil Obstat**

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Censor Librorum, Diocese of Orlando

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✠ Most Rev. John Noonan  
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# The Creation Accounts

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Gracious Creator, how wonderful your works!  
How generous your love!

“May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD be glad in his works!” **Psalm 104:31**

**All:** Loving Father, accept our thanks for all your creation  
and for loving us always from beginning to end. Amen.

## Scripture

O LORD, our Lord,  
how awesome is your name through all the earth!  
I will sing of your majesty above the heavens  
with the mouths of babes and infants.  
When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and stars that you set in place—  
What is man that you are mindful of him,  
and a son of man that you care for him?  
Yet you have made him little less than a god,  
crowned him with glory and honor.  
You have given him rule over the works of your hands,  
put all things at his feet:  
All sheep and oxen,  
even the beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

**Psalm 8:2–3a, 4–9**

## What Do You Wonder?

- Where do you see God’s glory in the world?
- What do you think it means to be made in the image of God?

## In the Beginning

What are the differences between the two creation accounts?

### Catholic Faith Words

**Old Testament** the first part of the Bible, about God's relationship with the Hebrew people before Jesus was born. It includes the laws, history, and stories of God's People.

**soul** the spiritual part of a human that lives forever

**human dignity** the worth each person has because he or she is made in the image of God

Genesis, the first book of the **Old Testament**, has two accounts of the beginning of the world and how life came to be. Both help answer some of life's most important questions.

### Scripture

#### First Account of Creation

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters.

Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."

**Genesis 1:1–5**

In this account, God separated the waters to create order and boundaries. Then he separated land from water and one kind of plant from another. (See Genesis 1:6–13.)

God created the sun, the moon, and the stars. He created living creatures, releasing birds into the sky and fish into the seas. Then he brought animals into being on the land. God created everything full of goodness. (See Genesis 1:14–25.)

Yet, in addition to all that he had created to fill the Earth, God created one more creature that would be like him and would share in his life and creative work. God created humans, male and female, and placed all of creation in their care. (See Genesis 1:26–30.)

God made humans in his own image and likeness with a **soul** that lives for eternity, or forever, and the ability to love and choose. Because of this, each and every person has value and **human dignity**.



Underline why God created human life.



## A Different Order

The account in the second chapter of Genesis tells you more about God's creation of human life. God creates the man before he creates the other creatures. Then he creates the woman.



## Scripture

### The Second Account

First God created the heavens and the earth. At that time the earth was like a parched desert, so God made a stream come out of the ground. Then God took some of the clay from the ground and formed a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man came to life.

God planted a wonderful garden called Eden. God asked the man to work in the garden and to take care of it. Soon God saw that it was not good for the man to be alone. So God created more creatures, bringing them to the man to be named. Each creature was good, but none was the right companion for the man. So God caused the man to sleep and removed one of the man's ribs. From this rib, God formed a woman as the man's true partner. **Based on Genesis 2:4-25**



Detail from *The World's First Morning* by Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghikas

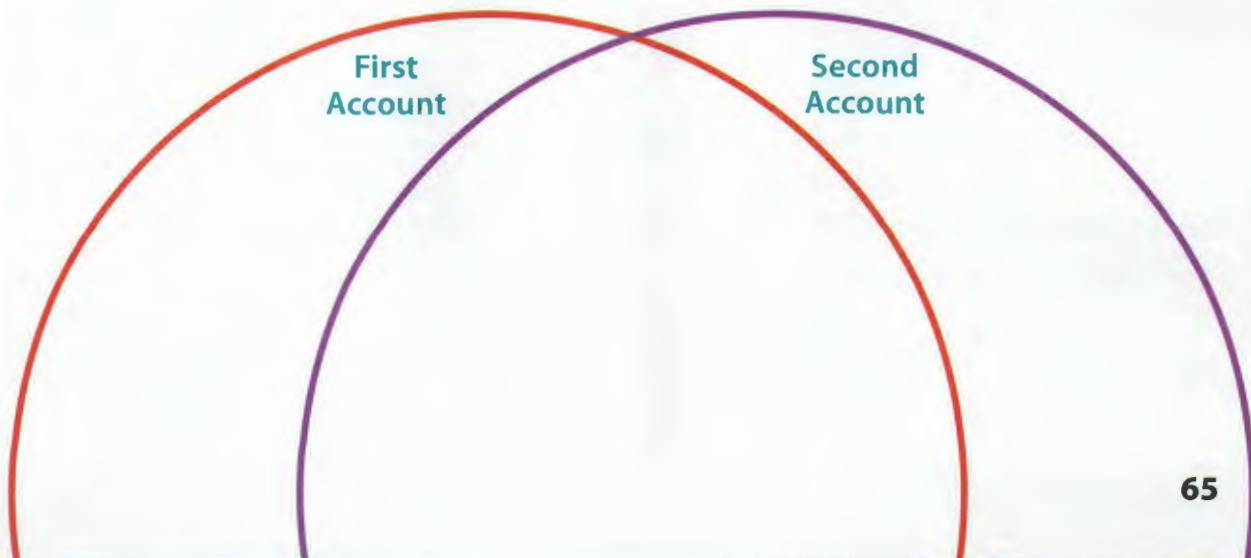
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➔ What qualities of God are revealed in this passage?

## Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Think about the two creation accounts. How are they similar? How are they different?

**Share** With a partner, fill in the Venn diagram with the similarities and the differences between the two accounts. Share your memories of learning about the creation accounts.





Men and women were created by God to be partners with him and each other.

## Lessons of Creation

### What are the lessons of the two creation accounts?

In the two creation accounts, we read about how God is the powerful Creator who recognizes the goodness of all that he has made. Both accounts of creation help you understand God's love for humans.

The first creation account tells you that God alone created the universe. In the second creation account, God shows his deep care for the man's loneliness by creating a woman to be the man's true partner. This account shows that men and women were created to work together and share in God's life. Humans are social beings; they need one another. That is why people gather in families and communities. This is all part of God's plan.

Each and every one of us is created in God's image and shares the same human dignity. Therefore, we must respect all life, including protecting the unborn, the elderly, and the sick. This is part of God's plan, too.

Adam and Eve, as our first parents are called, were created by God in a state of **Original Holiness**, or grace. They shared in God's life. They lived in harmony with each other, with God, and with creation. Adam and Eve were pure of heart and generous, and they delighted in caring for the garden.

➔ **What are some ways that men and women work well together to fulfill God's plan?**

## Truths about God

The two accounts of creation teach that God alone is the Creator and that humans are his creatures. God is all-powerful, and he created everything that exists. This means that your most important attitude toward God is a response of praise and adoration. God gave you life, embraces you lovingly every day, and gives you everything you need to one day have eternal life—everlasting life with God.

## Role of Humans

There are other lessons in the two creation accounts. God placed the man and the woman in charge of the Earth, but that did not mean they could do whatever they wanted. God made them stewards, or caretakers, of creation. They shared in God's **providence**, his loving care for everything that he had made.

You, too, are a responsible steward when you protect the environment and treat other living creatures with kindness. Taking care of yourself—your body, your mind, and your spirit—is another part of caring for creation.

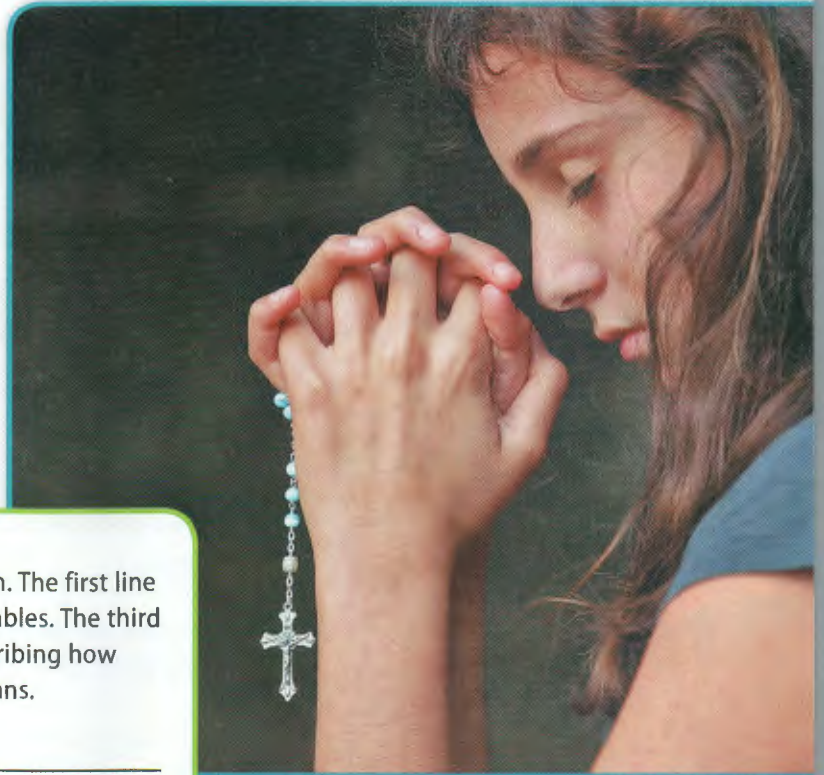
### Catholic Faith Words

**Original Holiness** the state of goodness that humanity enjoyed before our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose to sin against God

**providence** God's loving care for all things; God's will and plan for creation



Highlight three things we learn about God from the creation accounts.



### Connect Your Faith

**Write a Haiku** A Haiku is a three-line poem. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The third line has five syllables. Create a Haiku poem describing how you see the relationship between God and humans.

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## Our Catholic Life

### How do you demonstrate respect for others?

Human dignity is many things. Most importantly, it is the God-given value and worth of every human. All humans have dignity and worth because all are made in the image and likeness of God. Dignity also means having self-respect and respect for others.

Here are seven ideas to help you respect the human dignity of others.



Check off two ideas you will put into practice this week.

### Human Dignity

- |                              |                          |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>D</b> o things together   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work with others. Combine your strengths with their strengths.   |
| <b>I</b> nclude others       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Remember that God made us social beings. Make friends and reach out in kindness to others, recognizing that each of us is unique and gifted in our own ways. |
| <b>G</b> ive acceptance      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Welcome others and be patient with them, and with yourself.  |
| <b>N</b> otice what is good  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tell others when they have done something well. Give yourself good feedback, too.  |
| <b>I</b> nvite respect       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Respect yourself and others. Avoid putting yourself or others down, and avoid calling yourself or others names.  |
| <b>T</b> ry smiling          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Smiling can help you and those around you feel better, even when you face problems.  |
| <b>Y</b> es! Say yes to life | <input type="checkbox"/> | See life as a gift to celebrate. Learn new things. Develop new skills. Meet new people.  |

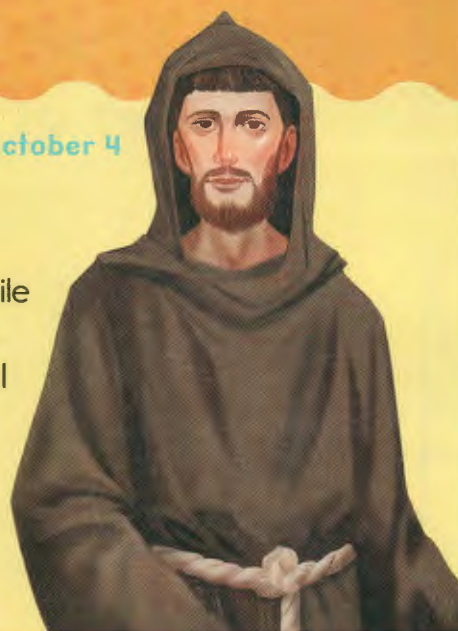


# People of Faith

**Saint Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226**

October 4

Saint Francis was the son of a man who sold beautiful cloth. His father wanted Francis to work with him, but Francis wanted to tell people about Jesus. One day while he was praying, Jesus asked him to rebuild the Church. Francis knew that God was calling him to do this special work. Soon other people came to help Francis. He preached the Good News of Jesus and helped make the Church more holy. He helped people to see the beauty of the world by living a simple life and showing kindness to all of God's creatures.



**Discuss:** How can you be kind to all of God's creatures?



Learn more about Saint Francis at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Write a Story** List four ways that people do God's work every day. Choose one way from the list and write about a person your age who does this.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

 Let Us Pray

## Prayer of Adoration

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** O LORD, our Lord,  
how awesome is your name through all the earth!  
You have set your majesty above the heavens!

**All:** How awesome is your name through all the earth!

**Leader:** When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and stars that you set in place—

**All:** How awesome is your name through all the earth!

**Leader:** What are humans that you are mindful of them,  
mere mortals that you care for them?

**All:** How awesome is your name through all the earth!

**Leader:** Yet you have made them little less than a god,  
crowned them with glory and honor.

**All:** How awesome is your name through all the earth!  
Amen.

**Based on Psalm 8:2, 4–6**

**Leader:** Let us pray.  
Bow your heads as the  
leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Bless the Lord"

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
bless God's holy name.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter explains what we learn from the two creation accounts. God alone is the Creator, all he made is good, and humans are made in his image and likeness.*

### Scripture



Read **Psalm 8:2–3a, 4–9** to find out about God’s love for all creation, especially humans.

### Catholics Believe

- The accounts of creation from the Book of Genesis reveal that God alone created the universe.
- God created man and woman in his own image to live in harmony with him for all eternity.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #279–289, 355–361 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Fiacre, who is the patron Saint of gardeners.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Creation** Your child is learning more and more about science and scientific theories. If he or she takes the creation accounts too literally, it may be a struggle to reconcile what he or she has learned about evolution and other scientific processes with what we read in Scripture. On the other hand, children this age are old enough to know and learn that even in Scripture, there are two accounts of creation with notable differences, meaning that the “Word of God” found in the creation accounts is not about how many days creation lasted or in what order things were created, but about how God created everything and created humans in his image.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

*What makes a person valuable?*

The wonders of creation—roaring ocean waves, mountains, or abundant wildlife—give witness to an awesome Creator. But the truth is that people are God’s greatest creation. As Catholics, we know that “the first man and woman were qualitatively different from and superior to all other living creatures on earth. They were uniquely made in the image of God, as are all human beings, their descendants” (*USCCA, p. 67*).

## LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name two things we learn about God and humans from the biblical creation accounts.
- Talk about how your family trusts in God’s providence, his loving care, and his plan for us.

## LET’S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us always to take good care of the gift of your creation as Saint Fiacre did, by caring for the plants, the animals, and people in it. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 2 Review

**A Work with Words** Match each description in Column 1 with the correct term or terms in Column 2.

### Column 1

1. humans were created to be caretakers of creation
2. our first parents, who were created with Original Holiness
3. describes how all that God created was good
4. describes God's creation of man before other creatures, and finally woman as his partner
5. God's loving care for everything; his will and plan for creation

### Column 2

- Adam and Eve
- first creation account
- stewards
- providence
- second creation account

**B Check Understanding** Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank. Not all terms will be used.

6. God created each human soul to live with him for \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The two accounts of creation in the Bible are found in the Book of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. God created each person with value and human \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Humans are \_\_\_\_\_; that is, they are made to relate to one another.
10. Because God is the Creator and you are the created, your most important attitude toward God should be \_\_\_\_\_.

### Word Bank

dignity

social beings

Exodus

Genesis

eternity

independent

praise and adoration

