

# LIFE 2.0: Stories of Genesis



The Book of Genesis in the Old Testament is where it all begins. This book outlines God's creation of the physical world and of human beings, but it also details his great love. From the beginning, God acts out of love for us. The people in Genesis are remembered because of their great faith in God. They weren't perfect, they weren't rich or famous, and they made lots of mistakes. But they loved God, and God, in turn, rewarded their faith with blessings.



## Key of Faith #1: Caring Conversations

One of the first steps to effective faith formation in the home is a simple willingness to talk about it! When we look at the stories of Genesis, we think about how God's story is our story also. The people in the Old Testament show us that God loves us and wants to be with us, even though we continue to make mistakes and doubt that love. God's story is a love story.

Use some of the activities from our LIFE 2.0 session to spark conversations. There is lots to choose from: God's creation of the world; Adam and Eve in the garden; Noah and the ark; and all the different families in Genesis, including Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Rachel, and Joseph. Think about how these families are like our families. Here are some ideas:

- A family tree is a way to share the story of your family, to pass along information to the next generation. The Bible works in the same way. These are God's stories, and our stories with God! Think about how these families are similar to ours, and how they are different.
- How do you see yourself as a child of God?
- Talk about God's creation, and how special it is. Why did God create what he did? How does he show his love for creation, including us? How can we show our love for God by caring for his creation?
- In the story of Noah's ark, God makes a promise, or covenant, to us, that he will be our God and we will be our people. The rainbow symbolizes his love for us. What does that love mean to you?



## Key of Faith # 2: Rituals & Traditions

Family rituals and traditions speak to what the family values and believes. Some rituals are daily, and some are infrequent. Some are part of the church calendar, and some are in our home lives. All of the events we celebrate are from God!

The Christian tradition of Sunday morning as a time of renewal, joy, and worship echoes Genesis 2:1-3, when God rests on the seventh day of creation. Renew your family's commitment to practicing faith this month!

- Come to church! Take a few hours each week to recognize and affirm God's love for us and our love for him.
- Do a kind deed for someone else or for creation! Consider following a simpler lifestyle with less consumption during Lent.
- Choose a ritual such as table or bedtime prayers, especially as we approach the season of Lent. Use our Lenten Calendar, or participate in the Good Book club--children can read the Bible or be read to from a children's Bible.



## Key of Faith #3: Worship & Devotions

As we read the Old Testament, including the Book of Genesis, we see that many of the familiar (and less-familiar) people often rely on prayer as a means of communicating with God, and to show their faith in him. They show us many different kinds of prayers: prayers for guidance and thanksgiving, prayers for other people, even prayers of confusion and anger. God loves us, and wants a relationship with us--prayer is part of that relationship!

God has made a covenant, or promise, to his people--us! The story of Noah and the ark shows us about that love. Here is a prayer activity you can try with your family, from **[vibrantfaithathome.org](http://vibrantfaithathome.org)**, a great resource for faith activities for families:

Say this prayer aloud to begin:

*God, thank you for the many people we meet in the stories of the Bible. As we hear today of the story of Noah, may we begin to know more and more how much you love us. Amen.*

Read the story of Noah aloud. Ask the following "Wonder" questions. Allow time and space between each, and listen carefully to all responses.

- I wonder what your favorite part of the story was?
- If you were a character in the story I wonder who would you like to be?
- If you were a (pick an animal, i.e. a giraffe), what might you say to Noah? To God? Other animals?
- What did God's promise Noah and his family? I wonder what you think about that promise?
- I wonder how we can care for God's creatures today?

End with this prayer:

*God, we thank you for Noah and all he has taught us. We thank you for washing us clean and for your promise of love. May we never forget it and may we love others as you love us. Amen.*



## Key of Faith #4: Serving Others

Serving others is a significant component to our lives as Christians. A baptized life is not about our close friends and us. It is about seeking out those who need love, and then offering our gifts to them. It is about expecting to find Christ in others: in people who we don't know, in people we don't like very much, in people who are quite different from us, in all people

Here are some suggestions:

- Show God's love to others by doing an act of kindness for someone else. Consider a keeping a "Kindness Jar" at home, with suggestions for good deeds or acts of service on slips of paper for family members to pull out.
- Do something to take care of God's creation. Participate in a beach or park cleanup, or do your best to conserve natural resources like energy and water. Recycle!