

Going Deeper: The water bottles and their lids were designed to go together. Adam and Eve were designed by God for one another. Reflect on how the image of marriage shows us what our relationship to Christ is like.

Day 5: A blessing and a curse

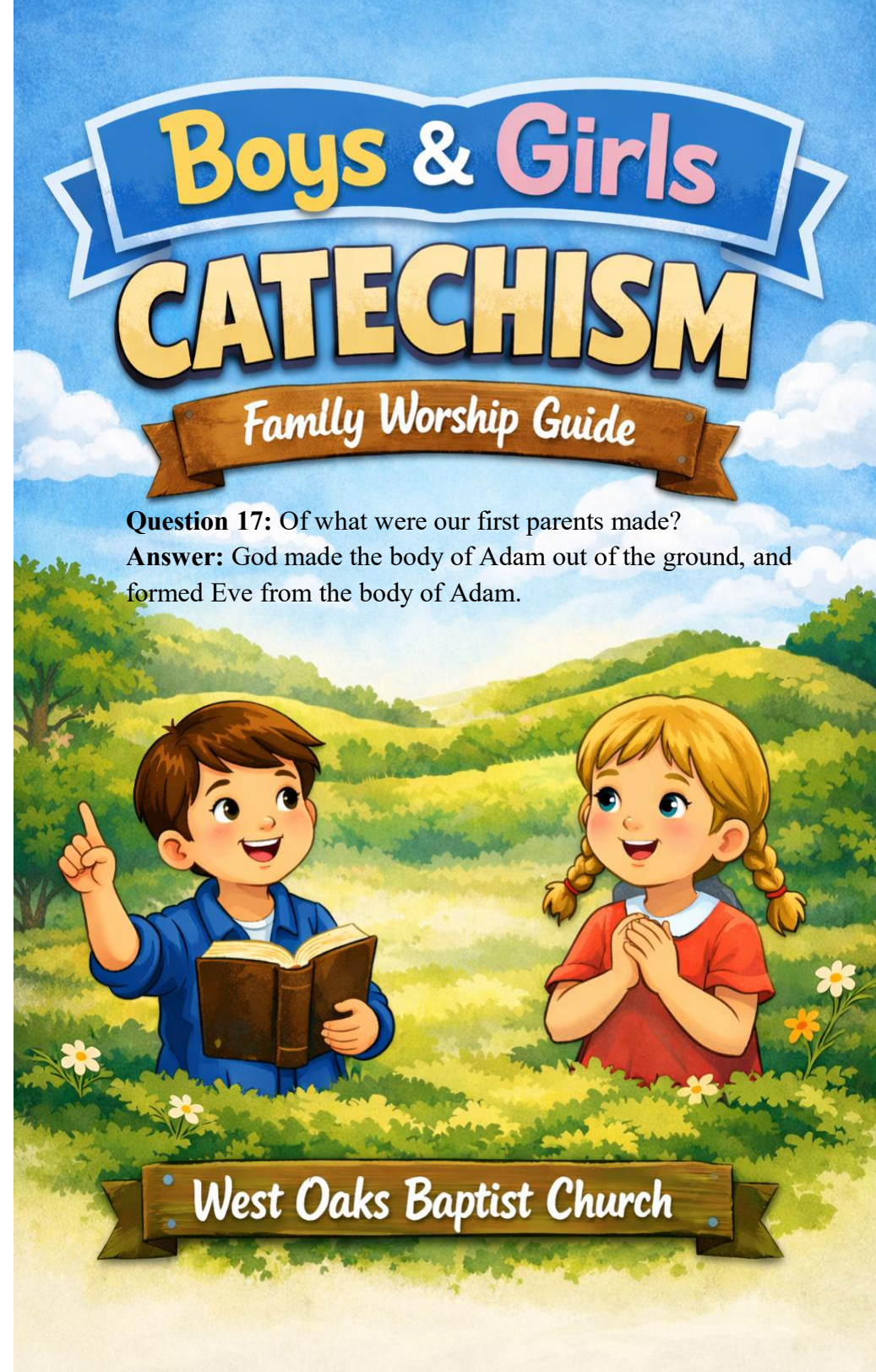
Scripture: Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

When God created man, He created Adam from the dust of the earth, and he breathed the breath of life into him. The breath that God gave, he also promised to take away. God blessed the man, brought him a perfect mate, and told him to be fruitful and multiply. God provided for every need and gave man the work of ruling over creation, but he also gave him a warning. The warning was to not eat of the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve did eat, and the warning that God gave Adam in the garden came true. Adam and Eve sinned, and their punishment was death. Adam and Eve's curse was that their bodies would see death and decay. The first Adam was made of dirt, and received the breath of life from God. This brought death to us all. By contrast, the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, brought life to all who put their trust in Him.

Object Lesson: Pull a piece of meat out of the freezer or refrigeration and place it near you. **Ask-** What would happen if we left this out overnight? What if it was left right here for 2 weeks?

Going Deeper: Because of sin, death and decay are a part of our lives. We live with bodies that can be injured, damaged by disease, and will one day die.

READ. then reflect on this verse: The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 1 Cor 15:45,



Day 1: God's Creation of Man is Unique

Scripture: Genesis 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

If you read the first chapter in the bible, you may be struck with the power and majesty of God, and how He simply spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence. Then, in Chapter 2, suddenly the perspective changes. We get a close up view of God's care for His creation. God creates man in a way totally different than any other thing in the universe. Rather than speaking Adam into existence, God takes dust and breathes into it, and the first man became a living being.

Object Lesson: Find a piece of paper and write a word using a yellow colored pencil. Then write the same word with a black marker. **ASK-** "Which is easier to read?" **SAY-** The word written in the black marker is easier to read because it contrasts with the white paper more than the yellow pencil.

Going Deeper: The creation account of man in a contrast to how God created the rest of the universe. What might that mean about man?

Day 2: God's Creation of Woman is Unique

Scripture: 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Just as God created Adam in a unique way, so too God created woman differently than another creature. Rather than taking another scoop of dirt, God used a part of Adam to create Eve. The bible describes the first surgery, where God put Adam to sleep and removed a rib, then sealed up the place where the rib used to be. Imagine his surprise when he woke up!

Object Lesson: Find a piece of playdoh or modeling clay, and shape into a rib. Have one of your children take the clay and have them try to shape it into a woman.

Going Deeper: In what ways is the creation account of Eve similar to Adam? In what ways is it different? What conclusions can we draw from the similarities and differences of the creation of woman?

Day 3: God made man and woman to be similar, yet distinct one from another

Scripture: Genesis 2:23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

When God created Adam and Eve, he did so in a way that was unique from the rest of creation. While God cares for all of His creation, He has a special place for Adam and Eve as the jewel in the crown of His created order. Another important truth is that God created Adam and Eve to be similar, and yet distinct. Man and Woman are not two interchangeable things. They are distinct. They both reflect God as true image bearers, and yet they do that in different ways. If you are a man (or a boy) you can thank God that he made you that way. And if you're a woman (or a girl), you also can thank God that He made you that way!

Object Lesson: Make a cup of coffee. Instead of using sugar, put a spoonful of salt in and mix. Add a few ice cubes and invite a volunteer to take a sip. **SAY-** Salt and sugar look similar, but when you're preparing food or drink, you can not substitute one for another!

Going Deeper: Reflect on the distinctions (beyond the obvious physical traits) between men and women.

Day 4: God made man and woman to be joined together

Scripture: Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

If you have ever been to a Christian wedding, one of the verses that is always read is the description of the first marriage, where Adam took Eve to be his wife. The bible describes this union with the idea of becoming one flesh. This is a picture of marriage- where two individuals become one through their lifelong commitment before God to one another. The picture is fitting because God used one man to create another, separate person. And in marriage, the two are unified together. Marriage is not just a physical union, but a spiritual one. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul applies this verse to Christ and the church. Jesus is the groom, and the church is His bride. Just as Adam and Eve were joined together, so too, in a mysterious way, we are joined to Christ as he holds us fast.

Object Lesson: Take two different kinds of water bottles and have your kids swap lids and see if they can try to make them fit. **Ask-** What would happen if you tried to drink from the water bottles with the wrong lids?