

The Race of Their Lives

Adam

July 25, 2021

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith. . . . let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. (Hebrews 12:1, New Living Translation)

These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. (1 Corinthians 10:11, NLT)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. . . . Then God said, Let there be light, and there was light. (Genesis 1:1–3, NLT)

And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, NLT)

Then God said, Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground. So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground. . . . Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! (Genesis 1:26–31, NLT)

1. God places huge value on your life.

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27, NLT)

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. (Genesis 2:7, NLT)

[You] knit me together in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13, NLT)

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. (Genesis 2:15, NLT)

Then the LORD God said It is not good for the man to be alone... (Genesis 2:18a, NLT)

2. God made you for community!

'...I will make a helper who is just right for him.' (Genesis 2:18b, NLT)

But still there was no helper just right for him. (Genesis 2:20, NLT)

The Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. (Genesis 2:21–22, NLT)

At last! the man exclaimed. This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called woman, because she was taken from man. (Genesis 2:23, NLT)

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. (Genesis 2:24, NLT)

So it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (Romans 12:5, NLT)

3. God wants you to love and trust Him.

You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die. (Genesis 2:16–17, NLT)

God is love. (1 John 4:8, NLT)

One day he asked the woman, Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden? (Genesis 3:1, NLT)

You won't die! the serpent replied to the woman. God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil. (Genesis 3:4–5, NLT)

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame. (Genesis 3:6–7, NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. (Romans 5:12, NLT)

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, Where are you? (Genesis 3:8–9, NLT)

I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you. (Genesis 3:10, Good News Bible)

I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. One of her descendants will crush your head, and you will bite his heel. (Genesis 3:15, New Century Version)

4. God promised a way to restore your relationship.

Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. (Genesis 3:20–21, NLT)

Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. (Romans 8:37, NLT)

But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother. . . . so that we might become God's sons and daughters. (Galatians 4:4–5, GNB)

For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:15, NLT)