

# ECHO

## THE STORY

A BIBLE STUDY FOR  
CATHOLIC TEENS



saint mary's press

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4214 (PO5546)

ISBN 978-1-59982-871-8

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The content in the Catholic edition was reviewed and revised by the content engagement team at Saint Mary's Press. Content design and manufacturing were coordinated by the passionate team of creatives at Saint Mary's Press.

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**Special Thanks:** Chris Bowman, Kelly Dolan, Monica McFadden, Caleb Noffsinger, Mark Novelli, Diana Shiflett, and Andrew Unger for brainstorming and dreaming up what this resource could become.

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# WHAT IS A SKETCH JOURNAL?

Whether you like to draw or write (or both), we've created this Sketch Journal to help you *truly express yourself*. But how?

**This Sketch Journal centers on YOUR OBSERVATIONS.** This is no boring fill-in-the-blanks workbook! You won't be asked to find specific answers or to be a Bible expert. The *Echo the Story* sessions center on what YOU notice and wonder about. What you share, even if it is something you think is simple, is very important to your group's learning. You'll be amazed at how you'll connect ideas and discover meaning in what your group shares.

**This Sketch Journal is designed to connect with the different ways YOU LEARN.** Whether you're a visual learner who loves to draw, an auditory learner who loves to hear a great story told, or an active learner who needs to get up and move around, you'll find all sorts of exercises and activities in this Sketch Journal that connect with the way you best share your thoughts and ideas.

## **ALWAYS BRING YOUR Sketch Journal!**

You must bring your Sketch Journal EVERY TIME your group meets. During your *Echo the Story* sessions, this Sketch Journal will guide you through the process of learning and responding to the Bible stories (see the *Echo the Story* Overview for more details). If you take this home, don't forget to bring it the next time you meet!



# YOU ARE CREATIVE!!

You may think that only certain kinds of people in life are creative—and that you are *not* one of them. NOT TRUE!

Research has shown that every person has the ability to be creative. In fact, you were born creative. Think back to when you were a kid and some of the creative things you loved to do: drawing, coloring, building sand castles, taking computers apart and putting them back together again.

**Creativity is about making connections and expressing your own unique perspective.** Don't worry about how your drawing looks or how eloquently your poem reads. The important thing is that you are challenging yourself—and sharing a part of who you are. Be confident in your creativity!

If you come to *Echo the Story* and this Sketch Journal with curiosity, wonder, and imagination, you'll be amazed by how your creativity is awakened—helping you to connect with God in new and deeper ways.

**THIS SKETCH JOURNAL IS YOURS.  
INVEST YOURSELF IN IT.**

**EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH IT.**

**WHAT YOU CREATE AND SHARE  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

As you flip through this Sketch Journal, you'll see that each session follows a pattern. This is the process you'll experience each time you and your group gather for *Echo the Story*:

## 1 **rewind** THE STORY

You'll watch a short video clip that asks a question for you to discuss with a partner. The video then recaps previous stories, animating the symbols for each story.

## 2 **prepare** FOR THE STORY

You'll quickly draw your own version of the story symbol in the Sketch Journal and then your group will read a section that will prepare you for the story.

## 3 **imagine** THE STORY

You'll listen to your group leader tell the current session's story, imagining every detail like it's a movie playing in your mind.

## 4 **capture** WHAT YOU NOTICE

You'll use your Sketch Journal to capture in words or sketches what you noticed in the story.

## 5 **remix** THE STORY

You'll get to choose from a drawing or writing activity to creatively interact with the story.

## 6 **connect** TO YOUR STORY

You'll end your group time by sharing your REMIX activities and having a dialogue with your group about what you are noticing and wondering about the story.

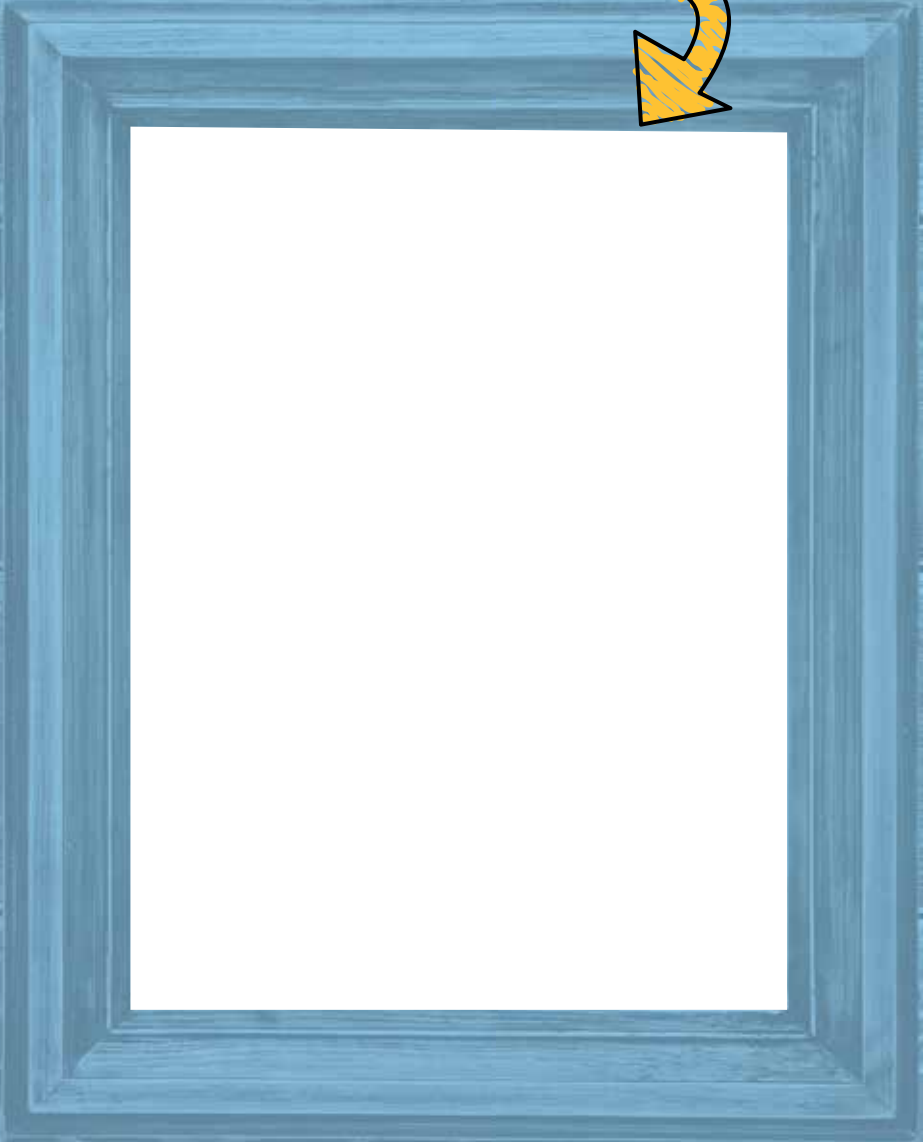
**EXPLORE MORE:** Two pages at the end of each session that give you more creative ways to explore the story on your own.



SESSION 1:

# creation

SKETCH  
**YOUR VERSION**  
OF THE CREATION STORY SYMBOL  
**HERE**







## FAIRY TALES

Fables and folk tales that contain some wise teachings



## INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Life principles, wisdom, and moral truths



## SACRED STORY

Ancient accounts of people's experiences with, and beliefs about, God



## HISTORY BOOK

A literal record of events describing God's Laws for, and rescue of, humans

Like a bigger-than-life epic told around a campfire, the Bible is a sacred story, revealing to us deep truths about God and life.

Each session we will "gather around our fire," using our imaginations to enter this story and discover how it can shape our lives.

**imagine**  
THE STORY

LISTEN &  
IMAGINE  
THE STORY  
RIGHT NOW



What stood out to you  
from the story?

What did you see  
or sense?

**SKETCH OR  
WRITE  
QUICKLY HERE**

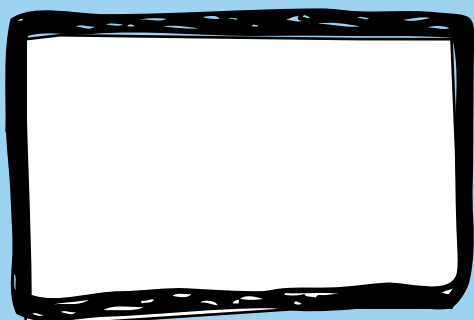
DRAW A SCENE, MAKE A LIST, WRITE A PRAYER . . . ANYTHING TO CAPTURE WHAT YOU NOTICED IN THE STORY.

From the next few pages, choose a REMIX activity— either drawing or creative writing— and start REMIXing!

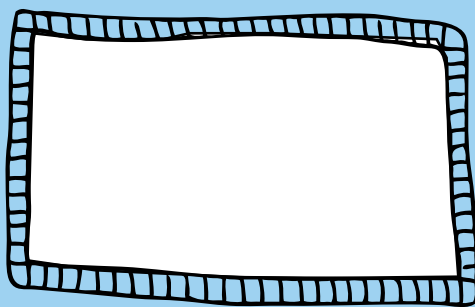
## DRAWING: STORYBOARD

Using the storyboard frames below, sketch the way you see each part of the story as you hear it retold.

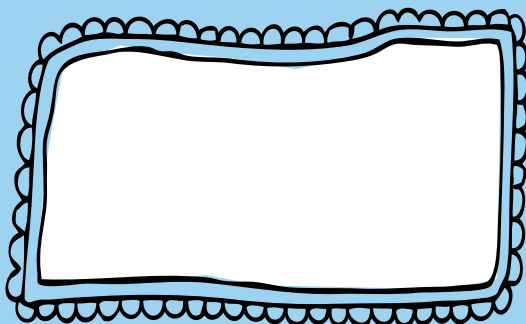
### SCENE 1: BEGINNINGS



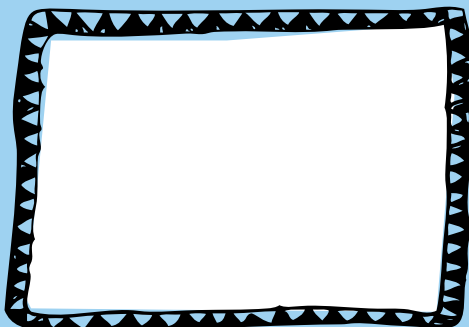
1. God hovers over the formless Earth.



2. God creates the universe, including Earth.



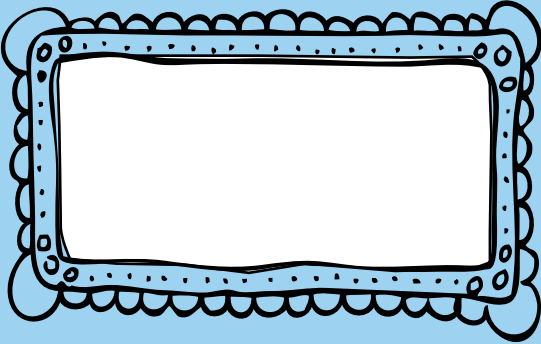
3. God forms all kinds of creatures.



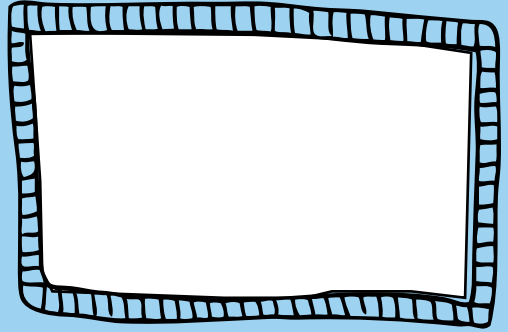
4. God rests.



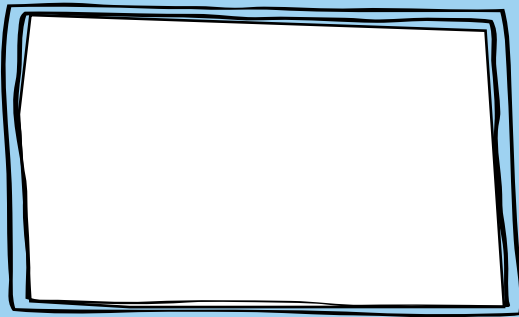
## SCENE 2: FIRST HUMANS



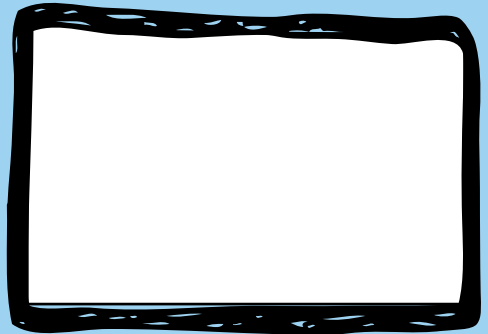
1. God forms Adam from dirt.



2. God places Adam in a lush garden.



3. God forms Eve from Adam's rib.



4. God walks with humans.

This **REMIX** section is designed to help you retell part of the story in your own unique way.



## CREATIVE WRITING: SIX-WORD STORY

### INSTRUCTIONS:

On the next page is part of the CREATION story taken directly from the Bible.

Read these verses two times—slowly.

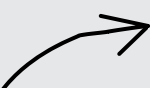
Then come up with your own creative way to retell this part of the story using only six words.

This could be a sentence or six separate words.

Be creative!




## GENESIS 1:26-31



Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

God created mankind in his image;  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

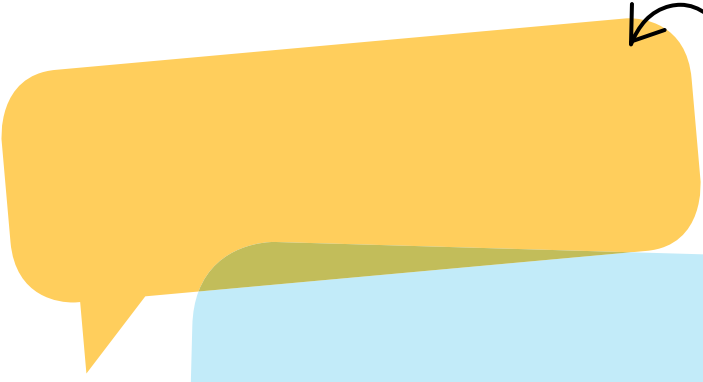
God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.



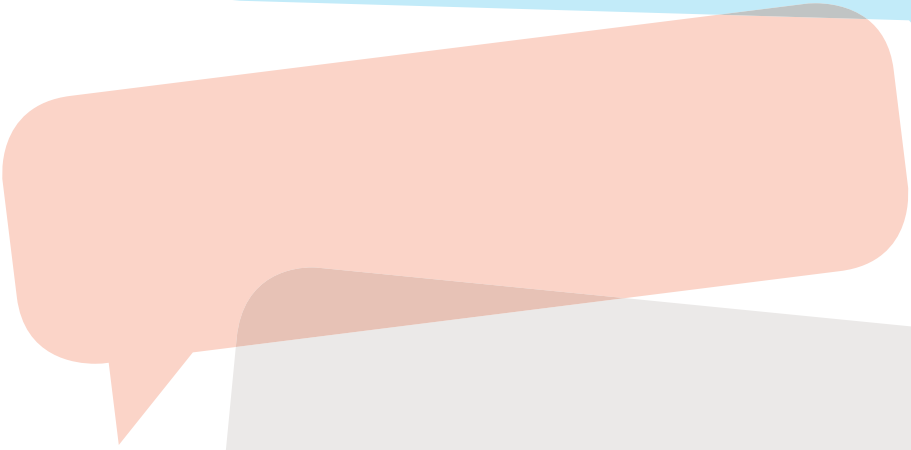
Two rows of three horizontal lines each, intended for writing.



**RIGHT NOW:**  
TURN TO ONE OR TWO PEOPLE  
NEAR YOU AND SHARE YOUR  
**REMIX** WITH THEM.



Jot down stuff here  
that OTHERS SHARE  
that connects  
with you.



## WRITE, THEN SHARE:

What do you think this story says about US?  
... about YOU?

What does it mean for YOU  
to be created in the image of God?