

Our Story

- Read, as a family or group, the first and second chapters of Genesis. Discuss the differences between the two. What are the major themes of each chapter? What are the implications for us that God created the world? That God “saw that it was good?”
- Discuss Baby Antonio and Maria, Marcelo and Silvina’s stories. What lessons can we learn from their experiences?
- Choose several of the facts on the inside page and try to define globalization. Discuss:
 - ◆ Ways in which globalization is helpful or harmful to us and to others.
 - ◆ Concerns about the long-term future – population, consumption, availability of food, clean water, health care – at home and abroad.
 - ◆ The implications of, and solutions to, the growing income gap, both within countries and among them.
- Globalization—The expansion of global linkages. In economic terms, the process of increasing integration of national economies at the global level. In social terms, the increasing interconnectedness of peoples and cultures and the increasing exchange of ideas. Look up www.emory.edu/SOC/globalization for various views and many links.
- Invite someone who has recently moved to the United States from a developing country to speak at your synagogue about the situation in their home country and their views on globalization.
- Pray as a family, as a community, together three times, in English or Hebrew:

פּוֹתְיַחַךְ אֶת-יָדְךָ וּמַשְׁבִּיעַ לְכָל-חַי רָצוֹן:

Poteyach et Yadecha umasbiya lechol chai ratzon

You open Your hand, and Your favor sustains *all* the living.

Uniquely cooperative effort by MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, African Methodist Episcopal Women’s Missionary Society, American Baptist Churches USA, America’s Second Harvest, Bread for the World Institute, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Reformed Church, Church World Service, Community of Christ, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Program, Franciscan Friars, Good Ground Press/Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Heifer International, Maryland Province of the Jesuits, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Presbyterian Hunger Program, Reformed Church in America, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Committee on Relief, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



And God Saw That It Was Good

God’s Story

וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי טוֹב:

In the beginning.... God said, “Let there be light.”

And God saw that the light was good.

God said, “Let the dry land appear.”

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation.”

And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature.”

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness.”

God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good.

- Genesis 1, adapted and abridged



Personal Stories

A Story About Baby Antonio and Maria in the United States

Antonio was born to Maria, a young mother who was sent home with him the day he was born. Only she didn't have a home. She was a single parent with no extended family support. She loved her baby and within the limits of public assistance was able to find a small room to rent. When Antonio was about three months old, Maria called a health clinic to report that her baby was sick. The nurse told Maria to bring him in. Maria said she didn't have transportation. The nurse asked for the baby's symptoms and, after hearing Antonio had suffered diarrhea for two days, concluded he had a flu virus and advised Maria to keep the baby hydrated. "Feed the baby liquids every hour. Pedialyte or apple juice is good."

Maria went to her refrigerator. She didn't have any Pedialyte or apple juice or even ice. But in her cupboard she did have tomato sauce, so she filled the baby's bottle with it and stayed up all night feeding him every hour on the hour. The sodium content of the tomato sauce accelerated the baby's dehydration, and by morning his tiny body was lifeless. <www.childrensdefense.org>



Marcelo and Silvina Speak from Argentina

Marcelo (an architect specializing in designing shopping malls) and Silvina (led marketing seminars) lost their jobs and their (family-owned) company. The couple is struggling to support themselves and their two children, three-year-old Jessica and eight-month-old Uriel. "Jessica was born at a tough time," says Silvina, sitting in the small three-room apartment they decorated with white clouds and Mondrian motifs. "Uriel, at an even tougher one." By the time Uriel was born, the refrigerator was empty and their pantry bare. On the advice of his Hebrew teacher, Marcelo went to a JDC-sponsored Social Assistance Center and asked for help. The center gave them food vouchers and money for basic expenses.

Silvina now spends most of her days at the Ariel Job Center, sending her resumé out to companies. "The printer at home has not been turned on for the past year," says Silvina, a young woman who loves paintings and sculpture. "We can't afford to replace the ink cartridge." <www.jdc.org/p_amer_arg_ps_crisis_marcelo.html>

Globalization Stories¹

each number represents
a human story

- Millennium Development Goal (MDG) #6: Halt the spread and begin to reverse HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases. Seven million agricultural workers in Africa have died of HIV/AIDS since 1985. Sixteen million more deaths are likely in the next two decades, seriously affecting agriculture and education. <www.fao.org> Countries such as Brazil, Senegal, Thailand and Uganda have shown that the spread of HIV can be stemmed.²
- MDG #7: Ensure environmental sustainability. More than 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than 2 billion lack sanitation. During the 1990s, however, nearly 1 billion people gained access to safe water and the same number to sanitation.
- MDG #8: Create a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade and debt relief. Make the global systems more friendly to people who are poor.
- When poverty and hunger are reduced among women, population rates usually decline. <www.bread.org>
- One-third of the world's food is harvested from irrigated land, and 70 percent of the water drawn from rivers or underground sources is used for irrigation. <www.bread.org> In some developing countries, the figure is as high as 85-95 percent. <www.fao.org> Some experts say that 21st century wars are likely to be fought around water rights.
- The wealthiest fifth of the world's people consume 86 percent of all goods and services, while the poorest fifth consumes 1 percent. <www.undp.org>



¹ Additional facts, updates, Web links, stories and educational materials at www.hungermomore.org.

² Millennium Development Goal targets for 2015, set by the world's leaders in September 2000.