



# Enter the Story

## ***Creation***

A narrative based about the beginning and structure of God's perfect creation.

## ***THE BIBLE***

Genesis 1-2, Job 38:4-7, Psalm 8, Psalm 103:19-22, Isaiah 45:18, Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-19, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6

*Prepare for the Story*

## **ICEBREAKER**

- Share about a time that you made something with your hands. It could be food, art, or some other project. What did you make? How did it feel to accomplish it? Once you were finished, did you have any regrets?

*Rewind the Story*

Tonight, we start at the beginning – literally, that's what Genesis means – the beginning. It's an origin story of sorts. It explains the "who, the what, the why, and the how" of humanity. It tells the story of how everything came to be. Let's Pray.

*Hear the Story*

### **Scene One: The Beginning**

In the beginning, before anything existed, there was an amazing and mysterious being called God, and this God created the heavens and the earth.

While God was creating the earth, angels watched with amazement, singing together and shouting for joy! God created these beautiful angels to worship Him. But some of these angels rebelled against God and His ways – rebellion against God is called sin, and God doesn't allow sin to remain in His presence.

So he sent the rebellious angels into darkness on the Earth to face final punishment later.

While the earth was formless and empty, God prepared it as a place for life. God's Spirit moved over the surface of the Earth as He said, "*Let there be light.*"

And there was light ... He separated the light from the darkness and called the light "*day*" and the darkness "*night.*" He divided the oceans from the sky ... and He gathered the waters so that dry land would appear. He grew plants, flowers, and trees ... all with seeds in them so they could reproduce themselves.

He created the sun, the moon, and the stars ... then set the days and seasons into motion. Then He filled the seas with fish, the sky with birds, and the earth with all kinds of wild animals!

God put great care and creativity into all of His creation. God looked at this and said, "*This is really good!*" After He had prepared the earth, God decided He would make another being, one who was lower than the angels.

### **Scene Two: In God's Image**

God said, "*We will make humans in our image, to be like us. We'll put them in charge of the earth, the plants, and all the animals that live on it.*" So God took dirt from the earth and formed the first human. Then, God breathed His own breath into him, giving him life. This first human would be called Adam.

God placed Adam in a beautiful garden, where He provided everything he needed. In this garden, God planted all kinds of trees that produced delicious fruit so Adam would always have plenty to eat. God gave Adam the responsibility to take care of this garden and all of the creatures that lived there. God even brought all of the animals right to Adam so he could give them names!

In the middle of the garden were two special trees – a Tree of Life and a tree that could give Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam to enjoy fruit from any tree in the garden – except for one; God warned him, “If you eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will definitely die.”

Then God said, *“It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a partner who will help him.”* So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While Adam was asleep, God removed one of his ribs and then closed up his side where it was taken from.

God used Adam’s rib to form the first woman. When God brought her to Adam, Adam shouted, *“At last! – This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.”* Adam called his new companion Eve, which means “giver of life.”

So, God created both man and woman to be like Him – created in God’s own image. God blessed Adam and Eve with the ability to continue His creation by having children. God joined them in a close relationship as husband and wife, where they devoted themselves to each other.

### **Scene Three: God’s Perfect Creation**

Although Adam and Eve were naked, they felt no shame. And God would come and spend time with the humans, walking with them in the cool of the day. They lived under God’s care and protection – a life that was full and complete.

As God looked over all of His creation, He thought, *“This is excellent in every way!”* After creating all of this, God rested ... and set aside a day of rest each week for all of His creation.

#### *Retell the Story*

- *In the beginning, what did God create?*
- *What were the reactions (plural) of the angels?*
- *How did God make humans?*
- *What was in the middle of the garden?*
- *What did God make for Adam & where did it come from?*
- *What did Adam and Eve do with God?*
- *What was God’s perspective on His creation?*
- *What did He do when it was finished?*

- What is your first reaction to this story? How did this story make you feel?
- What stood out to you from this story? What did you notice for the first time?
- What from this story made you wonder?
- How do you picture the world God created in this story? How would you describe it?
- Why do you think Adam and Eve were not ashamed of being naked?
- What do you think is significant about the two trees in the center of the garden?
- Did you hear anything that reminded you of **other** stories?
- From this story, what did you notice about humans?
- From this story, what do you notice about God's character or His qualities?

## **1) MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE**

In the creation story, God created everything, but humans are given a special place in creation. We are said to be created in God's image. What do you think that means? Practically, what does it mean to live a life day by day as a creature who is made in God's image?

## **2) WORKING WITH GOD**

God directly gave Adam, and indirectly gave the rest of humanity, the job of the responsibility to take care of the Earth. Why do you think God gave us this job? What was His motivation? What value do you see in humanity partnering with God in this enormous effort? Where else does God ask us to partner with Him?

## **3) BONE OF MY BONE**

In the creation story, God makes the clear declaration that "it is not good for man to be alone". How does God solve this problem? Do you think that there are other ways in which God has provided for "man" to not be alone? Why do you think humans shouldn't live an isolated life? What do we risk by trying to do life alone?

God,

*Thank You for this time together and for allowing us to begin this incredible journey through Your story. Help us reflect on what we've experienced today in the week ahead. May we look forward to learning more about You and Your wonderful, mysterious plan for the world in the weeks to come. Thank you for being a God who is creative, powerful and true to Your promises. Amen.*