

STORY FROM...

Genesis 1–3 Job 38 Jude 6 Ezekiel 28 Isaiah 14 2 Peter 2

Psalm 8 Revelation 12

PROLOGUE: Beginnings

The first story is a prologue to the other stories that establishes some key ideas about the nature of good and evil.

◆ SET UP THE FIRST STORY

This story is about a being called God, who has always existed. This story, from the Bible, describes God as the creator of all things, including the earth and everything living.

God is also described as the only one who always does what is good and right and perfect—the Bible uses the word "holy" to describe God.

Do you know what God created first?

(Optional Part)

In the Bible, God asked a man named Job, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Who decided its size and dimensions? Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"

▼ TELL THE STORY (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

The story begins like this...

When God set the foundations of the earth, the angels were already there watching—they were his first creation. When the angels saw God's power and creativity, they sang together and shouted for joy, giving glory to God!

The most beautiful of all the angels was named Lucifer, which means "bright morning star". When Lucifer saw the other angels praising God, he became jealous and said in his heart, "I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars... and I will be like God."

Then Lucifer went and convinced a third of the angels to worship him.

Although Lucifer had seen God's power in creation, he continued to lead the fallen angels, also known as demons, in a rebellion against God. All rebellion against God and his ways is called sin.

But God knew what Lucifer was thinking and doing.

Because of God's perfect goodness, evil is never allowed to remain in his presence.

So God showed his disapproval of Lucifer and his followers by casting them into darkness. Like a flash of lighting they fell down to the earth.

Lucifer's name also changed-instead of being known as the bright morning star, he was now known as Satan, which means "adversary".

This is the story that we call "Beginnings".



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PROLOGUE: Beginnings

- ▲ RETELL THE STORY (This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)
- ▼ DIALOGUE (These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)
 - What did God create in this story?
 - What was God's relationship with his creation?

God created everything-the earth and the angels are mentioned specifically. The angels were amazed by God and got to be with him as he created.

Who are Lucifer and the demons? Where did they come from?

They are angels created by God.

Being the creation, they cannot possibly have power over the creator.

How did Lucifer challenge God? What did he say?

He said he would be like God. He decieved a third of the angels to follow him.

God cast Lucifer and the fallen angels out of heaven. Why do you think he did this?

Evil is never allowed to remain in God's presence. God punishes evil. He cast Lucifer out of heaven.

What do we learn about God in this story? (Where in the story did you see this?)

God is powerful.

God is an amazing creator. He made everything with his creativity!

God is perfect, good, right-holy.

God is amazing and deserves to be worshipped.

God knows all things. He knew what was in Lucifer's heart,

and which angels were following him.

- ◆ **APPLICATION** (Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)
 - What did you notice from the story for the first time?
 - What questions do you have about the story?
 - How did the story challenge or encourage you?
 - When is a time in your life that you wanted to be in charge of something and weren't?
 - Did you take control? What happened?
 - Why do you think we resist authority at times? How can authority be good?