



STORY FROM...

Genesis 1-2, Job 38:4-7, Psalm 8,
Psalm 103:19-22, Isaiah 45 :18, 2 Peter 2:5, Jude 6

First Humans

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

This first Episode in God's Story, called "Creation," begins like this...

Before anything existed, there was an amazing and mysterious being called God. 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 – any rebellion against God is called sin. 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. (Pause)

Then God took the earth, which was dark and formless, and prepared it as a place for life.

God's Spirit moved over the surface of the earth as...

He made light – separating it from the darkness...

He divided the oceans and the sky...

He gathered the waters, so 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...

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 create another being, one who was lower than the angels.

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 this 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 fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will definitely die." (Pause)

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!"*

Adam called his new companion Eve, which means "giver of life."

So God created both the 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.

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.



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▲ **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?**

• **How do you picture the world God created in this story? ...the garden?**

Was it chaotic or peaceful? *They enjoyed God's shalom, the old testament word for peace, meaning relational wholeness and completeness that God intend's for all of his creation.*

• **How did God make humans unique among his creations?**

They are created in God's image. He breathed his own breath into them - they were created in a different way. He put them in charge of the earth and the animals (responsibility). God gives humans the ability to create by having children.

• **What kind of relationship did God have with humans?**

He spent time with Adam and Eve. They loved being with God. He gave them responsibility—to care for God's creation and to create. He protected and cared for them. He came to earth to be with them!

• **What kind of relationship did Adam and Eve have with each other?**

Why do you think that 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 the previous story?**

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

God is all powerful. God is the creator of all things—birds, fish, air and land ...

God created humans in his image.

God trusts humans with the care of his creation.

God gives humans the ability to create.

God provides and takes care of humans—the garden had everything they needed.

God is very relational - he comes down to walk with them in the garden.

God enjoys his creation—he said it was excellent in every way!

God sets aside time for rest!

◆ **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? What do you wonder about?

• How did the story challenge or encourage you?

• Why do you think God wants to spend time with humans?

• How do you think we are “created in the image of God”?

• What do you think God desires from us (you)?

• How has God provided for or protected you?

• What responsibilities does God intend for us to have?