

The Story

“Finding Your Story in God’s Story”

March 5, 2023

Lesson 1 – Creation: “The Beginning of Life as We Know It”

Timeless Truth: Sin Changes Everything.

Genesis 1 – 4; 6 – 9

This first lesson of *The Story* is vital to understanding God’s Upper Story. The major doctrines of our faith are rooted here, namely sin and redemption.

Lesson Breakdown:

- The Creation of All Things (Genesis 1-2)
- The Tragic Fall (Genesis 3-4)
- The Great Flood (Genesis 6-9)

Plot Points:

- God, the main character of *The Story*, is revealed as the absolute sovereign of creation, totally distinct from yet intimately involved with all he has made.
- Nature is not simply a collection of random, meaningless matter in motion; it is a carefully crafted revelation of a loving God.
- Humanity, made in God’s image, occupies a unique role and position in this creation, a place of dignity and responsibility.
- Humanity’s tragic rebellion against God’s command impacts *everything*.
- God has a plan to redeem his fallen creation, giving us a hint of the good news to come in his promise that a descendant of Adam and Eve will crush the serpent.
- Throughout the New Testament, the flood story forecasts God’s future and final judgment (e.g., Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; 2 Peter 2:4-10).

As you watch the video for Lesson 1 of *The Story*, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ The Bible is a mural knitted together to tell the story of God’s great love.
- ✓ The apple of God’s eye - The magnum opus of his work, is people.
- ✓ God took walks with them in the cool of the day.
- ✓ God’s Big Idea: The point of His story is to be with us!
- ✓ Every one of us is born with a sin nature.

Understand the Story:

1. Several verses begin simply with “God said.” In what ways should this impact our view of God and his authority? (pgs. 1-3)

2. Why did God create mankind in his image and likeness? (pg. 2)
 - A. He wanted us to be little gods.
 - B. He wanted us to look like gods.
 - C. He wanted us to have his character traits.
 - D. He wanted us to rule over the creation.
3. What does it mean to be “in His image and likeness? (pgs. 2-3)
4. Why did God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden?
5. What was the root cause of Adam and Eve’s sin against God?
6. When sin entered the world, relationships were destroyed. What were the changes in the relationships between:
 - a. God and mankind:
 - b. Adam and Eve:
7. Why did God banish Adam and Eve from the garden? (pg. 6)
 - A. God was angry with them.
 - B. They had lost the privilege of the easy life.
 - C. They could not be allowed to eat from the tree of life.
 - D. God was trying to teach them a lesson about sin.
8. Why was God not pleased with Cain’s offering? (pg. 7)
 - A. Cain did not do what was right.
 - B. Abel had brought a better offering.
 - C. God preferred an offering from the flocks.
 - D. Cain’s offering was too small.
9. Why did God send the flood upon the earth? (pg. 8)
 - A. God regretted making human beings on the earth.
 - B. God wanted to start over with Noah and his family.
 - C. The human race had become evil.
 - D. All of the above.
10. What does this act of judgment tell you about God?
11. As you reflect on what you learned this week, what is your biggest takeaway?
12. Concerning Lesson One, what is one question you wish you could ask God?

NEXT WEEK ... We’ll look at how God’s covenant promise with Abraham would accomplish his Upper Story plan through building the nation of Israel.

Take time this week to read Lesson 2 of *The Story*.