



## The Story of God God Creates

### Opening Prayer:

*Dear God, thank you for the creation account. Thank you that you exist and that you speak to us. We pray that as we start this series, you would guide our thoughts and our discussions. Help us to orient our lives around you and your will. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.*

### Ice Breaker:

In the story of God, we find out that God exists and that He speaks! He spoke to Adam, Noah, Moses, Abram, Kings, warriors, tax collectors, fishermen and women alike. Sometimes God spoke in powerful ways, and at times in a still small whisper. Share of a time where you felt God's presence speaking into your life.

**Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

### 1. God exists!

Discuss how the following philosophies are crushed by this statement: atheism, pluralism, modernism, materialism, fatalism, existentialism, humanism and hedonism. Why is it important to make decision about who is telling the grand story? Discuss.

### 2. God speaks!

Notice that God speaks with great authority. When He says something, it comes into existence. In Genesis 1:3-25 we find that God created light, an expanse, dry ground, vegetation, the universe, fish, birds and land animals. Discuss the amount of intelligent design that went into creation. How does that make you feel about God?

### 3. We are Image-bearers. (Genesis 1:26-27).

How does it change your perspective on life to think that you reflect the image of God to the world? What does it mean for you to 'rule' over God's created world? Discuss.

### 4. We are Recipients of God's Goodness (Genesis 1:29-31).

Discuss the goodness of God. Share things that you are grateful for. Where are you struggling to believe that God is good? Take some time to share and then pray for each other.

## Challenge for the week- Memorize Genesis 1:1

### Message Outline

#### God Creates

#### Questions:

1. What on earth is happening?
2. Where do I fit?
3. If God is good, why do I see so much bad?

#### The Story of God

God creates  
God rejected  
God promises  
God arrives  
God sends  
God restores

#### Resources:

The True Story of the Whole World, Bartholemew/Goheen  
The Drama of Scripture, Bartholemew/Goheen  
From New Creation to New Creation, Tim Chester  
Better Than Eden, Nancy Guthrie

#### A. God Exists!

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Pluralism  
Modernist  
Materialist  
Fatalist  
Existentialist  
Secular Humanist  
Hedonist  
Global Community

#### A. God Exists!

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

#### B. God Speaks!

1. Light

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Ps. 119:105- "Your word is a light unto my path..."

Ps. 36:9- "In your light we see light."

John 8:12a (Jesus)- "I am the light of the world."

## 2. An Expanse

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

## 3. Dry Ground

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

## 4. Vegetation

<sup>11</sup> And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

## 5. Sun, Moon and Stars

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

## 6. Fish and Birds

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in

the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”<sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

#### 7. Land creatures

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

#### C. We Are Image-bearers of God!

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and **said to them**, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

#### D. We are Recipients of God’s Goodness!

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”<sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

#### Revelation 4:11

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”