



# Community Group Discussion Guide

The Story, Week 2 - Weekend of April 6-7, 2019

## The Creation

### I. Getting Started:

This is the second week of a six week “All Church” study in Community Groups on “The Story”

- Week 1 – The Story We Live
- Week 2 – THE CREATION
- Week 3 – The Fall
- Week 4 – The Rescue (Easter/ No CG – No SDG. The Rescue Material will be touched on in SDGs for Weeks 3 and 5)
- Week 5 – The Restoration
- Week 6 – The Story We Share

Everyone has a story, but what most don't know is how our story fits into a bigger picture of God's Story. What is His bigger story, this overarching story that stretches for all of time, through all of humanity? Do we understand the story and can we tell the story?

“The Story” starts in the beginning...

#### Starter question:

- Recall something that you have created that was special to you. Describe it in detail. Did what your creation represent you in some way? How?

### II. Discussion of Scripture:

#### Genesis 1:1-3 ESV

**1**“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2**The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3**And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

#### Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

**26**“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

**Psalms 19:1-2 ESV**

**1**“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. **2**Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”

**Psalms 33:6 ESV**

**6**“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”

**Psalms 139:13-14 ESV**

**13**“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. **14**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

**Isaiah 40:25-26, 28 ESV**

**25**“To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. **26**Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

**28**Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.”

**Romans 1:19-25 ESV**

**19**“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

**20**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**22**Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

**John 1:1-3 ESV**

**1**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

**Colossians 1:15-17 ESV**

**15**“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17**And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

### **Hebrews 1:1-4 ESV**

**1**“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2**but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3**He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4**having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

### **James 1:18 ESV**

**18**“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

#### **Brief explanation:**

This story begins with God, who has always been. He has always existed, and He has always existed exactly as He is now. As C.S. Lewis states, “God is eternal, not perpetual. Strictly speaking, He never foresees; he simply sees. Your ‘future’ is only an area...of His infinite now.” Isaiah chapter 55:8-9 declares: “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts.”

In the beginning, God spoke everything into existence. God spoke, and His Word created. By His command, the entire universe was created and filled with a dramatic display of galaxies, stars, and planets, including earth. Of all the beauty God created, the masterpiece was man and woman. They were created in His image (Imago Dei) with the purpose of worshiping Him by loving Him, serving Him, and enjoying relationship with Him.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. *ALL THINGS* came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” -John 1:1-3 (emphasis mine)

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What strikes you as significant about the way the Bible begins?
2. What kind of sentence is Gen 1:1? What impression does this sentence convey? Is it one of hesitancy or certainty?
3. As you continue reading Genesis 1, what word or words come to mind as you read the creation account?
4. Is God part of creation? What is God’s relation to time? What does this say about God? How does timelessness relate to change and instability?
5. Therefore, what characteristic(s) does God possess in relationship to timelessness? What does that mean for you and me?

6. What implications does this first verse have for the relationship between God and Man? What is the basic principle between the relationship between God and Man?
7. How is the creation of man different than all else that God created? Contrast Gen 1:26-27 with Gen 1:24. (Hint: The creation of man does not take place through a word addressed by God to the earth, but by a divine decree from God).
8. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
9. Why do you think the plural is used in Gen 1:26? (discuss the Trinity)
10. Read Psalm 19:1-2, then read Romans 1:19-25. What comes to mind when you read these passages?
11. Describe some things that can be known about God through His general revelation, that is what He reveals to us through creation?
12. What is the main problem with people that Paul states in Romans 1:21?
13. What are some common points between John 1:1-3, Col 1:15-17, and Heb 1:1-3? What do these points mean for our lives and how we live them? What does this mean in relation to Psalm 139:13-14?
14. Do you know someone that doesn't know or acknowledge the creator of the universe, God Almighty? How could you start a conversation with them about God and His creation? How does each person's purpose, meaning, and value integrate into the story of creation?

### **III. Responding in prayer:**

“Pray for your one.” As you saw last weekend, in the worship center for this entire series, we will be writing the names of “our one”. We are asking every person in our church to be praying for one person who lives in the Edmond, OKC, Guthrie area who needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this six-week study, we are asking each person to think of a co-worker, a neighbor or family member who lives locally and pray for their salvation and an opportunity to share your story with them. As a CG, it may be intimidating for a younger believer to share initials (JM or WM) or share first names (John or Mary), and may take a few weeks to get there spiritually, but lead your CG to this place. Collect these names and pray for these by name as a CG over the next five weeks. We will have opportunities to write these names on the wall on the back of the Worship Center, as well.

It is critical for you to take time to pray for your “ones”. Thank you for seeking unity as the body of Henderson Hills to be part of this “all church” study.

#### **Prayer prompt:**

Thank the LORD for his sovereign power over all of creation. Acknowledge Him as Creator and sustainer of the universe. Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us with insight and understanding into scripture to bring us spiritual wisdom so that our lives will produce good fruit for the Kingdom of God. Pray for God to reveal to you someone who may be struggling with their faith, or someone who has no faith at all, and pray for God to work through you to speak truth to

them so that their eyes are opened and they start to see the miracle of all that God has created, and acknowledge Him as creator. Pray for the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts to hear the message of salvation offered through Christ and His finished work on the cross.

**Facilitator's note:** Starting next week (The Fall), we will have role plays, opportunities for breaking into groups of twos' and threes to practice scenario's in real world situations. We are not asking this of you in the first two weeks. Also, it is unrealistic to think you can cover all this material. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to the questions to "sit on" with your CG as you lead discussion. Be patient to allow for discussion. You may call on more mature believers in your CG to get the discussion going.

For every CG except 9AM Sunday, please follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the sermon John gives to lead this discussion. Allow the CG to process what they heard from the pulpit.

Also, below is a link to a website that explains the series more fully. There are short videos to view, etc.

<https://thestoryfilm.com/>

We have created a Henderson Hills Baptist Church group if you wish to be part of that group on their website.