

# ***The Story* - Adult Study Guide**

For the Week of September 8, 2019

## Chapter 1: "Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It"



Key Events: creation, the fall of mankind, the flood

Key Characters: Adam, Eve, Noah (see *The Story* page 488 for character descriptions)

Bible Reference for this Chapter: Genesis 1-4, 6-9

1. How is it evident in the creation account that humans were the centerpiece and purpose of everything God created?
  
2. What words would you use to describe the God who is revealed in the Creation lesson?
  
3. What is the significance and meaning of these phrases:
  - *And God said, let there be . . .*
  - *And there was evening, and there was morning . . .*
  - *And God saw that it was good.*
  - *God made . . . according to their kinds.*
  - *God created humans in his own image.*
  
4. Consider people's role in the Garden of Eden and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden (page 4). What was God's purpose for Adam and Eve and for all mankind?  
Did that vision change after sin entered the world?
  
5. God established the family when he made a woman, Eve (page 4). What is God's design and role for the family?
  
6. Amidst God's curses on pages 5-6, identify God's statement of promise and grace. What does this statement mean?

7. Sinful nature (Definition: the human sinful condition inherited through the generations since Adam and Eve). How is the existence of the sinful nature evident in this chapter?

8. The story of the fall into sin indicates that every part of God's good creation was fractured by Adam and Eve's rebellion. As you observe our world, what evidence do you see that the world was created to be a good and beautiful place? What evidence do you see that it is a broken by sin?

9. In the Flood, we encounter a God who takes action to prevent the spread of human rebellion and sin by destroying most of His creation. The Flood is both an act of judgment and salvation. How do you see these two activities of God reflected in the story?

10. Upper Story = God is present and working in the world to bring about the salvation of souls. Lower Story = God is present and working in my life every day to strengthen my faith in his plan and promises. Please share messages of personal comfort, hope, and encouragement you see in chapter 1.

#### Prayer Suggestions for the Week

- Thank God for his creation and the way he provides and cares for us and all creatures.
- Pray for wisdom to recognize the devil's schemes to harm us, and pray for the Holy Spirit's power in Christ to overcome temptations.
- Praise God for his amazing grace in sending a Savior for all people and for me.

## Study Guide Answers

1. Creation was designed to be a blessing for humans. God created Adam and all people since to be in his image. God gave humans the role to rule over creation.
2. God is wise, powerful, awesome, liking variety in what he made.
3. *And God said, let there be . . .* Everything was created out of nothing by God's command and power. *And there was evening, and there was morning . . .* God created everything in six 24-hour days. *And God saw that it was good.* Everything God created was wonderful and perfect, without fault and defect. *God made . . . according to their kinds.* Creatures were made in a complete form with small variations, not by a process of evolution progressing from a lower to a higher form over time. *God created humans in his own image.* Adam and Eve were created righteous and holy, without sin and without a sinful nature.
4. Adam and Eve and humans were created to glorify God with their lives according to his will and design. In the image of God, they had the power to follow God completely, to have an intimate relationship with God, and to live under a blessed existence in a perfect world. They had the ability and freedom to obey God, and they had the ability and freedom to go a separate path apart from God's will and design (which they did, involving the tree of knowledge of good and evil). God's vision for mankind did not change once sin entered the world. God still wanted and wants to be in a close relationship with people and bless them. After the fall, sin was/is a major obstacle in that relationship and required a Savior for all to be in a right relationship with God.
5. God's design for the family begins with marriage, the lifelong union of one man and one woman. God designed marriage to provide the blessings of companionship, sexual happiness within the marriage relationship, and children. Parents have the privilege and responsibility to share Jesus with their children. Families are God's instruments to pass the Christian faith through future generations.
6. God issues the first promise of sending a Savior with the passage "I will put enmity between you and the woman . . ." (top of page 6 = Genesis 3:15). "You (the devil) will strike his (Christ's) heel" = God will send a Savior who will die to pay for sin. "He (Christ) will crush your (the devil's) head" = Christ's redemption would destroy Satan's powerful hold over people.
7. Once Adam and Eve sinned by coveting God's power and glory through the tree of knowledge of good and evil, sin spiraled out of control in their lives and in the lives of all born thereafter. Adam and Eve lied and tried to hide their sin, passed blame, felt shame, and suffered with an existence cursed by sin. Adam and Eve's sinful nature was passed on to their children, Cain and Abel, who were sinful and lived under the consequences of sin. By Noah's time, the human race had become wicked and "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time" (page 8).
8. The evidence for the world created to be good: blue skies and beautiful sunsets, awesome clouds, gentle animals, people doing good to each other, and new life is born. A world broken by sin: storms that harm people, animals harming people, people harming or cheating people, disease, and death.
9. The Flood is an act of God's justice and mercy. The people of Noah's time were on the path to eternal destruction. In his mercy, God warned them and gave them 120 years to repent (Genesis 6:3). Their unbelief and rejection brought his wrath. Yet, in his mercy, God spared the human race physically by preserving a remnant through Noah's family. At the same time, God spared humans spiritually by preserving the family line of the promised Savior.
10. Answers of personal comfort and hope. Consider elements of chapter 1 that relate to our daily faith.