



The Story of God | Beginnings

Big Picture

This is where we're going... the big ideas you want people to understand more deeply during this session.

- God is Holy and Creator
- Angels/Demons/Rebellion, God's mercy
- Humans created in His image – Imago Dei
- Humans created to live forever
- Humans given volition/choice to trust God or self

Pre-Story Set-up

Does it seem to you that things are working perfectly in the world today? Are things the way that they seem like they should be? Have you ever wondered why? What is wrong with the world?

As we begin to look deeper into the Story of God and humans and this world, we will see that everything did not start out bad, in fact things were amazing and beautiful!

What if we could live in a world where there was no sickness or pain or death? No pollution, poverty, war or hatred? Is it possible that the world that we all want, what we all dream of, is exactly the world that God originally created and intended for us?!

And what if God actually has a plan and a way to set everything right again? The Bible shows us that there is such a way.

Let's start at the beginning of The Story...

Beginnings | Story

Story from... Genesis 1–3; Job 38; Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14; Psalm 8; Revelation 12

This Story is found in the Bible—the bestselling book in human history—and tells about God, a being that was before all things, and created this earth and everything on it. God alone always does what is good and right and perfect—the Bible calls him holy.

When God set the foundations of the earth, the angels were already there watching – they were his first creation. When the angels saw God’s power and creativity, they sang together and shouted for joy, giving praise to God.

But one of the angels named Lucifer, which means “bright morning star”, was not happy. When he saw the other angels praising God, he became jealous and said in his heart, *“I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars... and I will be like God.”* Then Lucifer went and convinced a third of the angels into worshipping him. Although Lucifer had seen God’s power in creation, he continued to lead the fallen angels, also known as demons, in a rebellion against God.

All rebellion against God and his ways is called sin.... All rebellion against God and his ways is called sin.

But God, who knows all things, knew what Lucifer was thinking and doing. Because of God’s perfect goodness, evil is never allowed to be in his presence. So God showed his disapproval of Lucifer and his followers by casting them down to the earth. At that time, the earth was formless and void, completely engulfed in darkness. Lucifer’s name was also changed. Instead of being known as the bright morning star, he was now known as Satan, which means “adversary”.

I’ve told you a lot so far. Let me ask a few questions...
(And only answer from the story please)

Beginnings | Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialog, not a quiz**. The “answers” below each question are there to help you as a leader guide the discussion toward some key ideas.

What did God create in this story?

You may need to guide the discussion toward:

Angels, the foundations of the earth, the ability to choose, relationships

What was God’s relationship with his creation?

You may need to guide the discussion toward:

God created everything—the earth and the angels are mentioned specifically.

The angels were amazed by God and got to be with him as he created.

God is close to his creation-involved with it. Intimate.

Who are Lucifer and the demons? Where did they come from?

You may need to guide the discussion toward:

They are angels created by God.

Being the creation, they cannot possibly have power over the creator.

Are the angels/demons more powerful than God?

You may need to guide the discussion toward:

- *The creator of something is always more powerful than the creation. As the creation they cannot possibly have power over the creator.*

How did Lucifer challenge God? What did he say?

- *He said he would be like God.*
- *He deceived a third of the angels to follow him.*
- *He wanted the worship God was getting.*

God cast Lucifer and the fallen angels out of heaven. Why do you think he did this?

- *God is holy and punishes evil. Evil is never allowed to remain in God's presence.*

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

- *God is powerful.*
- *God is an amazing creator. He made everything with his creativity!*
- *God is good, right and perfect—He is holy.*
- *God will never allow evil/sin to remain in his presence.*
- *God is amazing and deserves to be worshipped.*
- *God knows all things. He knew what was in Lucifer's heart, and which angels were following him.*
- *God is the source of all grace. He only cast Satan down to the earth, instead of destroying him.*

Beginnings | Additional Dialogue

1. **How do you feel when someone in your life is getting a lot of attention and praise and you are not? What do you do?**
2. **Do you like to be in control of thing in your life or have someone else guide you? Why??**