

THE STORY SESSION I
CREATION AND THE GARDEN: THE BEGINNING OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT
GENESIS 1-11

MEMORY VERSE

“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it!” Genesis 1:28

Section I: Personal Study - Know the Word

Before reading the Story, answer the questions below to test your knowledge and help you look for important points in the reading.

Question	Answer
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____

1. Why did create man in His image and likeness?
 - a) He wanted little gods.
 - b) He wants us to look like gods.
 - c) He wanted us to have his character traits.
 - d) He wanted a personal relationship with us and for us to rule his creation.

2. What caused Adam and Eve to be deceived and fall in sin?
 - a) They didn't believe and trust what God said was true.
 - b) They wanted to be in charge and live for their glory.
 - c) They doubted God's goodness.
 - d) Adam refused to lead and take personal responsibility for his family.
 - e) All of the above

3. Why was God not pleased with Cain's offering?
 - a) Cain's offering was too small.
 - b) Abel was a nicer person.
 - c) Cain didn't work hard enough at it.
 - d) Cain wanted to prove his offering was better because it was from his hard work.

4. Why did God flood the earth?
 - a) He was angry and tired of people.
 - b) He wanted to get even for people disobeying.
 - c) He wanted to stop evil from obliterating His plan to redeem.
 - d) He wanted to make a way for His plan to be preserved.

For personal reflection

1. What did you notice about the power of words or the power of choices?
2. What is an interesting insight or reflection you came away with in your reading?

Section 2: Questions for Conversation and Discussion

1. What is a special place in creation that you love, that reveals God's glory to you and helps you to feel close to Him?
2. When God said "it was good" and it was very good, what was He trying to express?
3. How does knowing that God made the universe because He wanted to have a special relationship with you and that He finds more delight in looking at you and being with you in fellowship more than anything, make you feel? How does knowing that the "upper story" of God's reckless love at work throughout history to build back the bridge to us ring true in your own life and testimony? What is evidence of God pursuing you?
4. If you could take a walk with God in the perfect garden of paradise, just like you would a friend, what would you talk to Him about and why?
5. What does God want you to take away from this story about the power of His Word? What is something God wants you to especially believe about the power of His Word?
 - a) It is inerrant and true. I should believe that God backs it up and will bring it to pass.
 - b) I must not doubt or try to bring God's word down to the level of my comfort or experience.
 - c) God's Word can create and recreate the environment and resources in my life for hope, change and victory.
 - d) I must know His word so that I won't be deceived by Satan.
 - e) I must see my responsibility to raise the level of my words to reflect the image of God to myself and other people.
6. If Adam, Eve and Cain had looked at their temptation from the view of the "upper story," how might they have overcome the temptation to disobey and become bitter?

7. How might Adam have helped Eve not fall? How could we become partners with each other to help each other overcome temptation?

Section 3: Prayer and God Moment Time

1. What are some things that God might want you to confess that might be blocking you from enjoying the intimate presence of God and fellowship with Him?
2. What is something that, like Cain, you've allowed your heart to become offended, and that has opened a door to sin? How could you let God heal you and free you? How might God want to give you wisdom and discernment preemptively to protect you from an area of temptation Satan is likely to bring your way?
3. In every sad story of judgement and brokenness, God always created a window of hope. It is clear that because of God, it isn't possible for any story to be hopeless. God makes an ark, sends a rainbow, gives a promise, brings a person/son, a chance to start over. God has a "Jacob's ladder" in every situation? What is a window of hope God might want to speak to you about or to someone else in your group about today?

Section 4: Ways to Act on the Word This Week

How will you apply this Word this week?

1. Work on a list of words that you will add or change in your vocabulary to reflect God's image.
2. Take an intimate walk with God.
3. Take your family to a place to reflect on God's amazing work in creation.
4. Work on how you would explain your belief in a Creator to a world that doubts God
5. Other

Answers: d, e, d, c