

The Story

Session 2: Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It

Buhler Mennonite Church – October 28, 2020

In the Upper Story, God creates the Lower Story. God's vision is to come down and be with us in a beautiful garden. The first two people reject God's vision and are escorted from paradise. Their decision introduces sin into the human race and keeps us from community with God. At this moment God gives a promise and launches a plan to get us back. The rest of the Bible is God's story of how he kept that promise and made it possible for us to enter a loving relationship with

US. Movement 1: The Story of the Garden (Genesis 1 – 11)

1. Opening & Praying

2. Introduction: Video

3. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- Why did God create humankind in his image and likeness?
 - a. God wanted us to be little gods.
 - b. God wanted us to look like gods.
 - c. God wanted us to have his character traits.
 - d. God wanted us to rule over the creation.

- Why Did God banish Adam and Eve from the garden?
 - a. God was angry with them.
 - b. They had lost the privilege of the easy life.
 - c. They could not be allowed to eat from the tree of life.
 - d. God was trying to teach them a lesson about sin.

- Why was God not pleased with Cain's offering?
 - a. Cain did not do what was right?
 - b. Abel brought a better offering.
 - c. God preferred an offering from the flocks.
 - d. Cain's offering was too small.

- Why did God send the flood?
 - a. God regretted making human beings on the earth.
 - b. God wanted to start over with Noah and his family.
 - c. The human race had become evil.
 - d. All of the above.

4. The Lower Story & the Upper Story:

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the Garden	Genesis 1 – 11
	The Story of Israel	Genesis 12 – Malachi
	The Story of Jesus	Matthew – John (Gospels)
	The Story of the Church	Acts – Jude
	The Story of a New Garden	Revelation

a. PERSONAL REFLECTION/JOURNALING:

- *Why did God create me?*
- *What's my purpose?*

b. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY (Theological Answer)? Why did God create us?

COMPARE & CONTRAST TWO COMPETING CREATION ACCOUNTS	Enuma Elish (Babylonian)	The Bible: Genesis 1
<i>Who creates?</i>		
<i>How creates?</i>		
<i>Out of what creates? What is the material of creation?</i>		
<i>With what emotion does the creator create?</i>		
<i>How is humanity created?</i>		
<i>For what purpose is humanity created?</i>		
<i>Is creation good or is it bad?</i>		
<u>So What?</u> <i>What does this tell us about Creation? What does this tell us about ourselves?</i>		

5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

Video Guide:

- The Bible is a _____ knitted together to tell the story of God great love.
- What is the apple of God's eye—the *magnum opus* of his work? _____
- God took _____ with his human beings in the cool of the day.
- **GOD's BIG IDEA:** *The point of God's story is to be _____ us!*
- Every one of us is born with a _____ nature (The *Doctrine of Original Sin*).
- How does the story of Cain and Abel unsettle you or challenge you?
- What hope and promise do you find in the story of Noah?

6. CONVERSATION & ACTION

- What part of Randy's teaching encouraged or challenged you the most? Why?
- Did anything call you to action? Did anyone have an "aha!" moment?

7. Double Check Your Pop Quiz

Answer Key: d/c/a/d

8. Next Week: Session 3: God Builds A Nation (Genesis 1-11):

Next week we'll look at the story of how God's covenant promise with Abram/Abraham would accomplish His Upper Story plan through building the nation of Israel.

9. Resources (not needed but helpful) The following resources can be ordered on-line. If you need help ordering do not hesitate to contact me:

- The Story: Study Guide. ISBN 978-0-310-08443-3
- The Story: The Bible As One Continuing Story of God and His People. ISBN 978-0-310-95097-4