

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan From the Beginning

Genesis 1 - 3

Opening

Gathering: Name examples that show you that God has a plan for His creation.

Today's Focus: In His great love, God created us and everything we know. He has revealed to us, from the very beginning, His plan to bring us to Him despite our rejection of Him through sin.

Key Verses: *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.* Acts 2:39

He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel. Genesis 3:15

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Song of God's Creation (*Genesis 1*)

What do the first few words of Genesis tell us? = *Genesis* means origin, beginning

Genesis 1:1 = In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

- **In the beginning** = There was a beginning

- In the beginning **God** = One divine God, not gods; God was already there at the beginning

- In the beginning God **created** = Purposely originated, no random chaos or evolution

- In the beginning God created **the heavens and the earth** = Everything we know

What is the literary style of Genesis 1:1 - 2:3? = Poetry

What is the message of each verse part?

- "*And God said*" = All it took was God's word

- "*Let there be*" = God wanted what He was creating

- "*And it was so*" = No question of God's power

- Particulars are restated = God took care of every detail

- God gives names or blessings = God loves & owns his creation

- "*And God saw that it was good*" = Creation is good, God is pleased

- "*And there was evening and there was morning*" = God's plan steps

How do days 1-3 correspond to days 4-6?

Separation - Forming from Chaos

1 (v3-5) = Light from Darkness

2 (v6-8) = Sky from Waters

3 (v9-13) = Land from Sea

Population - Filling the Empty

4 (v14-19) = Lights in Day / Night

5 (v20-23) = Birds in Air / Fish in Waters

6 (v24-31) = Animals on Land

What does this pattern say about God and His creation?

Ephesians 1:11 = He had a plan from the very beginning

Was man just one of the animals that God decided to "*Let there be*"? = v24 - land produced animals

Genesis 1:26 = No, He made man *in His own image* and put man in charge

What does it mean to be created in God's image?

Ephesians 4:24 = *be like God in true righteousness & holiness*

How did God feel about His creation after it was finished?

Genesis 1:31 = *It was very good*

What was one reason that God made His creation *very good*?

Romans 1:20 = To reveal His invisible qualities to mankind over all time

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A Conflicting Creation? (*Genesis 2:4-7*)

What literary style takes over after the prologue poem?

Genesis 2:4a (4-7) = Narrative

When does Chapter 2 take place? = No crop had been tilled yet by man, other plants lived

Genesis 2:7 = Starts on day 6 - Hebrew word for *breath* is same as for *spirit*

Does Chapter 2 belong more with Chapter 1 or Chapter 3? = Chapter 3

The Garden of Eden (*Genesis 2:8-14*)

What did God do even before creating man that showed His tremendous love for man?

Genesis 2:8 = He had planted a magnificent garden in Eden

Why did God create the Garden of Eden? = Eden is Hebrew for *Delight*

Genesis 2:9 (Psalm 149:4a) = For man's enjoyment and nourishment

Why did God want to *delight* mankind?

Ecclesiastes 3:11-14 = It is His gift to lead us to Him so that we *will revere Him*

Where was the Garden of Eden? = Other 2 rivers likely wiped out by the flood

Genesis 2:10-14 = Probably where Tigris & Euphrates begin in Turkey (a real place)

The Crown of God's Creation (*Genesis 2:15-17*)

Was this man that God created supposed to just sit back and *delight* in what God gave him?

Genesis 1:28; 2:15 = Had responsibilities of ruling, working & taking care of earth

Was this man given "free rein" over what he did in God's Garden and how he did it?

Genesis 2:16-17 = He was given "free rein" up to a specific limit

Not a Loner (*Genesis 2:18-20*)

What did God already realize that this man had to learn?

Genesis 2:18 = Man was a social creature and needed a mate

How did God show this to the man? = *Adam* is Hebrew for *man*, *Adamah* for *ground*

Genesis 2:19-20 = He brought animals to Adam to name, *no suitable helper was found*

One Flesh (*Genesis 2:21-24*)

Did God create a suitable helper for man by speaking a command or by forming dirt?

Genesis 2:21-22 = He went further and made the helper from a part of the man

What was significant about the way God created this helper? = God's plan for man/woman

Genesis 2:23-24 = The two were one, the first marriage

What does Adam's acceptance of this new helper remind those of us who are married?

Ephesians 5:28 = Husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies

Are married couples truly considered as one flesh?

Matthew 19:3-6 = *What God has joined together, let man not separate*

How does marriage reflect God's intention for man's relationship with Him?

1 Corinthians 6:15-17 = *He who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit*

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Original Man (*Genesis 2:25*)

What can we learn about man's original nature and character?

Genesis 1:27 = In God's image – holy & righteous

Genesis 2:7 = God formed man from ground, had God's breath of life

Genesis 2:25 = Naked and without shame

The Fall (*Genesis 3:1-7*)

How did Satan cleverly try to change man's perfect obedience to God?

Genesis 3:1 = He worded a sentence to cast doubt on God while invoking a reply

Did Adam and the woman clearly understand their *freedom within limits*?

Genesis 3:2-3 = They had drawn the limits even tighter - God had said eat & die

How did Satan play on the woman's mistake and then lie to push her to sin?

Genesis 3:4-5 = He made her question why God had set the limits, tempted with greatness

How much more tempting did Satan need to do before the man and woman sinned?

Genesis 3:6 = None, they liked and desired what they saw and ate the fruit

Did this sin make them more God-like in knowing good and evil? = Contrast 2:25

Genesis 3:7 = They now knew good & evil, but from a sinful perspective

What is the problem with learning about good and evil from a sin perspective?

John 8:34 = He who does so is a slave to sin

Two Adams View Temptation (*Matthew 4:1-11*)

Is it a sin to be tempted?

1 Corinthians 10:13 = No, as humans we will be tempted

Then what is the problem with temptation?

Matthew 26:41 = It is easy for sinful humans to succumb to temptation and sin

Is it possible to stand up to strong temptations?

Matthew 4:1 = Jesus did

Adam saw that *the tree was good for food* and gave in to his desires. Did the second Adam?

Matthew 4:2-4 = Not even after 40 days and nights of fasting - desire was very strong

Adam felt the fruit would make him *like God* and fed his pride. Did the second Adam?

Matthew 4:5-7 = Didn't even take a dare to prove how important He really was

Adam found the fruit *pleasing to the eye* and took what he saw. Did the second Adam?

Matthew 4:8-10 = Not even after seeing all the world's kingdoms in their splendor

Angels kept Adam from God's Garden. How were angels used with the second Adam?

Matthew 4:11 = *Angels came and attended Him*

Guilty (*Genesis 3:8-10*)

Were Adam and the woman proud of their new-found knowledge of good & evil?

Genesis 3:8 = No, they had the sense of guilt and hid, just like humans today

Did they readily confess their sin?

Genesis 3:9-10 = No, they made an excuse - just like humans today

How did the humans react when faced with the facts?

Genesis 3:11-13 = They tried to pass the blame, just like humans today

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Curses and a Blessing (Genesis 3:11-19)

How did God curse the serpent for being the form that Satan used to tempt the humans?

Genesis 3:14 = Become the most despised animal, would crawl on belly in dust

How did God continue cursing the serpent that also cursed Satan, but blessed the humans?

Genesis 3:15 = First Messianic prophesy – Revealed His plan of salvation as soon as needed

I will put enmity between you and the woman = were allies, now natural enemies

and between your offspring = Satan's legions

and hers; = Jesus Christ descended from Eve

He = Jesus Christ, note the singular form

will crush your head = Christ will destroy Satan, the head of his legions

and you will strike His heel. = Satan will attack Christians (heel is Christ's body)

What curses did God give the woman for falling into Satan's temptation?

Genesis 3:16 = Pain in childbirth, natural role of serving husband would lead to friction

What curses did God give Adam for falling into Satan's temptation?

Genesis 3:17-19 = Rule over earth would take pain & hard work, will die physically

Life After Sin (Genesis 3:20-24)

Realizing that they would eventually die, what responsibility now faced Adam and the woman?

Genesis 3:20 = Be fruitful and multiply (1:28) - *Eve* probably means *living*

What did God do that showed His unfailing love for the Crown of His Creation?

Genesis 3:21 = Gave them clothes to help their shame of guilt

What else did God do that showed His love for Adam and Eve? = Would live forever in a sinful state

Genesis 3:22-24 = Locked out of the Garden so they wouldn't eat of the tree of life

Besides living forever in sin, why else should Adam and Eve not eat of the tree of life?

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 = Earthly bodies cannot inherit the paradise of heaven

Does the tree of life still exist? = God's purpose for the tree will be fulfilled when He brings us with Him

Revelation 22:1-3a = It is waiting for us in heaven; *No longer will there be any curse*

Compare the first 3 chapters of the Bible (Genesis 1-3) with the last 3 chapters (Revelation 20-22)

Revelation 22:13 = God makes all things right when His plan is complete

He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I seen evidence that man was created in God's image? (Genesis 1:27; Job 4:17; Psalm 139:13-16; Romans 3:21-24; Ephesians 4:11-13, 22-24; Col 3:9-10)
2. What have I learned about God's plan for my life? Am I following His plan? (Genesis 1:28; 2:15; Psalm 40:5; 138:8; Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 21:1-4)
3. How have I served as a helper for others? (Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 31:10-31; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 5:13-14; Ephesians 5:21-6:9; 1 Peter 5:2-5)
4. How has God made it clear to me that He has given me freedom within limits? (Genesis 2:16-17; Psalm 119:45; Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:1, 13; James 1:22-25; 1 Peter 2:16)
5. How important is it to me personally that God offered His saving grace immediately after sin first entered the world? (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16-21; 14:1-4; Romans 5; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 4:9-11)