

The common thread: There is a Holy God who lovingly pursues a relationship with His creation, Man.

Big Picture

1. God is Holy and Creator.
2. Humans created in His image and likeness.
3. Humans created to live forever.
4. Humans given choice to trust God or self.
5. Humans rebel and are cast out of the garden & God's presence.
6. Humans were never created to determine/judge good & evil for themselves. This is God's sole authority.
7. God pursues rebellious humans.

Scene 1 ~ Beginnings

Genesis 1-3, Job 38, Isaiah 44, Revelation 12

Scene 2 ~ First Humans

Genesis 1-2, Psalm 8

- **We are made in God's image and likeness.**
Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:7

Q: Who do you view yourself to be? What makes up your identity?

- **What kind of relationship did God have with the humans?**
 1. He spent time with Adam and Eve. They loved being with God.
 2. He gave them responsibility
 3. He showed them the best possible way to live.
 4. He protected them from evil.
 5. He gave them the ability to choose.

Things to think about...

- For the next few days try and notice something new about the way people, animals, nature—everything—is created. Do you see an amazingly creative design behind these things? If God's first act was as an artist designing a beautiful creation, how should that impact us?
- Think about your own body, or that of your child (if you have one)...How amazing it is! What keeps your heart beating? Where does your creativity, intelligence and life come from? Think about having the "breath of life" in you.
- What questions would you ask an amazing "Creator of All" about the world, if you had the chance?
- If God were to design a test especially for you and "put a tree in your garden," what might that be?
- How would Satan or "evil" tempt you to choose your ways over God's ways?
- Spend some time this week talking to God about these things—He's listening...try listening to Him too.

Things to read about...

Would you like to read through the key stories of the Bible in chronological order, tracing the development of God's plan from Adam and Eve to the church of the New Testament? This reading plan introduces you to the major people and events of the Bible in chronological order, beginning with Creation, moving through the birth and history of the Israel nation, and ending with Revelation's prophetic words. It's all broken down into 61 easy-to-read segments.

www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/chronological

Genesis Chapters 1-3 Read or listen online:

Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Verses of the Bible to Memorize (*they'll help you remember some big ideas from this week's story*):

Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

What kind of relationship did Adam & Eve have with each other? Close, open, unashamed

Scene 3 ~ Separation

Genesis 1-3

- **The real choice- self apart from relationship with God (pride)** Genesis 3:4-5
- **God's initial response to Adam right after he had disobeyed was to look for him?** Genesis 3: 9
- ***What was the consequence of their actions?***

Judgment—separation from God.

Relationships broken—with God and each other.

Sickness, pain and death

Mercy—He did not destroy them and He also covered their nakedness and shame.

What is our thread in the story? Are we like Adam and Eve?

What do we learn about God in this story?

- *He seems to know all things.*
- *God will never allow evil to remain in His presence.*
- *He promised One who would come to kill the serpent.*
- *He keeps His promises.*
- *He is the source of all grace.*

(Parts of study adapted from story of God, Soma. used by permission)