



# Community Group Discussion Guide

The Story, Week 2 - April 7, 2019  
**The Creation**

## I. Getting Started:

This is the second week of a six week “All Church” study in Community Groups on “The Story”

- Week 1 – The Story We Live
- Week 2 – THE CREATION
- Week 3 – The Fall
- Week 4 – The Rescue (Easter/No CG. Material will be touched on in Weeks 3/5 Sermon)
- Week 5 – The Restoration
- Week 6 – The Story We Share

Everyone has a story, but what most don't know is how our story fits into a bigger picture of God's Story. What is His bigger story, this overarching story that stretches for all of time, through all of humanity? Do we understand the story and can we tell the story? “The Story” starts in the beginning...

### Starter question:

- Recall something that you have created that was special to you. Describe it in detail. Did what your creation represent you in some way? How?

## II. Discussion of Scripture:

### Genesis 1:1-3

**1** “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*” **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

- What strikes you as significant about the way the Bible begins?
- Does Genesis 1:1 portray hesitancy or certainty?
- Was God part of creation? What is God's relation to time? What does this say about God?
- What characteristic(s) does God possess in relationship to timelessness? What does that mean for you and me?
- What implications does this first verse have for the relationship between God and Man?
- God has no beginning or end
- Everything was created by God from nothing

### Genesis 1:26-27

**26** “Then God said, “*Let us make man in our image*, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** *So God created man in his own image*, in the image of God he created him; *male and female he created them.*”

- Who does “Let us” refer too specifically and what does “In our Image” mean?
- How is the creation of man different than all else that God created? (by a divine decree from God).

### **Psalms 19:1-2**

**1**“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. **2** Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”

- What are the heavens declaring?
- What does “Pours out speech and reveals Knowledge” mean?

### **Psalms 33:6**

**6**“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”

### **Psalms 139:13-14**

**13**“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

- How far are we supposed to interpret verse 13? Where you really a product of your parents? A human created by God's plan? Does this apply to all humans or just Christians?

### **Isaiah 40:25-26, 28**

**25**“To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? Says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing....**28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.”

- God is clearly stating Yahweh is superior to all other presumed Gods or deities

### **Romans 1:19-25**

**19**“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **24** Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

- In verse 19, who is “them”? In verse 20, who has “clearly perceived Gods eternal power and nature”?
- “So they are without excuse” is addressing what? For whom?
- What is the main problem with people Paul states in Vs 21?
- Describe some ways things that can be known about God through His general revelation that is what He reveals to us through creation?
- Does verse 24 support that God removes the ability to become saved at some point for some people? Discuss

### **John 1:1-3**

**1**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that

was made.”

- The Word is Jesus and was always in existence with God
- All things made through Jesus

### **Colossians 1:15-17**

**15**“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

- Fullness and Preeminence of Christ
- The Great Christology
- Grammar and context exclude Christ from among created “things”, but this is a title of position and power over all authority

### **Hebrews 1:1-4**

**1**“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

- Jesus was forever appointed the heir in God’s eternal plan
- Jesus nature is identical to God, all of his characteristics
- Only through Jesus power does the whole world even hold together and work

### **James 1:18**

**18**“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

- “Own Will” and “Brought us forth” point to the fact that Christians supremely belong to God
- “first fruits” reference is to regeneration, quality and dedication of Christians to God
- What does this mean to you about how we should live our lives?
- What does this mean in relation to Psalm 139:13-14?

### **III. Lesson Summary Points:**

This story begins with God, who has always been. He has always existed exactly as He is now. As C.S. Lewis states, “God is eternal, not perpetual. Strictly speaking, He never foresees; he simply sees. Your ‘future’ is only an area...of His infinite now.”

In the beginning, God spoke everything into existence. God spoke, and His Word created. By His command, the entire universe was created and filled with a dramatic display of galaxies, stars, and planets, including earth. Of all the beauty God created, the masterpiece was man and woman. They were created in His image with the purpose of worshiping Him by loving Him, serving Him, and enjoying relationship with Him.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the

beginning with God. *ALL THINGS* came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” (John 1:1-3)

#### **IV. Responding in prayer:**

“Pray for your one.” As you saw last weekend, in the worship center for this entire series, we will be writing the names of “our one”. We are asking every person in our church to be praying for one person who lives in the Edmond, OKC, Guthrie area who needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this six-week study, we are asking each person to think of a co-worker, a neighbor or family member who lives locally and pray for their salvation and an opportunity to share your story with them. We will have opportunities to write these names on the wall on the back of the Worship Center.

It is critical for you to take time to pray for your “ones”. Thank you for seeking unity as the body of Henderson Hills to be part of this “all church” study.