

The Greatest Story Ever Told, Genesis 1-3

Growth Group Questions

In the coming weeks we will be doing an overview of the whole Bible. The aim is to help grasp the big sweeping storyline of God's Word. We're calling the series 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' - it really is just that! It has all the ingredients of a great story – heroes, villains, rescue, a love story and a wonderful ending. And the best bit about it is it's true.

1. What is one of your favourite stories? What do you enjoy about it?
2. In Genesis 1-2 we have the Bible's account of creation. Scan over chapter 1 – look for repeated phrases and words. What are the key things God wants us to know? Why are these important for us to know?
3. Read Genesis chapter 1 verses 26-30. What is unique about mankind?
4. We are made in God's image – we reflect something of our creator. How should this influence how we think of ourselves and others?
5. Read Genesis chapter 2 verses 7-17. What do you think life in the garden was like?

6. The Bible is clear that we are made to live with and enjoy God. In the garden Adam and Eve enjoyed walking with God. The Westminster shorter catechism puts it like this: what is the chief end of mankind? To glorify God and enjoy him forever. John Piper has suggested changing one word to this - to glorify God **by** enjoying him forever. How might it shape your life to see we're made to live with and enjoy God?
7. Read through verses 1-7. What is so serious about Adam and Eve's decision to eat fruit from the forbidden tree? What does eating the fruit represent?
8. One of the consequences of their rebellion is they are cut off from the garden and separated from God (vv 23-24). Life in God's world is now marked by rebellion, running from God, death and relationships breaking down. Genesis 3 is a really important chapter in the whole Bible. The theologian Don Carson wrote this about it - 'I am increasingly persuaded that unless we come to grips with this chapter in the Bible, we're not going to make much sense of the rest of the whole Bible.' Would you agree with Don?
9. In the midst of a God's right judgment at sin in this chapter he still offers hope. Look at chapter 3 verse 15. An offspring of Eve will crush the snake's head – deal with sin and death, reverse the curse and restore our broken relationship with God. One way to think of the direction of the rest of the Bible is how God will do this. God is patient and kind with us. He is 'the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness' Exodus chapter 34 verse 6. Why not pause for a moment and thank God for his kindness, patient, love and faithfulness?
10. What are some of the key things to remember from Genesis 1-3?