

Read the first chapter from *The Story* or Genesis 1-9 in one sitting. Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. The opening verses of the Bible (page 1 or Genesis 1:1-2) make the powerful point that nature is in fact not "natural." The cosmos exists because someone willed it to exist. Furthermore, only humans are made in God's image. (They have traits like personality, will, responsibility, etc.) In light of these profound truths, what difference does it make to you to know you were "created" and have "His image?"

2. The Bible first spoke to people in an ancient culture (like the Canaanites and Egyptians) who thought the sun and the moon were gods. What observations can you make about how radical "a creator of all and over all" must have seemed? How does this truth affect your view of nature?

Day Two

1. The serpent tempts Eve (page 4 or Genesis 3:1-5) by first distorting God's words, making Him seem stingy. He then calls God a liar ("you will not certainly die"), and convinces Eve that God is withholding some really good thing from them ("your eyes will be opened"), calling into question God's generosity. What comparison can you make to this strategy and how the Devil tempts you now?

2. After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God. How have you hidden from Him recently?

Day Three

1. God makes garments from animal skins to clothe the man and woman (page 5 or Genesis 3:21). What comparisons can you make to that act and to the provision God makes to "cover" our sin through Jesus Christ?

2. People often wish God would do away with all evil. The truth is the line between good and evil runs through every human heart—we are all part of the problem. What lessons do you think God wants us to take away from this story of His widespread judgment and Noah's deliverance (page 7 or Genesis 6-9)?