



LIFE GROUP RESOURCE

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INTRODUCTION

Your greatest mission is right in front of you. Will you decide to live it out?

Our world is full of causes to champion, movements to join, and missions to pursue. But what if the greatest mission isn't one we invent, but one into which we're invited? The Bible tells the true story of the world: a single, unified narrative that begins before time itself and stretches into eternity. It's not simply a collection of rules, inspirational stories, or moral teachings. Rather, the Bible is the unfolding drama of God's mission to redeem and restore His creation—a mission we are called to join.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells one sweeping story made up of four key parts that shape the whole narrative:

1. CREATION

God makes the world good and full of purpose.

2. FALL

Sin fractures the goodness God created.

3. REDEMPTION

God makes a way through Jesus to heal what's been broken.

4. RESTORATION

Jesus promises to renew all things.

This grand story shows how God has always been working to bring justice, hope, and healing to the world. He calls us to be part of that mission today.

We remember and learn best through stories, and that's no accident. God chose to reveal Himself and His purposes through narrative because stories have the power to teach and shape ideas, stir our imaginations, and move us to action. In the coming weeks, we'll explore this divine story together in narrative form, discovering both what God is doing in the world and how we've been written into the script.

Each week, we'll read and recount the events of one of the four story pieces that make up the big picture of the Bible (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration). Then we'll take time to discuss where we see God's mission and how we can engage in it—both as individuals and a Life Group.

MISSIO DEI: WEEK 1

THE MISSION OF GOD IN CREATION



ICEBREAKER

If you had to give a 15-minute presentation on the spot, what topic would you choose to speak on and why? Be creative. (5-10 min)



INTRODUCTION

Have someone in your Life Group read Psalm 8 out loud.



THE STORY OF CREATION

This story is about God, who existed before all things. He created the earth and everything in it. He alone always does what is true, good, beautiful, right, and perfect, and the Bible calls Him holy.



THE STORY OF CREATION (CONT.)

The mission of God begins with creation.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the earth, and as He spoke:

- He made light, separating it from the darkness.
- He divided the oceans and the sky.
- He gathered the waters so dry land would appear.
- He grew plants, flowers, and trees with seeds to reproduce themselves.
- He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, setting the days and seasons into motion.
- He filled the seas with fish, the sky with birds, and the earth with all kinds of wild animals.

God masterfully set up a physical kingdom filled with beauty that was separate from Him, yet uniquely and personally cared for by Him. As He created, God reflected on His work, saying, “It is good.”

On the sixth day, God created the first people. God said, “Let us make man in our image,” and He formed the dust of the ground together and breathed into it the breath of life. Thus, Adam, the first human, was created. Adam was placed in a perfect garden, where he could enjoy the good reign of his God and commune with Him. God described what it should look like for Adam to live in the garden:

There were two trees in the center of the garden. One was the Tree of Life—if eaten would lead to eternal life. The other tree, known as the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil—if eaten would lead to death. It was the only tree in the garden God commanded Adam not to eat from.



THE STORY OF CREATION (CONT.)

God gave Adam the responsibility to cultivate the garden and name the animals. As Adam worked, God said it was not good for him to be alone—he needed a helper. So God caused a deep sleep to come over Adam, and by taking a rib from his side, He created a woman named Eve to be that helper.

When Adam woke up, he broke into poetry and declared how amazed he was by what God had created. This first marriage was enjoyed without shame or guilt; Adam and Eve were naked in every sense and not the least bit afraid of rejection. God commissioned both the man and the woman to cultivate the potential in His creation and multiply humanity by having kids.

Adam, Eve, and all of humanity were created with the ability to enjoy the wonderful environment that God had fashioned: the animals, flavors, sights, and sounds. They were charged with the task of reflecting God's goodness and greatness throughout the world. After man had been created in God's own image, God reflected on all of creation and declared, "It is very good!"

Then, on the seventh day, God rested and reflected on the goodness of His creation. This was not the end of God's relationship with His creation, but only the beginning. Each day, God would come down in the cool of the day to talk with Adam and Eve, teaching them the best possible way to live life and showing them how to live under His good reign. Humanity lived in perfect harmony with God, His world, and each other. This truly was a good Kingdom!



RETELLING THE STORY *Based on the above reading. (5-7 minutes)*

Retell the creation story as a Life Group, asking everyone to participate. See if you can summarize the events in order. Be sure to keep your participants on task to retell the story without leaning on previous knowledge of the narrative or getting ahead in the story.



DISCUSSION: REFLECTING ON THE STORY. (10 MINUTES)

- Describe the peace that existed in the garden (relationally, vocationally, environmentally, etc.)
- What does it mean for men and women to be made in the image of God?
- What did you learn about God in this story? What did you learn about His mission? What did you learn about His glory?

ENGAGING IN THE MISSION OF GOD



1

Reflect God's creation by making something you can share with someone else (bake something for a neighbor, create a piece of art for someone in your life, etc.)

2

Spend time enjoying the glory of God in His creation, then share the experience with someone else (post a photo of creation on social media with a caption about the glory of God, invite a friend on a walk and discuss God's beauty in creation, etc.)

3

Come up with your own idea! Engage with creation in a way that's challenging/stretching for you.