

La Novela de Dios

Episode 1: The Story Begins



group discussion flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"Something always seems to ruin even the best situation."*
- Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in God's story."
- Illustration(s):

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Sections to Read:
Genesis 1:1-31
Genesis 3:1-15

Read the first section and discuss before moving to the second section.

Commentary:

Genesis 1:1-31 — The stage is set and the curtain goes up...God made the world, and He made it good. Everything was the way it was supposed to be. God, man, animals, plants, creation living in perfect harmony. It was paradise on Earth.

Genesis 3:1-15 — Adam and Eve couldn't remain true to the lover of their souls. In a moment of weakness they turned their back on God, on love, and went their own way. Their actions have had consequences that each of us have to live with today.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Genesis 1:1-31**
 1. Why do you think the Story of God begins with Him creating the world?
 2. Why is it important to know that God created the world? (don't get caught up debating the means He used, evolution, etc)
 3. What does it mean that man is created "in the image of God"? What does that mean for us?
 4. Imagine for a minute a world without sickness, pain, or death? What would that mean to you? How good would that place be?

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Something always seems to ruin even the best situation."

From the very beginning of God's story we see the drama played out. As humans, we had everything perfect. Perfect home, perfect relationship with God. And we through it all away for a piece of fruit. Brilliant.

The rest of God's story hinges on what happened in these two chapters. What would happen next? What would God do? Would He give up on us? Or would true love triumph? Would He find a way to win us back? (For a hint on His plans, look at Genesis 3:15. What's He planning to do?)

- **Genesis 3:1-15**
 1. Fundamentally, what caused Eve to eat the forbidden fruit? (hint: it wasn't the serpent)
 2. Why was this the first sin? What made it sin?
 3. Why did Adam and Eve hide after sinning? Why do we?
 4. What excuses did Adam and Eve give for their actions?
 5. God ends this passage with hope for the future (see 3:15). Why do you think that is important?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: Sin ruins even the best situations." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
 - Why do even the best situations always seem to get messed up?*
 - What is our only hope for the future?*
 - "What is one action you can take this week to stop hiding from God and restore your relationship with Him?"*
- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

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