

Junior High Bible Discussion Group

Doulos: Meli, ??

Servus: Emily, Jonathan



### *God's Never-Ending Story*

*Every story has a beginning, and God's story is no exception. However, God's story begins with Himself. But who is God? Today, we will discuss the main protagonist of the Bible: God, the holy Three-in-One. We will focus on Genesis 1 and John 1:1 as our two focus passages. In the beginning, there was God. The Holy Spirit also existed to bring everything into fruition. Thus, you can think of it as God the Father initiates, and the Spirit makes it happen. Indeed, life is contingent on the Holy Spirit ensuring its living state.*

*But why would God create? Suppose He knew the future. Why would He create something that will eventually sin? Well, God created for two reasons: love and justice. Justice is doing what's right, and worshipping God is what's right. However, worship is meaningless unless someone else is doing it. So it is right that God created. However, God is also love, and love creates things anew! This is not the love that you hear from Hollywood or from people dating for shallow reasons. Far be from it! This is the love that comes from commitment—a love that says, "I will never leave you no matter what." In Creation, God also reminds us that He will forever be Emmanuel: God with us. Never will He leave us, even if we wanted to get away from Him.*

*So God created because of love and justice. It should not be surprising that humankind's only purpose is to worship Him. It would be a lot easier if that was that, but as we know, some events happened that managed to unravel everything. We'll talk about that next week.*

#### **Evening Schedule:**

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Clarifying the Theme (I think I rushed through that last time): | 1 minute         |
| 2. Activity 1 (see below)                                          | 10 minutes       |
| 3. Teaching Time: The Story Begins                                 | 10 minutes       |
| 4. Discussion                                                      | 20 minutes       |
| 5. Activity 2: Journal decorating.                                 | Rest of the Time |

## ACTIVITY 1

We will split up into 2 teams and engage in a very unique “Battle of the Sexes”. We will start with one team, and I will dare them to do something writing related. Example: Write a word that spells the same way backward (in other words, a palindrome). The team that comes up with the most ingenious or funniest will get a point. Examples of what we’ll ask:

- Write down an oxymoron.
- Write down a word that does not exist in a dictionary.
- Write a one-sentence story (must have a plot!!).
- Write a story that does not have a beginning!

## Teaching Outline:

1. Where does the Bible begin? John 1:1
  - a. The Bible does NOT begin with creation, but it begins with God!
  - b. But who is this God?
2. The idea of the Trinity
  - a. Can anything have three identities in one body?
    - i. YES!
  - b. Can anything have three *inseparable* identities in one body?
3. Today, we talk about God the Creator.
  - a. Genesis 1
  - b. When the world was created, were Jesus and the Holy Spirit present?
    - i. YES!!
  - c. Why did God create the world and all that is in it?
    - i. Love: Love creates!
    - ii. Justice: It is right that God should be worshipped! But there’s nothing to worship him!
  - d. The Role of the Holy Spirit
    - i. God conceives → the Holy Spirit actuates.
    - ii. The Holy Spirit is the Sustainer. It is because of Him that we still are alive!
4. The purpose of the world and humanity: to worship God and God only.
  - a. But did humanity hold up this high purpose? We will find out next BDG.
5. DISCUSSION