

STORY 1: INTIMACY

This is the story of God and the world and His relationship with the people He made. God existed before time, and before anything and any one.

God spoke, and the world was made. By merely speaking a word, the Earth came into existence. He said, "Light!" and light appeared, "sky," and the sky came into being. He spent six days making the earth, and his final creation, after everything else, was man.

God formed man out of dirt from the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. The man came alive—a living soul! God created the man like himself, and He patterned him after His own character and qualities.

And he placed this man, who he called Adam, in a beautiful, flourishing garden. He told Adam, "Your job is to take care of this garden." So Adam looked after the garden for God, tending to the plants and flowers and trees.

Then, one day, God looked at this man he had created, and said, "It's not good for him to be alone- I'll find him a suitable companion. So God brought all sorts of birds and animals to Adam. But still, none of these birds and animals really suited Adam.

So God put Adam into a deep sleep, and took one of his bones out of his body, and out of that bone, he made a creature that fit perfectly with Adam, a woman called Eve. Adam woke up from this deep sleep and saw the woman and realized that this was his companion. He crafted a poem for her right there on the spot.

Adam and this woman, Eve, lived together in the garden and even though they had no clothes, they felt no shame.

God told them to reproduce and fill the earth, and to reign over it and be responsible for it. He walked among them and talked with Him. God looked down on his creation and all that He had made, and He said, "This is very good."

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- **review:** re-tell the story
- **dialogue:** discuss the story
 - What do you like or not like about the story?
 - What can we learn about God from this story?
 - What can we learn about man from this story?
 - How was God and man's relationship described? How does that differ from our relationship with Him today?
- **application:** live the story
 - What do you imagine intimacy with God would be like?
 - Why don't we experience intimacy with God today? Is there a part of us that desires to return to the garden and have what Adam and Eve had?
- **notes:**