

Origin Story — When Our Story with God Begins

DAY 1

Read Psalm 19:1.

"The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that his hands created them" (NIRV).

The heavens TELL.

The skies SHOW.

They're all made by GOD'S HANDS.

You can just walk outside and see and know that God is real. Look up. Look around you. What do you see that God made? Everything.

Wait a minute? I thought some factory made my video game? Yeah, they did. But God made all the resources that are used to create and build that game, that game system, and even the creativity of the people—who God also created.

Colossians 1:17 says that before anything was created, God was already there. He holds everything together. Everything points back to Him.

So as you go through each day, look for things God created. It may just remind you of how much He loves you and how awesome He is!

Connect the dots to show some of the things God created!

DAY 2

Read Psalm 119:68.

"You are good, and what you do is good. Teach me your orders" (NIRV).

God is good. Sure, lots of things are good. Ice cream is good. Having fun with your friends is good. But God IS good. It's who He is. He can't be any different. No matter what, God is good.

The writer of Psalm 119 said that God is good, and what He does is good.

Do you think the person who wrote this never had anything bad happen? No way. No one has a life like that. We all experience things that are not great, big or small.

But the writer still said that God is good. God is still good even when we don't understand why certain things happen. And when amazing things happen, God is still good.

Nahum 1:7 says the Lord is good. When people are in trouble, they can go to Him for safety. You can know without a doubt that God is always good. He doesn't change.



GOD IS GOOD

Write this sentence, "God is good," on a sticky note, even on 10 sticky notes! Put them where you can see them every day. A reminder for you that God is good. All the time.

DAY 3

Read Hebrews 4:16.

"So let us boldly approach God's throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it" (NirV).

When Adam and Eve sinned, a whole bunch of really sad stuff happened. Sin didn't just hurt their hearts—it also hurt the world! The curse of sin brought pain, sickness, sadness, and even death. That was never God's plan.

God had tried to protect Adam and Eve from all of this, but now He told them how much harder their lives would be. Even though God still loved them, He knew they couldn't stay in the garden any longer. He made them clothes to wear from animal skins, then banished them from the garden.

He didn't want to risk them coming into the garden, eating from the tree of life, and living forever in their cursed state. God didn't want them to live forever apart from Him. The Bible says He placed angels and a flaming sword at the entrance to guard the way to the tree of life.

WE AREN'T PERFECT

When you sin, go to God and tell Him about it. He already knows and still loves you, but God also knows that it does something good for your heart when you talk to Him about it. He can and wants to forgive you!

DAY 4

Read Romans 5:8.

"But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (NirV).

Yesterday, we read how sin entered the world. We have all sinned! Sin is anything that displeases God and hurts his heart.

No one is perfect, and we all mess up. Even the people you think do everything right don't do everything right all the time.

Here's the amazing thing. God showed His love for us. While we were still sinners Jesus died for us. Not when we were perfect, Jesus loves us so much!

He wants us to come to Him when we're making good choices. And He wants us to come to Him when we make choices that aren't so good.

As you pray today, thank Jesus for loving you no matter what.

**You can trust God
even when you
don't understand.**

Origin Story — When Our Story with God Begins

DAY 1

Read Hebrews 11:7

"Noah had faith. So he built an ark to save his family. He built it because of his great respect for God. God had warned him about things that could not yet be seen. Because of his faith Noah showed the world that it was guilty. Because of his faith he was considered right with God" (NirV).

Have you ever thought about what it's like to be an actor in a movie or TV show?

They have to read the script, memorize it, and then act it out on a set. Nothing is really complete yet; they are doing their part. And then, a long time later, they see the finished product.

Sometimes, like in big superhero movies, they are talking to things that aren't even there. But once the computer graphics have been added, it's a whole different scene in the final movie.

The actor did something that wasn't fully seen yet. It is a lot like faith, acting on something that might not be seen.

ACT IT OUT

Write up a story about a superhero coming in and saving the day. Once you're ready, film it or draw it.

DAY 2

Read Genesis 6:22.

"Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (NirV).

Let's break this down...Noah had a HUGE task ahead of him. I mean, this was a big deal. Building one, very big ark (a big huge boat)!

At some point, he had to pick up the hammer and start working. At some point, he had to pick up the first piece of wood and, you guessed it, start working!

Have you ever had a school project or a big chore to do? I'm sure it probably took a while, but at some point, you finished it. The first step was just starting, then doing the hard work to get it done.

Noah did everything just as God commanded him. This is something we should go after! If you know you are supposed to do something, are you doing everything you need to do?

FINISH THE PROJECT

Go get some Lego®s or some paper, tape, and scissors. Make a big boat! And make sure you finish it; you could even write on a sticky note and put it on the fridge, "By this date, (fill in date) I'm going to finish making the boat." Let it be a reminder that we can work hard and finish what we start!

DAY 3

Read Genesis 6:9.

"Noah was a godly man. He was without blame among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God" (NirV).

Noah seemed to be very focused on following what God asked him to do. Here's the thing: Noah didn't have a huge crowd cheering him on... There wasn't this massive group of people telling Noah, "Go, Noah! You got this! Keep going!"

In fact, Noah had the opposite. People made fun of him for doing what God asked him to do.

He chose to keep going without tons of support, but he had God's support. He walked faithfully with God. Even when other people aren't supporting you, God is.

Who do you listen to? Is there anyone or anything you care more about than God? Do you value their opinion more than God's? Write down anyone or anything that influences you below.

Ask the Lord to show you if you should still follow what you wrote above. Or if you need to make some changes in what is influencing you.

DAY 4

Read Hebrews 11:7

"Noah had faith. So he built an ark to save his family. He built it because of his great respect for God. God had warned him about things that could not yet be seen. Because of his faith Noah showed the world that it was guilty. Because of his faith he was considered right with God" (NirV).

What is one of your favorite things? Draw or write in the box what your favorite thing is!

MY FAVORITE THING

When you have something that is your favorite, you take care of it! You make sure you don't lose it and you are proud of it!

Who is someone you really love? Draw or write in the box someone you love.

SOMEONE I LOVE

When you have someone you love, you are nice to them; you want to know about them, and you respect them.

Noah loved and respected God! He built the ark because he respected God!

Do you feel that way about God? If so, how can you show God that you respect Him?

**You can trust that
God has a plan.**

Origin Story — When Our Story with God Begins

DAY 1

Read Jeremiah 29:11.

"I know the plans I have for you," announces the LORD. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come" (NIRV).



God has a plan for you! A blueprint is typically the plan used for building something.

Sometimes, we wish we could see all of the plans God has for us at once. But that's where faith comes in! Abram didn't know what every day would be like, but he kept going! You can do the same! Take the next step, and trust that God has good plans for you!

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MY LIFE

Get out some paper and make a blueprint! Write down: "God has good plans for me, God loves me. _____ loves me." We might not know the details of everything to come, but we can know these truths now!

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:22-24.

"You were taught not to live the way you used to. You must get rid of your old way of life. That's because it has been made impure by the desire for things that lead you astray. You were taught to be made new in your thinking. You were taught to start living a new life. It is created to be truly good and holy, just as God is" (NIRV).

School is starting soon. (Or maybe it already has for you.)

A new school year may mean a lot of new things.

New classroom.

New school.

New challenges to help you learn.

But "new" doesn't just happen at the beginning of the school year. The Bible teaches us that God is making us new every day. When you read the Bible or a devotional, when you live out what you learn from God, you are being made new every single day.

As you grow and learn more about God, He is changing you ... and that's a really good thing. You are growing, not just physically, but in your faith too.

DAY 3

Read Hebrews 11:16.

"Instead, they longed for a better country. They wanted a heavenly one. So God is pleased when they call him their God. In fact, he has prepared a city for them" (NirV).

Think about something you were looking forward to...maybe it was to go see grandparents, go to an amusement park, go to a birthday party, or even that summer was coming! What did you do to prepare for it? Write it below.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SOMETHING

Don't you get so excited for a big event coming up? Maybe you put it on the calendar and count down the days! Or maybe you help plan everything you are going to do. The day of the event, you might even wake up extra early because you are so excited! All these people who were talked about in Hebrews 11 have amazing stories! But we read in Hebrews 11:16 that they longed for a better country, a heavenly one. And that God was preparing a city for them.

Just as we get so excited about an event coming up, we can get even more excited that we have a heavenly home to look forward to! Ups and downs are temporary on this earth, but we have a lot to look forward to, and that is so exciting!

DAY 4

Read Hebrews 12:1-2.

"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (NirV).

Have you ever heard this phrase, "Just keep swimming"? It's about not giving up.

There will be times when you might start getting distracted, hurt, or lose energy to just keep swimming. But Jesus can help you keep going!

Sometimes, when we get a little weary or tired, it helps to remember what we are called to do and just keep swimming.

If you keep your attention on Jesus, He's the one who will help you keep swimming! Sometimes, we want to quit what we are doing. Look to Jesus; He will help you keep swimming. When our eyes are on Jesus, our attention isn't on the worry or problem; our eyes are on Him!

By doing this, we keep swimming.

When is it hard to trust God?

Origin Story — When Our Story with God Begins

DAY 1

Read Genesis 28:15.

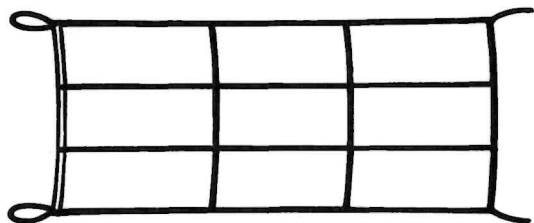
"I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (NirV).

God tells Jacob, "I am with you." Jacob wasn't perfect; at the moment he heard this, he was in a huge mess. But God says, "I am with you." It's comforting to hold onto this. Often, we can get so caught up in so many things in life that we actually forget that God is with us.



CAUGHT IN A NET

It's easy to get focused on certain things and forget God is with us! In the spaces between the net, write down things that you get caught up in. It could be drama, a tablet or phone, games, fighting, worries, and much more.



Give those things over to God. Get out of the net and trust and remember that God is with you.

DAY 2

Read Romans 3:23.

"Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory" (NirV).

What do I do when I sin? 1 John 1:9 says: "But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."

If we confess our sins, God will then forgive them. Confess means to tell or make known. So basically, say it. You could even say something like this. "Lord, I have done _____. I'm so sorry. Would you forgive me?" He will make us clean.

Here's a good example of what happens when God forgives us. Try this at home!

What you'll need-

A dirty penny (or any dull/old coin)

Small bowl

Vinegar (or lemon juice)

A sprinkle of salt

Paper towel

Mix vinegar and salt in the bowl. Then drop the dirty penny in. Wait about 30 seconds. Take the penny out and wipe it off. The penny will look shiny and new again! God forgives us and makes our hearts clean, just like this penny!

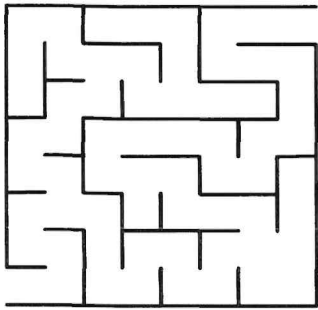
DAY 3

Read Proverbs 3:5-6.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight" (NIV).

Grab a paper and try to make a maze for a friend or family member to complete. See how hard it is for them to finish!

Here's an example!



Our life doesn't look exactly like the maze you drew. But sometimes, it can for sure feel like a maze! Have you ever thought, "I wonder what life will be like in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years!" You can wonder, but you really don't know until you live it.

Proverbs 3:5-6 is just so good! What is something that sticks out to you? Maybe you need to work on trusting, trusting with ALL your heart, not depending on your understanding, or simply obeying him.

Today, just know that God knows everything, so trust Him.

Trust God is with you.

DAY 4

Read Joshua 1:9.

"Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go" (NIV).

If you know Jesus as your Savior, trust that God is with you wherever you go. That's our reading for today! You can be strong and brave, you don't have to be afraid, and you can have hope because he is the Lord your God, and He is with you wherever you go!



THE TRAVEL BUDDY

When you go on trips, is there something you always bring with you? You just can't go without it. Maybe it's a stuffed animal or a toy. Here's the best news: God is the best and ultimate travel buddy! He goes with us everywhere!

On the suitcase, write down places God can be with you. It could be on the school bus, at home, at the dentist, on the playground, and so much more!



Trust that God is with you!

Origin Story — When Our Story with God Begins

DAY 1

Read John 10:27.

"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me" (NIRV).

In the Bible, people are often described as sheep. Sheep need a shepherd to know where to go. They listen to the shepherd's voice and follow him.

Jesus described Himself as our good Shepherd. We just have to listen to His voice.

How do we do that?

He speaks to us through the Bible.

He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit He has put in us when we are saved.

He speaks to us through others.

He speaks to use through the world He created.

Next time you read a Bible verse that makes you feel something in your heart—that's God speaking.

DAY 2

Read Isaiah 43:2.

"You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you. You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you. You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned. The flames will not harm you" (NIRV).

How many times is the word "Will" in this verse? Write it here. ____

Just flip through the Bible, and you see God was with people whatever they went through. This is how it played out with Joseph.

Wow, he had it rough, but you see over and over that God was with him.

Have you ever been scared of something, but all of a sudden, knowing you had someone with you, you were able to make it through? Maybe the fear didn't fully go away in the moment, but you were able to get through it; you weren't alone.

Can you remember times when God was with you? How did that make you feel?

Circle the emoji below of which one you related to the most in that moment.



DAY 3

Read Psalm 5:3.

"Lord, in the morning you hear my voice. In the morning I pray to you. I wait for you in hope" (NirV).

When you watch movies or shows, is there always drama and action the whole time? Most likely not. Even in an action movie, it still gets a little quiet at times, or the story gets a little slow.

What about music? Is a song really loud the whole time? Most likely not. Typically, it might get loud, then a little softer, and then loud again.

Even in life, we might have a lot happen, and then a pause...and then something else happens!!! And then a pause...

How do you handle the pauses? Joseph had a huge pause. He was in prison for something that he didn't even do! But he had to wait and trust God. Eventually, more action came!

A verse in the book of Psalms says: "I wait for you in hope." We aren't supposed to sit around and do nothing, even in the waiting. We wait in hope.

Look at this squiggly line—it has ups and downs, just like life. There's action and there are pauses. But in the middle of it all, God is still working.

Now, here's something fun: each time the line dips downward, write a letter. On the first dip, write 'H'. On the second, write 'O'. On the third, write 'P', and on the fourth, write 'E'.

What does that spell? HOPE!



DAY 4

Read Genesis 39:20–21.

"So he put Joseph in prison. It was the place where the king's prisoners were kept. While Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him. He was kind to him. So the man running the prison was pleased with Joseph" (NirV).

Here's an activity for you to do. Grab a clear jar or plastic cup and then cut up some pieces of paper.

Now write or draw hard things you might go through, like sadness, sickness, loneliness, being afraid, on each piece of paper.

Place them inside the jar one at a time, saying, "Even in _____, God is with me."

Once the jar is full, write "God is with me" on one more piece of paper and tape it to the outside of the jar.

Whenever you have a worry or difficult emotion, write it down and put it in the jar.

You can trust God when things get tough!

You can trust God when things get tough.

