

Jesus Is God, the Creator

READ JOHN 1:1-3

"All things were created through him and for him." COLOSSIANS 1:16

"Once upon a time..." That's how fairy tales begin.

"It was a dark and stormy night..." That's how scary stories begin.

"In the beginning..." That's how the Bible—the most important book in the world—begins. And the Bible is true! The book of Genesis tells us how the world began: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The Bible says that everything that exists was made by God. God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." God made whales, and wolves, and wildebeests! God made mountains, and the moon, and the milky way! God made *everything*—including you!

Did you know that there's another book in the Bible that starts with "In the beginning...", just like Genesis? The Gospel of John, which tells us all about the Lord Jesus, begins this way:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

One of Jesus' names is "the Word." The Bible teaches that Jesus is God, the One who created everything. So it was Jesus who said, "Let there be..." in Genesis 1. It was Jesus who made the beautiful things we see, the microscopic things we cannot see, and the enormous stars that are too far away to see. Jesus is AMAZING! He is God. He is good. He made you, and He loves you more than you will ever know!

—CHRIS & LORI

Jesus Is God and Man

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." MATTHEW 1:21

Jesus was born just like you and me: Jesus' mother Mary got pregnant, Jesus grew in her tummy for nine months, then Jesus was born. He had a birthday. We still celebrate it, don't we?

But the way that Jesus' birth happened was very unusual. Very! In fact, the way that his mother got pregnant was a miracle. A miracle is something only God can do. Here's the miracle: His mother got pregnant even though she was not married to a man and even though she had never acted like she was married to a man. That's the miracle!

God worked a miracle in the body of Jesus' mother: God the Father sent God the Spirit to make Mary pregnant with God the Son. At first, Mary's fiancé Joseph did not believe it was a miracle. He thought that Mary must have acted like she was married to another man and that she was lying about what happened. In fact, Joseph was planning to break up with Mary. But Mary wasn't lying. God sent a messenger to Joseph to tell him that God had worked a miracle in Mary—that Mary was pregnant with the Boy who would grow up to rescue the world from sin and death.

So Jesus was fully human and born just like you and me. But Jesus' birth was also different from anyone else's. He was born in a way that shows that he fully God. Jesus is God become human. And the Savior had to be both God and human to be able to bring humans who need God's forgiveness back into a right relationship with God. That's exactly why Joseph named this miraculously born boy Jesus. The name *Jesus* means, "This is God come to save us from our sins."

—JOE & HANNAH

Jesus Is Equal with the Father and the Spirit

READ MATTHEW 3:13-17

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

Today you get to learn one of the toughest lessons in the Bible—a lesson which makes even old men and old women scratch their heads in wonder! But you can do it, because you’re smart and because the Bible can be understood even by children, with God’s help. You’re going to need to concentrate! Ready?

The Bible teaches that there is only one God. Not many. Just one. There are many *false* religions with *make-believe* gods (notice the lower-case ‘g’), but there is only one *true* God: the God of the Bible.

Here’s the hard part: The one true God exists as *three distinct persons*: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All of them are eternal, powerful, holy, and equal. All of them together make up the one true God. The word we use to describe this truth is *Trinity*. It shows us that God exists as three persons (*Tri*), but still only as one God (*Unity*). God is a Tri-Unity... a *Trinity*. One in three. Three in one. (Like we said, this lesson is tough. But you’re doing great!)

In the verses you read today we get to see the Father, the Son, and the Spirit all together, all in the same place at the same time, but all distinct from one another. Read it again and notice:

- **God the Son** (Jesus) was in the water, being baptized.
- **God the Father** made an announcement from heaven.
- **God the Spirit** came down from heaven in the form of a dove.

All three also appear together in 2 Corinthians 13:14, the verse at the top of this page. See if you can spot all three of them in that verse. Are there three Gods? Nope. Just one. But that one God exists in three distinct persons: *Father, Son, and Spirit!*

—CHRIS & LORI

Jesus Is the Hero of the Whole Bible

READ JOHN 5:39

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” LUKE 24:27

Do you have a favorite superhero? Do your parents have a favorite superhero? Many times the movie or book title about that specific superhero is simply their name: like Superman, or Spiderman. Their hero names are the titles because that is WHO the movie or book is all about.

If the Bible had the title of its Hero it would simply be called “Jesus!” This would be a great title because Jesus is the ultimate hero, and the whole Bible is all about Him. The Old Testament looks ahead to His arrival here on earth. And the New Testament is all about His most marvelous rescue...because rescuing is what heroes do. There’s never been a rescue as great as Jesus’ rescue of you and me! His rescue lasts forever and ever—and He didn’t knock down a bunch of buildings and destroy cities while he was rescuing us!

Jesus Himself helped His friends understand that the Bible is all about Him. When Jesus began explaining the things about Himself from “Moses and all the Prophets,” He was talking about the very first books of the Bible, including Genesis. So from the very first chapter of the

Bible we can be looking for Jesus, the Hero of the whole Bible. If you read the Bible and miss Jesus then you’ve missed the best part!

—BOB & SARAH