

# 1

## The God Who Speaks

### *Genesis 1–3*

The God of creation is a God who communicates. If we are to learn to listen to God, we must understand something of his voice and the character of God revealed in that voice. Rarely in Scripture do we find so many times the phrase “God said” as in the first three chapters of Genesis. There, in the opening words of Scripture, God begins to reveal his character—through his voice.

GROUP DISCUSSION. When you try to imagine “the voice of God,” what do you hear, see, think, imagine?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. God followers have many different ideas about how and under what circumstances God speaks or has spoken. List several concepts you currently believe about God speaking.

“In the beginning God . . .” constitutes the opening phrase of the Bible in almost any language. And within a few lines the reader hears the voice of God over and over. *Read Genesis 1–3.* Note or mark each spot where you find the words *God said*.

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1. What happened when “God said . . .”?

**2.** Take another visual trip through these chapters and mark other actions of God, finding such phrases as: God called, God saw, God made, God set, God created, God found, God breathed. As you encounter each of these phrases, how would you describe the character of God who said and did this or that?

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**3.** What signs of order do you find in the creation acts of Genesis 1?

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**4.** Look again at Genesis 1:26-30. What is unique about God's creation of humans: How are humans similar and how are they different from his other creations?

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**5.** Focus particularly on Genesis 1:27. What can you discern from the term "image of God" as it relates to a spiritually healthy view of yourself?

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**6.** How might the "image of God" affect the way you relate to people you know and don't know?

**7.** Genesis 2 is a retelling of creation, but this time with a different focus. What similarities and differences do you find in these two chapters?

What special care did God give to humans?

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**8.** Mentally review the events of Genesis 3. What are some ways that the first humans were like God in ability and in character?

How were they different from God?

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**9.** What hints of hope do you find in such a dark, cosmic event?

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**10.** “In Adam’s Fall, We sinned all,” *The New England Primer* (for children) said in 1777. What truths and what difficulties do you find in that statement?

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**11.** If you could be an invisible bystander in any scene from Genesis 1:1–3:24, which would you choose and why?

**12.** Why might you want to learn to listen to God as he reveals himself in these first three chapters of the Bible?

*Thank God for something that you saw in the first three chapters of Genesis.*

### **Now or Later**

Using your best dramatic voice to reflect the various emotions in the text, read aloud Genesis 1–3. After, focus on one sentence that uses the words God said. Repeat it several times. Meditate on its implications

- in humans relating to each other
- on revealing the character of God
- on your own place in God's creation
- on your value of other portions of his creation
- on your relationship with a God who speaks with such power

Turn your meditation to prayer as you respond to God.