

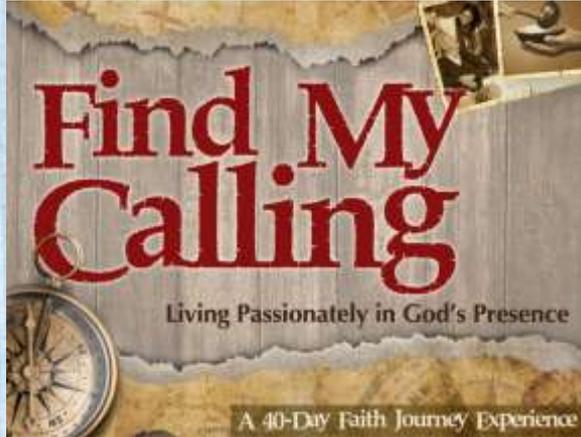


TELL HIS STORY

A 40 DAYS FAITH EXPERIENCE



A 40 Day FAITH Experience



January 2014



January 2015



January 2016



The passion of First Melissa is to make disciples of Jesus who:

- Reach Intentionally
- Connect Authentically
- Equip Continuously
- Live Passionately



**Let's spend 40 Days learning
to be disciples of Jesus**



Why 40 Days?

“Forty” is mentioned 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial and testing, probation, or the fulfillment of promises.

40 Days in the Bible

- It rained for 40 days and nights when God wanted to cleanse the world through a flood and start over. (Genesis 7:12)
- Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark. (Genesis 8:6)
- Moses was on the mountain with God for 40 days (TWICE). (Exodus 24:18 & 34:28-29)
- Moses' face shone after those 40 days on the mountain. (Exodus 34:29)

Each Sunday for these 40 Days...

Focus on the attributes of God

- **Thank** God for who He is
- **Tell** someone else who He is

Do you know His Story?

Are you ready to Tell His Story

Today...

- God is our Creator
- God is the Giver of Life

Genesis 1

In the beginning (בראשית) God (אֱלֹהִים) **created** the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Genesis 1:1-5

*ex nihilo = out of nothing

Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. Genesis 1:6-8

Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

Genesis 1:9-13

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Genesis 1:14-19

Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. Genesis 1:20-23

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures **after their kind**: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth **after their kind**”; and it was so. God made the beasts of the earth **after their kind**, and the cattle **after their kind**, and everything that creeps on the ground **after its kind**; and God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24-25

According to Genesis 1, God made each type of creature “according to its kind.” Within their DNA, God placed the potential for tremendous variety, including new species. But every species belongs to its original kind—cats are still cats, and dogs are dogs.

<https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/baraminology/variety-within-created-kinds/>



Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:26-31

The Days of Creation

Make	Day 1	Sunday	Light created and divided from darkness.
	Day 2	Monday	Atmosphere created and divided from oceans.
	Day 3	Tuesday	Land created and divided from water. Vegetation created.
Fill	Day 4	Wednesday	Sun, moon and stars created to fill the sky.
	Day 5	Thursday	Creatures created to fill sky and water.
	Day 6	Friday	Creatures created to fill land. Man created as pinnacle of Creation.
Rest	Day 7	Saturday	God rested from all His work.

Genesis 2

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh (שְׁבִיעִי) day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven. Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. Genesis 2:1-6

Then the **Lord God** formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The **Lord God** planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the **Lord God** caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:7-9

God communicated His own life to that inert mass of substance He had previously created and molded into form. The divine breath permeated the material and transformed it into a living being. That strange combination of dust and deity produced a marvelous creation made in God's own image. – Wycliffe Bible Commentary

God said, “Let Us make man in Our image” *Imago Dei*

Being in God’s image means that humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God’s nature, that is, in His communicable attributes (life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice), and so have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Mentally, man was created as a rational, volitional agent. Morally, man was created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God’s holiness. Socially, man was created for fellowship. Part of being made in God’s image is that Adam had the capacity to make free choices. Although he was given a righteous nature, Adam made an evil choice to rebel against his Creator. - <https://www.gotquestions.org/image-of-God.html>

This language of Scripture does not suggest that man bore physical resemblance to God. Rather, he was made like God in spiritual powers. To him were given the powers to think and feel, to communicate with others, to discern and discriminate, and, to a certain extent, to determine his own character. - Wycliffe Bible Commentary



The Lord is Creator and Giver of Life

- “You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before You.” Nehemiah 9:6
- “For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,” declares the Lord. “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”
Isaiah 66:2
- “O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”
Isaiah 37:16

Creator

- בָּרָא bara Hebrew verb, meaning “to create”
- Hebrew: בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ
- In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1
- κτίστης ktistés Greek noun meaning “one who creates out of nothing”
- Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a **faithful Creator** in doing what is right.
1 Peter 4:19

Giver of Life

- יָצַר yatsar Hebrew verb, meaning “to form, fashion”
- Hebrew: וַיִּיצַר יְהוָה אֶל־הָאָדָם אֶת־הָאָדָם מִן־הָאָדָם עָפָר׃
- Then the Lord God **formed** man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7
- The sovereign Creator (“God” = **Elohim**) of Genesis 1 is also the covenant-making **Yahweh** (Lord). – Bible Knowledge Commentary
- The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; from His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who **fashions** the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. Psalm 33:13-15

How Shall We Respond? Praise

- And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” Revelation 5:13
- “All the earth will worship You, and will sing praises to You; they will sing praises to Your name.” Psalm 66:4
- “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” Revelation 4:11
- “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.” 1 Chronicles 29:11

What's your story?

Your life tells a story.
It's God's story.

- For what can you **praise** the Creator today?
- The Lord said, “The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My **praise**.” Isaiah 43:21
- Give your **praise** to the Lord today. Tell Yahweh why you choose to worship Him.
- Tell others why He is worthy of praise.

Creation begins with light and will end with light

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:2-4

And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:5

What's your story?

Your life tells a story.
It's God's story.

- **Thank** God for who He is
- **Tell** someone else who He is
- “Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.” Psalm 150:1-2
- “To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:25