



READ: Genesis 1:26a, 27-28, 31; 2:7 (NirV)

Then God said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us... So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female. God blessed them. He said to them, "Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Rule over every living creature that moves along the ground."
God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.
Then the LORD God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. God breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person.

ENTER THE STORY:

Every great story has a beginning that grabs your attention and makes you excited for what is to come! The Christmas story has a beginning like that, and it starts *right here in Genesis*. Out of the darkness and empty space, God creates everything by speaking words. "Let there be light!" As soon as God spoke, whatever he said happened. Light appeared, land appeared, trees appeared, and birds appeared! For six days, he filled the world with all sorts of beautiful things, and it all showed how wonderful he was... but he was not finished.

He saved the best for last, and when God created man, he didn't speak him into existence. He knelt down and formed him from the dust of the earth, making him with his own hands. When God was finished forming the dirt-man, he breathed into his nose, and the dirt-man came to life! God named him Adam. *Can you imagine that?*

This is just like the story of the Jesse Tree. In that story, we saw God bring life from a dead stump! Now he brings life from dust and mud!

When God created the first humans, he was thinking of another human—his own Son, Jesus. Jesus is like God in every way. He has always existed and was WITH God in the beginning, but in the Christmas story, we will see him leave heaven and come to earth to be made into the perfect human. He will do this, so he can show us how wonderful God is. While he is on the earth, he will NEVER mess up, and he will NEVER disobey God. This is such good news for us because we mess up all the time, and we disobey God all the time. We need Jesus to come to earth and SAVE us!

Our beginning was always meant to point forward to his earthly beginning... when Jesus, the very Word of God, is made into flesh and dwells among us (John 1:1,14).

When that time comes, we will again see God bring light out of darkness as he commands a star to shine so brightly in the sky that the nations will know that the "The Light of the World" has arrived.

PRAY: Jesus, we are grateful that you have shown us what God is like. We are thankful that through the Holy Spirit, we can know you and be united to you. We pray that you would shape us to look more and more like you each and every day. Amen.