

True Story: The Beginning

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Question: What is the wildest, craziest story you have read or watched?

Stories are how we make sense of our lives and world. The dominant story we live under is our “worldview.”

- **Naturalism:** “In the beginning were the particles.”

Questions: If you allow yourself to really think about this story – that matter is all there is – what is your response? How does purpose fit into this story?

- **Monism:** “In the beginning, Mind.”

Questions: If “God is in everything and everything is God,” where does the “wrong” in the world fit into this story? How does this story appeal to you? How does this story “unravel” for you?

- **Christianity:** “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

The Christian story:

1. **Begins with a person, not a thing.**

Question: What are some characteristics that we as “people” have that God seems to have as well?

2. **Is all about God.**

Questions: How would your story look different if you were God? What is your experience with suffering and distress since believing in God?

3. **Everything belongs to God.**

Question: What are the major implications on our decisions and how we live our lives in view of God’s ownership of everything, including us?

4. **God is distinct from the rest of creation.**

Read Hebrews 1:3

Questions: What are some of the implications to God being everywhere but He is not in everything? How does this effect how we care for the environment?

5. **Has a theme.**

The theme of the Christian story is that God is a King who rules over His kingdom.

Question: How do you reconcile God’s authority in the world with it being in such a mess?

Read Isaiah 45:18-19 in different versions.

God is constantly and intimately involved in the ongoing operation of the universe, and so are humans.

Read Hebrews 11:6

Question: Are there any elements to these 3 stories that you have mixed together?