

[CITY GROUPS X]

THE STORY OF GOD: C2R

Creation

In the beginning, God created everything. After creating everything else, God created people. Genesis says he created man and woman **in his own image**, like mirrors made to reflect who he is to the world. Then he told them what to do: to multiply and **fill the earth with his image**.

Brokenness

But the people didn't believe what God said, and they broke their relationship with him. They believed that God didn't want what was best for them and that they knew better. So their ability to reflect the image of God was **broken**.

But God never gave up on his people. In fact, he made a **promise** to one day restore the broken relationship with them. The people had children. And their children had children. And their children had children. One day, God spoke to a man named **Abraham**. He made a special promise to Abraham, telling him that he would bless him and give him lots of children, so many that they would become **a great nation**. And through his nation, God promised to bring a man who would **restore forever** the broken relationship between God and his people. And **Abraham believed God**.

So Abraham's children had children. And his children had children. And his children had children. Eventually, they became **a great nation**. Sometimes the people believed God. Other times they didn't. Along the way God sent many **spokesmen** to remind the people of their **purpose** and of his **promise** to one day restore their relationship with him forever.

Redemption

One spokesman named **Isaiah** repeated God's promise to send a man to restore the broken relationship. Isaiah also said that the man would live **a perfect life** of faith and obedience, but would be **beaten, suffer, and die**, taking the penalty for the sins of people, the full weight of the broken relationship between man and God, on himself. So the people were excited to hear this, and they **waited** for the man to come.

And they **waited**.

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Hundreds of years later, a man was born whose name was **Jesus**. Jesus was the man that God had **promised** to come and fix the broken relationship between people and God forever. In fact, Jesus was God, who became a man! He lived **a perfect life** of faith and obedience to God. Even though he was completely innocent, like Isaiah said, he was **beaten, suffered, and died** to pay the penalty for the sins of people. After he died, he came back to life to show that **even death couldn't stop God's plan** to restore his broken relationship with people forever.

After this, he left earth to return to heaven. But before he went, he charged his followers with the same **mission** God had given all people when he created them: to take the image of God, **which now they had seen**

perfected in Jesus, and to fill the earth with that image. And that's what they did! They lived their lives as image-bearers of Jesus, following him and helping others to do the same. Over and over throughout history, Jesus followers have continued to do this, even until today!

Restoration

Because Jesus lived a perfect life of faith and obedience, and because he has experienced and overcome death, anyone who trusts and follows him can also have a restored relationship with God forever.

One day, Jesus will come back and recreate the whole world with no brokenness. No pain, no death, no fear or disease. No sadness or loneliness. Everything perfect. And all of his people will be in a perfect, loving, real relationship with him forever.

This is the story of God.