IN THE BEGINNING | GOD’S GOOD PURPOSE

WEEK 1: GENESIS 1

PRAY.

Consider opening your group by praying. Since the Scripture to be considered will be Genesis 1, the creation narrative, here’s a few prayer points to posture your heart.

* Praise God for his attributes, character, and plan.
* Thank God for creation, salvation, and gifts you enjoy.
* Ask the Lord to settle your hearts as you consider the Scripture and for his Spirit to apply it to your life.

ANCHOR PASSAGES.

As you turn to the Scripture, consider using these passages as underpinnings for your group’s conversation. Encourage your group to read and pray through these Scripture passages prior to your group meeting and in the days following.

**Genesis 1:1-3**

**1**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2**The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**3**And God said, “Let there be...”

**Genesis 1:26-28**

**26**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

**27**So God created man in his own image,
    in the image of God he created him;
    male and female he created them.

**28**And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**Genesis 1:31-2:3**

**31**And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2 1** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. **2**And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. **3**So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

**Helpful Passages:**

* John 1:1-5
* Matthew 28:18-20
* Revelation 22:13

THEMES.

The following themes trace the high-level movement of this week’s Scripture passage. They may help you begin to frame the direction of your group’s conversation.

1. “Whichever way we look–to the vanishing points of the beginning or the end–God is there, having always been there.”[[1]](#footnote-1) He is eternal. (Gen. 1:1-2; John 1:1-5; Rev. 22:13)
2. God created the world out of nothing, giving it order and beauty, meaning and purpose by the power of his word. And it was good! (Gen. 1:3; Heb. 11:3; 2 Cor. 4:6)
3. God created man in his image. (Gen. 1:26-27)
4. As image-bearers, man has the unique gift of living in *relationship* *with* and in *representation* *of* his Creator (Gen. 1:28-30; Gen. 9:1-17; Eph. 2:10).
5. Creation “demonstrates God’s right to order and direct the affairs of humans” to accomplish his good purpose.[[2]](#footnote-2) (Gen. 1:28-30; Gen. 2:7; Gen. 50:20; Acts 2:23-24; Acts 4:27-28; Rom. 8:28-30)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week’s Scriptures.

1. Repeated words or phrases indicate their importance. What words and phrases are repeated throughout Genesis 1:1-2:3? Take time to reflect on each of these repeated phrases and their significance.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Hint: Look especially closely at these phrases:

* *And God said, “Let there be \_\_\_\_\_ … And it was so.”* (Occurs 9x)
* *And God saw that it was good.* (Occurs 8x including v. 31)
* *And there was evening and there was morning, the \_\_\_\_\_ day.* (Occurs 6x)
1. What do the repeated words and phrases in this passage communicate about God? What else can be known about God through Genesis 1:1-2:3?
2. God’s creation of humanity starting in verse 26 serves as the culmination of the creation narrative. How do verses 26-27 describe man’s special design?

Hint: We have been created in the image and likeness of God, meaning we have access to *relationship* *with him* and the responsibility to *represent* *him* in creation.

1. According to verses 28-30, how is humanity called to represent God in the world?
2. Consider your life for a moment. How can you faithfully represent the Lord in the places you live, work, and play?
3. What does your current devotional life rhythm look like? How has the Lord encouraged/challenged you recently?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

1. R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word Commentary Series. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 19. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Andrew E. Steinmann, *Genesis*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019), 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Mitchell M. Kim, *Knowing the Bible: Genesis*, The Gospel Coalition., Retrieved from https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowing-bible-genesis/#week-2-creation-11-23. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)