

# THE FIRST WEEK

## GENESIS 1:1-5, 26-2:3

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB materials.)

1. What is the most beautiful or favorite place in nature you have personally seen? For me I think it is the mountains in Switzerland.
2. What made it so special?
3. What emotions did it bring to you? (Awe and Wonder at God's creation.)
4. What should be our response to the Creator?

Today we are going to see how all these beautiful places were spoken into being.

The Book of Genesis is a book of firsts: the first week, the first man and woman, the first sin, the first children, the first sacrifice, the first murder, the first rain, the first covenants between God and man, and first languages.

We're going to start at the very beginning. Our study today will lead us to explore the truth that God created all that is, including humans who bear His image. As we move through this study, look for God's intentional activity.

### THE BEGINNING! Read Genesis 1:1-5

1. What do the first four words of the Bible tell us? (God existed before anything else. He was and is!) Genesis 1:1 is one of the most important, and foundational statements in the whole Bible! This fundamental truth impacts everything we think and do. **Read Heb. 1:10-12.**

2. If God made us to whom are we accountable?

If there is no God, then we are NOT accountable to Him, or really anyone else. There is no right and wrong, and there IS no meaning to life. Even atheists admit this: the honest atheist says the answer to the meaning of life is that there IS no meaning, because they believe there is no God!

3. What is the importance of God being the One who initiated creation? (It is no coincidence that the beginning of the Bible and the beginning of all things begins with God as its subject.)

Everything begins with God. He is the central subject of the Scriptures.

4. How is creation out of nothing different than anything humans can do? (We must have something to start with. God started with NOTHING.)

5. What does that say about God's nature and power? (His word is creative! He speaks into being!)

The Hebrew word translated "create" in the Old Testament is used to describe an activity of God alone.

Notice that all three members of the Trinity were involved in Creation. In John 17:24 Jesus said: "You loved Me before the foundations of the world." Before the world ever was, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit already shared perfect eternal love with each other. Read Psalm 90:2!

### THE IMAGE BEARERS! Read Genesis 1:26-31

God created humanity to represent His interests in His creation!

1. In what way do you resemble your family members?
2. How does that make you feel?
3. How was God's creation of human beings different from how He created everything else? (We are made in God's image! We have an eternal spirit. We are spiritual beings with a moral conscience.)
4. What truths do you see from these verses?

- If we are made by God, then we are accountable to Him.
  - It is NOT “our body our choice,” but our bodies are His.
  - The gift of gender is God’s plan. We don’t get to choose; God assigned it at conception.
  - That we are made in God’s image means that every human soul is worthy of respect! Every person has value in God’s eyes.
  - God gives life and we shouldn’t take that life from the womb of its mother.
5. How did God reveal organization and purpose through the days of creation? (He made MAN as the crown of creation giving him dominion over all He had created.)  
 God created everything, including the first man and woman, in six days. The seventh day was different, but just as significant for us today.

**THE REST! Read Genesis 2:1-3**

1. Did God need a day to rest? If not, why did He do it? (As an example, to us that rest is important.)  
 The Sabbath gives us an important principle: the principle of REST. He didn’t need to rest, He did it for us. He also gave it to Israel as a commandment.
2. Why don’t we observe the Sabbath on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week now? (The Christians began to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and come together on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week. It is of note that of all the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath command is the only one that is not specifically repeated or reiterated in the New Testament.)
3. What are some things you typically do on a Sunday?
4. How might these verses help you trust in God’s sovereignty over everything? (When compared with other passages in Scripture there is no question that God created the universe!)

Read the following Scriptures:

- Psalm 8:1-9
- Psalm 19:1-3
- Isa. 40:21-22
- Job 26:7
- Col. 1:15-17

**CHALLENGE!**

1. What should be our response to the Creator? (Worship!)
2. What impact should it make on your life when you recognize God created you with a purpose to be fulfilled?

**What a wonderful thought: God created me so we could spend eternity together!**