

Genesis: The Story of God & His People

Genesis 1: Creation

→ *Survey: Let's understand the background and context of the passage.*

Who are you? Where have you been, and where are you headed? What is your purpose? In short - what is your story? All of us have unique stories and experiences that make us who we are. All of us were created intentionally, with different gifts and characteristics. YOU are the only YOU that will ever exist - what an amazing and beautiful truth that is! Yet, so many of us feel lost and unworthy. We wonder if God loves us, if He even sees us or cares about our lives.

The book of Genesis will help shape our understanding of who we are by helping us understand who God is. In order to better understand our own stories, we first need to understand the story of God, His character, and His creation. We each have a unique role in God's story to build His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. We know things aren't always the way they are supposed to be, but let's look back to God's design for the world as we read Genesis 1 together. As we do, think to yourself - who is God, and who are you?

Read: Genesis 1 (NIV)

→ *Observe: Let's take a close look at what the text is saying.*

1. When does this story start? Who is present (v. 1)? How is the earth described (v. 2)?
2. Where does the light come from (v. 3)? How does God describe the light (v. 4)? What else happens on this day (v. 4-5)?
3. Let's split into groups and do this for each day! What does God do on the 2nd (v. 6-8), 3rd (v. 9-13), 4th (v. 14-19), 5th (v. 20-23), 6th (v. 24-25)... day? How does He describe His creation? Is there anything else that you notice?
4. After hearing about the different days, what repetition(s) do you notice?
5. Does anyone notice the connections between days 1 & 4; 2 & 5; and 3 & 6?
(Hint: look at the environment created on the earlier day, and how it is filled on the later day)
6. What does God create to rule over all other creatures (v. 26)? What unique quality do these creatures have compared to everything else created (v. 26-27)?
7. What does God say to mankind (v. 28-29)? Does anything stand out to you from this?
8. How does God describe His creation on day 6? (v. 31)
9. Does anyone know what happens on day 7?

¹"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

→ *Interpret: Let's seek to understand the meaning of this text in its original context.*

1. What does Genesis 1 teach us about the nature and character of God?
2. What do we learn about creation? What was it created to reflect? (*hint: Psalm 19: 1-6*)
3. What do we learn about humanity and ourselves? What does it mean that we are created in God's image and likeness?

→ *Apply: Let's explore where the text intersects with our lives and our world.*

1. In what ways do you see God and His creation through your major & classes? How could your studies be different if you saw them as an opportunity to learn more about God?
2. Do you consistently see yourself as an image bearer of God? Why or why not?
 - If you did, how would that affect your identity and purpose? How could this change the way you treat yourself and others?
 - How can you live as an image bearer this week at SRU? Another way to think about it - would someone know God better by knowing you? What's one way your perspective could change this week?