

# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 1: September 13-20

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

The book of Genesis is important and practical for us today. The word “Genesis” means beginning. This book of beginnings is not just the beginning of the Bible, it is the beginning of the universe, the beginning of humanity, and the beginning of God’s chosen people. It explains the creation of the world, God’s plan and purpose for creating us, how sin came into the world, and God’s solution to the problem of sin. In Genesis, we learn how mankind became more and more sinful, grieving the heart of God. In Genesis, we learn how God saved Noah and his family and preserved humanity during the great flood. In Genesis, we learn how the different people groups and languages developed. And in Genesis, we learn about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and how God raised up the people of Israel to be a blessing to all the nations.

Many critics have claimed that the first eleven chapters of Genesis are not true historical events but mythological stories. However, Jesus and the writers of the New Testament used the events in Genesis 1-11 as a foundation for their teaching. On several occasions, Jesus referred to events in Genesis 1-11 as true historical events (Matt. 19:4; 23:35; 24:37-39; Mark 13:19; Luke 11:51; 17:26-27; John 8:44). Paul believed that Adam was the first man (1 Cor. 15:45). Peter believed that Noah and his family were real people who were saved during a global flood (1 Peter 3:20). John believed that Cain and Abel were real people (1 John 3:11-12). Several major New Testament doctrines have as their foundation the events of Genesis 1-11. If we decide that Genesis 1-11 is just myth or “story” we are removing the foundation from these essential doctrines.

One of the most important doctrines in the Bible is the doctrine of creation. From the creation account in Genesis 1 we learn some very important and practical lessons about who God is, who we are, and the purpose God has for us. As we study this passage, notice how often God speaks and the power of His word. Pay attention to the way God interacts with His creation, organizing, evaluating, enjoying, and blessing the things He makes. Notice also, the identity, purpose, and instructions given to humans in this passage.

James Smith gives the following description of Genesis chapter 1:

Genesis 1 is the most amazing composition in all the literature of the world. It provides the perfect opening to God’s book. The chapter is marked by simplicity. Only seventy-six different root words are used. Yet here is all that men really need to know about the facts of creation. Here is the first word and the last word regarding the beginning of all things.<sup>1</sup>

## Read Genesis 1:1-5

1. What did God do in verse 1?
2. What was the Spirit of God doing in verse 2?
3. What did God say in verse 3?

Paul Kissling comments,

The account in Genesis is very different from the accounts familiar in the ancient world. God has no battle on his hands. Creation is not personified as somehow a rival to God. He speaks and effortlessly his commands are obeyed. He creates by the power of his word with his Spirit or breath standing by, ready to act. The terseness of God’s command (“Let there be light”) and the equally terse and immediate response (“and there was light”) demonstrates his sovereign power...<sup>2</sup>

4. What was God’s evaluation of the light? (1:4)
5. What did God call the light and the darkness? (1:5)

## Read Genesis 1:6-8

6. What did God say in verse 6?
7. What did God call the expanse? (1:8)

## Read Genesis 1:9-13

8. What did God say in verse 9?

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<sup>1</sup> James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 46.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 1* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 99.

9. What was God's evaluation of the land and the sea? (1:10)

10. What did God say in verse 11?

11. What was God's evaluation of the plants? (1:13)

**Read Genesis 1:14-19**

12. What did God say in verses 14-15?

13. What was God's evaluation of the sun, moon, and stars? (1:18)

**Read Genesis 1:20-23**

14. What did God say in verse 20?

15. What was God's evaluation of the birds and the sea creatures? (1:21)

16. What did God say in verse 22?

**Read Genesis 1:24-31**

17. What did God say in verse 24?

18. What was God's evaluation of the animals? (1:25)

19. What did God say in verse 26?

20. How did God create man? (1:27)

21. What did God say in verse 28?

22. What did God say in verses 29-30?

23. What was God's evaluation of all that He had made? (1:31)

**Read Genesis 2:1-3**

24. What did God do on the seventh day of creation? (2:1-3)

25. What does this passage teach us about God?

26. What does this passage teach us about human beings?

27. What are you motivated to do or say in response to this passage?

**Sermon Notes 9/13/20**

**"Creation"**

**How should we respond to Genesis chapter 1?**

1. Praise God for the \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:1-2

Hebrews 11:3

2. Praise God for \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:3-5

John 1:1-4

3. Praise God for the \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:6-8

Job 38:34-38

4. Praise God for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:9-13

Genesis 1:29-30

Psalm 147:7-9

5. Praise God for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:14-19

Isaiah 40:25-26

6. Praise God for all the \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:20-23

Genesis 1:24-25

Psalm 104:24-30

7. Praise God for creating \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:26-28

Psalm 139:14