



In the
BEGINNING
— GENESIS —

Genesis 1-11 • April - July 2020

The first 11 chapters of the Bible are significant. They record what became of the good world God created. It's also where God reveals answers to life's biggest questions about where we're from, where we're going, what's right and wrong and what's our purpose. It means that the revelation of what happened in the beginning is really important for the lives we live today.

Outline

1. Genesis 1:1-25
2. Genesis 1:26-2:3
3. Genesis 2:4-17
4. Genesis 2:18-25
5. Genesis 3:1-24
6. Genesis 4:1-26
7. Genesis 5:1-6:22
8. Genesis 7:1-8:22
9. Genesis 9:1-29
10. Genesis 10:1-11:26

In the BEGINNING

Week 1 • 19 April 2020 • Genesis 1:1-25

First Days

1. “If you can believe the first four words of the Bible, you can believe everything else.” Why do you think this might be the case?

2. The word for ‘create’ in Genesis 1 is the Hebrew word ‘*bara*.’
 - a. What do you notice about how this word is used in Scripture? (Genesis 1:1, 21 & 27; Exodus 34:10 translated ‘*done*’; Numbers 16:30 translated ‘*brings about*’).

 - b. How does this differ from what people ‘create?’

 - c. What difference does it now make if you pray Psalm 51:10 over yourself?

3. Each section of Genesis 1 begins with, ‘And God said...’
 - a. What does the chapter reveal about the voice of God?

 - b. How does this affect the way you see 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

4. Genesis 1 reveals that the world God created was good. Why is this important in light of the narrative of the Bible?

5. Imagine what Genesis 1:3 looked like.
 - a. How does Paul link this to the gospel message? (2 Corinthians 2:4-6)

 - b. How might this help as you pray for people who don't yet believe in Jesus?

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Week 2 • 26 April 2020 • Genesis 1:26 - 2:3

First People

1. Genesis 1:26, says 'let us' in reference to God.
 - a. What is unusual about this compared to Deuteronomy 6:4?
 - b. While Scripture doesn't use the word 'trinity,' how is it revealed in the following verses? (Matthew 3:16-17 & Acts 2:33)

2. Humanity is created in God's image. It means that every single person has inherent dignity, worth and significance.
 - a. How does this affect your view of yourself?
 - b. How should this affect how we treat others?
 - c. What effects do we see in our culture where this is not understood?

3. It has been argued recently that gender is merely a human-construct. To what extent is this true as you consider our society and Genesis 1?

4. God's purpose was to fill the earth with people who represented him (his image-bearers)..

- a. How is this being restored in the gospel? (2 Corinthians 3:18 & Romans 8:29)
- b. What do you think this purpose looks like practically today?

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Week 3 • 3 May 2020 • Genesis 2:4-17

First day's work

1. As you read this week's verses, what do you notice about the 'very good' world God created? What stands out?
2. Verse 7 gives more detail on the intimate work of the creator God. Have a look at Psalm 139:14-16.
 - a. What are the implications of this for how we see ourselves?
 - b. How does John 20:22 relate to these verses in Genesis?
3. Verse 15 shows that before sin entered the world, God gave Adam work to do - a God-given purpose.
 - a. Why is purpose so important to us?
 - b. In what ways has work been distorted by sin?
 - c. What would change for you if what we strive for was seen through the lens of Colossians 3:17?
4. Verses 16-17 are the beginning of morality; will we trust God with what is right and or work it out for ourselves?
 - a. Where do you see this at work today?

- b. How does John 8:31-32 relate to this? In what ways is this a challenge right now? Pray together that God would give you the grace to hold to Jesus' teaching.

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Week 4 • 10 May 2020 • Genesis 2:18-25

First Wedding

1. While Genesis 1:18 is clearly spoken of Adam, the theme that it is not good to be alone runs throughout Scripture.
 - a. What are the signs that this is true - that we are made for community and relationship?
 - b. Have a look at Romans 12:3-8 & Ephesians 4:16. What role does community have in spiritual growth and in what ways are you engaging in it?

2. This passage teaches us that gender, sexuality and marriage are all given by God.
 - a. How does this align or differ with what you have thought up until now?
 - b. What does it look like in your situation to honour God with these God-given things?

3. Adam and Eve were fully exposed and yet they felt no shame.
 - a. Why do you think we struggle to let people see who we really are?
 - b. Have a look at 1 John 3:1 & Psalm 139:1. Why are these verses a significant combination?

- c. How might you engage differently in community if you knew that both of these verses were absolutely true for you?

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Week 5 • 24 May 2020 • Genesis 3:1-24

First Lie

The first lie begins with a question - Did God really say?

1. Genesis 3 reveals a question, will we discover what is right and wrong by trusting God or by personal experience?
 - a. Do you agree with this statement?
 - b. Can you see evidence of this today?

2. The root of Eve's temptation arises in a manipulation of the truth.
 - a. How do you see the same tactic at work in Matthew 4:1-11?
 - b. Jesus' response is always with Scripture. Share together areas of temptation and help one another find Bible verses that apply truth to those situations.

3. Adam and Eve realise they were naked and they hid.
 - a. What is it about shame that makes us want to hide?
 - b. How does John 3:16-21 talk about this?
 - c. What is needed for church community to be a safe place for people to show how things really are?

4. God pursues.

- a. How do we see this in Jesus Christ?
- b. How have you seen God's pursuit of you?

In the BEGINNING

Week 6 • 31 May 2020 • Genesis 4:1-26

1. Abel brought fat portions of the first born (best of the best); Cain brought “some” of the fruits “in the course of time.”
 - a. What difference do you notice between the offerings and why does it matter?
 - b. As you think about the time, talents and treasure God has given you, how wholeheartedly are you offering them all to God?

2. Chapter 4 also reveals a diversity in creativity - from tools and tents to musical instruments. Why not encourage one another with the different skills and gifts you see in each other.

3. God warned Cain that sin would master him if he didn't rule over it.
 - a. How can small sins lead to major sins?
 - b. How has God called us to respond to sin? Here are some verses to get you started (Romans 12:2 Tim 2:22; 1 John 1:8-9).

4. V26 shows that the response to what was going on in the world brought a reaction in the people - they began to call upon the name of the Lord.

- a. What are the things in our lives and in our world that we can call on the name of the LORD for? Why not pray together now?

In the BEGINNING

Week 7 • 7 June 2020 • Genesis 5:1 - 6:22

1. The list of people in chapter 5 show generation after generation of death which is a tragic contrast to chapters 1 and 2.
 - a. To what extent are we numb to the tragedy of death?
 - b. What impact might this have on our passion to share the gospel?

2. Read Genesis 6:3.
 - a. What does this reveal about the nature of God and his interactions with people? (see also Isaiah 65:2)
 - b. What is needed for us to stay responsive to Scripture and the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

3. The highlights in these chapters are Enoch and Noah.
 - a. What is distinctive about the descriptions of these men?
 - b. Imagine 6:9 was a description of you. What differences might others begin to notice about you?

4. Noah's life is made more remarkable by the description of how others lived (see 6:5 & 11-12). What are you learning about what it takes to follow Jesus in places where you're the only one?

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Week 8 • 14 June 2020 • Genesis 7:1-8:22

1. Noah built the ark in faith (7:5). Have you ever had to trust God with something that seemed crazy to everyone else? What was it like? What did you learn?
2. Why do you think trust is so important to God? (Hebrews 11:6)
3. Genesis 7 is a tragic scene where everyone outside of Noah's family dies.
 - a. God is revealed as a God of justice. Is this a subject you've ever had to wrestle with? What conclusions have you come to?
 - b. What do 6:5 and 8:21 tell us about people. What do you think earth would be like if this was left unrestrained?
 - c. Have a look at Ephesians 2:1-10. Why is God's justice important to the gospel message?
4. Noah and the ark is seen as a foreshadowing of Jesus. What things do you notice about Noah's story that could be pictures that point to the gospel message?

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Week 9 • 21 June 2020 • Genesis 9:1-29

1. The beginning of chapter 9 reveals some firm words about the value of human life.
 - a. When you consider Genesis 1 and 2, why is human life important to God?
 - b. How does this make you reflect on beginning and end of life issues?
 - c. How does Colossians 4:5-6 shape how we engage in these conversations?

2. God restores the commission originally given to Adam and Eve (9:7) and then makes a covenant about the nature of the world this would be carried out in.
 - a. What promises does God make in 9:8-16 that the rainbow reminds us of?
 - b. These promises are made to humanity that are still described by Genesis 8:21. What does this teach us about God?

3. When Noah gets drunk and is shamed, Shem and Japheth give a beautiful picture of covering over that shame. In the context of the church, in what ways can we look out for and “cover” one another.

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Week 10 • 28 June 2020 • Genesis 10:1-11:26

1. Favourite gadgets
2. Babel begins with a technological advance - the brick. Think about another invention - the internet
 - a. How has it been used for incredible good?
 - b. How has it been used for evil?
 - c. What does this teach us about technology and humanity?
3. The tower of Babel was a statement that people thought they didn't need God.
 - a. What does Jesus teach about this? (Mark 2:17 and John 15:5)
 - b. Why is self-sufficiency such a problem for a follower of Jesus?
4. Some of the hardest people to reach with the good news of Jesus are those who think they have no need for him.
 - a. What have you learned about reaching out to the people in your world who seem to have everything they need?
 - b. Why not pray together about them right now?