

SKEPTICAL

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 4 - *GENESIS 1*

LEADER NOTES

Every worldview seeks to answer a few key questions: “Who am I?” “Why am I here?” “What is my purpose?” and “Where did I come from?” As Christians, we find the answer to these questions at the very beginning of the Bible. We must understand that because God is the Creator, He alone has the right and authority to command and rule. From the first chapter of the book of Genesis, we understand that there is a God, there is a design for the world, and we have a purpose.

We want to encourage you to keep fostering a space that welcomes questions from your group. There may be skeptics in your midst, so encourage them to ask all of their questions.

Teaching on some of life’s biggest questions can be difficult. We encourage you to listen to other Teaching Pastor’s messages in order to better understand the topic. You can find their messages [HERE](#).

Please continue to ask your group about gospel connections and conversations. You can complete the form [HERE](#).



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE
UPSTATE CHURCH

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- *WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE?*

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

WHAT GOD CREATED, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO COMMAND.

Genesis 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 light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.10 God called the dry land Earth,[d] and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants[e] yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons,[f] and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds[g] fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man[h] 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." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 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.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Genesis 1:1-31.

STUDY NOTES

Few questions have fostered more debate and controversy than the questions of our origin. Where did we come from? Why are we here? Is there a purpose to life? These questions are actually at the root of so much of the sin in our world today.

We must understand three things:

1) There is a God

If there is no God who created the world and gives it meaning, then anything goes. Our world is steeped in rebellion against God even if they don't know it. This text clearly points to God as the Creator of all things. Life and humanity find their origin in the narrative found in Genesis 1.

2) There is a Design

Because God is the creator and designer of everything, He is also the One who has authority over everything. Sin is ultimately the breaking of that design. So many of our questions about creation stem not from an intellectual frustration with the creation account, but with our innate, sinful desire to be our own authority. The creation account in Genesis 1 is not meant to be a scientific study in the origin of life on Earth. That means we may have questions that go unanswered. However, we can say with certainty that everything the Bible does say about creation is 100% true. God literally created the world and everything in it. God is the unquestionable Creator of all things who made man in His image. God is the prime mover, the One who was before the beginning, the One who has no beginning or end.

3) There is a Purpose

These are the truths that give us purpose. We are not stardust floating through the universe searching for our meaning in life. We don't have to strive to carve our own path or discover our destiny. Our fate isn't written in the stars, it's written on the heart of the One who created us. Our meaning and purpose are found in Him.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What questions do you have about the creation account in this passage? What still feels confusing or difficult to understand?*
- *How does God's role as creator affect our relationship with Him? How does it shape the way we see Him?*
- *If God has a perfect design, why do we break it? What's at the root of this sin?*
- *What are some ways you find yourself rebelling against God's design? Why do you think that is?*
- *How does being created in God's image give us purpose and meaning?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

- **OUR CULTURE IS SKEPTICAL OF THE CLAIMS OF CHRISTIANITY. HOW DOES OUR DISCUSSION THIS WEEK EFFECT THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD?**
- **WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO KNOW JESUS?**