

## Week 6 - Creation

### *Created The Way God Wanted It To Be*

#### Learning Objectives

- To see the glory of God in the way He created us and the world.
- Understand our role as God's image-bearers and how we can live this out as a church.

#### Pray for your time together as a group.

*Leader's Note: The chronology of the creation account in Genesis 1 can be a controversial topic in Christianity today. Godly believers hold vastly varying opinions on what the exact meaning of "day" is in this passage as well as what creation looked like. Our purpose here is not to solve these dilemmas, but to explore the theological truths that are central to the creation story regardless of chronology. If your group wishes to explore the various theories regarding the timing of creation, please have them do so at another time.*

**?** Think about something you've created or made. Did something inspire you to create/build/make this? Was the process easy or did you have a difficult time? How did you feel at the end of the process?

#### Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 out loud as a group:

##### Genesis 1:1-2:3 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the vault of the

sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.



How would you describe the way God created the world?

*Possible Answers: Purposefully, to show His glory, in His wisdom, powerfully, from nothing.*



How does this compare to the way you create things?

*Possible Answers: From something already made, spontaneously, purposefully, for our pleasure.*

? The phrase “God saw that it was good” is repeated after each phase of creation, culminating with it being “very good” after the creation of humans. Why is it significant that God viewed creation in this way? Optional: Do you view creation in the same good, joyful, and thankful way? Why or why not?  
*Possible Answers: God delighted in His creation - everything He made was good. It highlights that what God made was not bad or flawed. It's significant because swiftly after this point, brokenness comes to His creation...yet God still chooses to love and care for us in our imperfection. It's also significant that He says this fully knowing what was to come.*  
*No—not when it's freezing cold, or the bird poops on my car, or when I don't take care of the environment like I could. Yes—when I remember to recycle, when I see the beautiful sunset over the lake or when it's sunny and 70.*

? What do you think it means for us to be made in the “image of God”? What role(s) has God given us as His image-bearers?  
*Possible Answers: Made to resemble God, to be in relationship with Him and other people, to create, work, rest, bless others, give glory to Him in everything we do; He commanded us to increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it and to rule over creation.*

? Optional: What is a specific way you see God's image as a strength in you? OR How would you like to grow in more intentionally reflecting God's image?  
*Possible Answers: I'm a great listener and really compassionate toward others - even strangers; I recognize that's a gift and reflection of God's image. I'm patient with others but would like to be more gracious when I respond to them. I'd like my attitude to reflect Christ more - I need daily humility and to think about others before me and my desires.*

? The Hebrew word for “subdue” means to bring into bondage and make to serve by force, and the Hebrew word for “rule” means to govern, reign, and have authority over (vs. 28) . How are these responsibilities that we've been given similar to God's work in creation?  
*Possible Answers: God brought order out of chaos - He was active in creating everything and it was well-planned/thought out; we've been tasked with creating order and structure in the world - social systems, governments, societies, families.*

? What are some of the ways you see/experience humans subduing and ruling as God intended? What are some of the ways you see this being distorted?

*Possible Answers: As Intended - We have governments, families, jobs, we plant food, care for animals, enjoy nature; Distorted - many governments are oppressive and corrupt, we pollute the earth, neglect the poor, abuse animals, or we are passive when we see others doing these things.*

Optional Transition: Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the messy reality of life today. There is hope and comfort we can find when we remember God has always had a plan and is not surprised by any of this, as we read in Colossians 1.

**Read Out Loud: Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**?** What does this passage tell us about Jesus' role in creation?

*Possible Answers: He was there from the beginning and He created everything.*

**?** Why do you think God created mankind, knowing that we would go against His commands? How does this change your view of God and His purpose?

*Possible Answers: He is loving and merciful – He knew we would mess up and still created us - He can use broken people like us to accomplish His purpose .*

*Leader's Note: Genesis 1 and 2 outline all that God created. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and listened instead to the serpent, and ate the forbidden fruit, sin and separation entered the world (Genesis 3).*

**?** How can we, as a church, carry out God's purpose for us when we're living in a fallen world?

*Possible Answers: We can be active, not passive - we can look for ways to improve our governments, families, cities. We can plan, strategize, and create ways to bring order out of chaos in the places where we live and work. We can worship God in our work and in the ways we enjoy His creation.*

**For Discussion and Accountability**

**?** How do you see creation as God originally intended versus seeing it as full of sin and brokenness?

**?** Where do you find joy in the midst of a broken world?