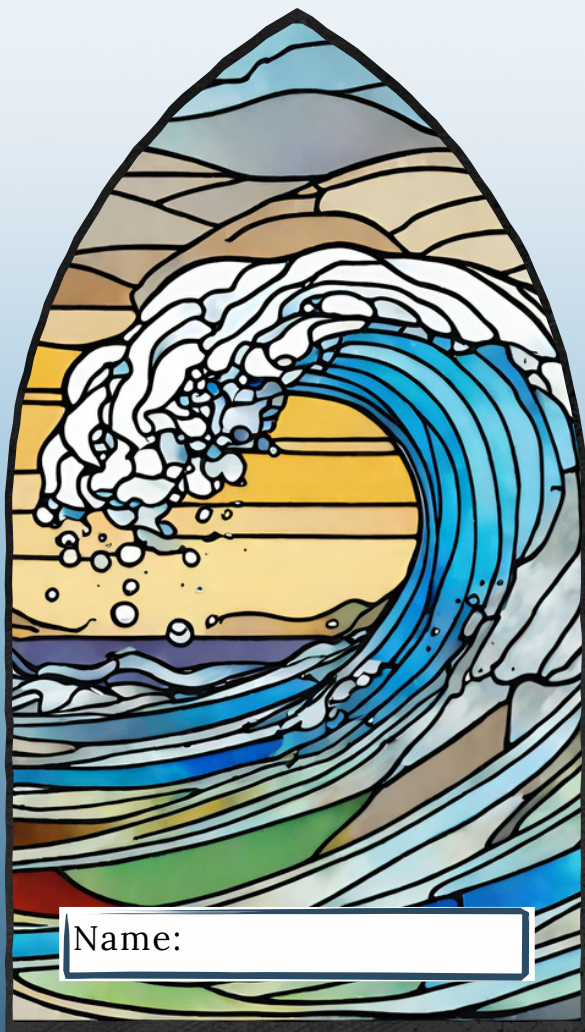


THE BEGINNING



Series Guide 1

Use this guide for deeper discipleship
as we journey together through

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT WORD

THE BEGINNING: WEEK 1



MEMORY VERSE: GENESIS 1:26

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.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Each day of creation follows a very similar pattern. What does this intentional pattern demonstrate about God? How does that contrast to the “chaos” of verse 1?

How have you experienced the goodness of God in creation? In community with others? In yourself as someone made in the “image of God”?

God gives humanity a special place in Creation and ascribes value to them that is above everything else. What does it mean to you to be created in God’s image? Do we value other people (even those we disagree with) in the same way God does?

The Gospel of John says, “In the beginning was the Word...Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:1a, 3). Who is “the Word?” What does this passage tell us about the identity of Jesus?

How do we see Jesus “create” flourishing life in the Gospels just as he did in the beginning?

GENESIS 1-2

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “So God created people in his own image.” (Genesis 1:27)

God created the world and everything in it - including us! From nature to how humans use their gifts, we can see God’s fingerprints all around us! As a family this week, point out God's goodness in creation. Go outside and marvel at His creation. Talk about the special and amazing ways God handcrafted the world Himself. And share that He’s that intentional and creative with each of us as well.

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



THE BEGINNING: WEEK 2



MEMORY VERSE: GENESIS 1:26

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.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Which portion of the serpent’s statements (verses 1, 4, 5) are true and which are false (compare 3:4-5; 3:22; 5:5)? Why do you think the serpent mixes the truth with lies?

Compare verses 7-13 with the previous chapter. How has the relationship changed between the man and the woman? How has the relationship that they had with God changed? In what ways have you seen sin damage relationships with God, people, and nature?

From this story, how would you define sin and its consequences?

Where in this story do you find any good news? If Jesus is the ultimate offspring of Eve and Adam and is Satan’s enemy (verse 15), and if Jesus is the promised tree of life (verse 24; see Revelation 2:7), what does that mean for us sinners?

Compare Jesus’ temptation to this one (see Luke 4:1-13). How was his similar? How were his responses different?

GENESIS 3

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “So God created people in his own image.” (Genesis 1:27)

Use everyday moments to “name” sin. When sin takes hold, practice breaking the actions or emotions in the moment, and say out loud, "I need Jesus!" Sin pulls us away from walking with Jesus and God’s best plan for us.

Pray together and seek God’s forgiveness and forgiveness from one another in order to bring us back into relationship with Him.

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



THE BEGINNING: WEEK 3



MEMORY VERSE: GENESIS 1:26

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.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When has starting over cost you something? What needed to be let go of to have that fresh start?

Do you think God still calls His people to live in ways that others think is absurd? How have you seen that in your own life?

The Ark is built before it starts to rain. What is God building in you today for something that could be coming?

Building the Ark was within Noah’s control, but bringing two of every animal was not. What part of God’s plan/work in your life seems out of your control and requires trust?

Some of us have a hard time reconciling the idea of The Flood with a picture of a merciful God, because the punishment for the world seems “harsh.” Where do we see God’s mercy demonstrated in the story?

GENESIS 6 - 8

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “So God created people in his own image.” (Genesis 1:27)

Noah was obedient to God. How can our family be obedient to God’s calling every day? What is a daily habit which we may need to change or add to our lives to increase our obedience? When we aren’t obedient, how can we seek a fresh start with God?

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



GOD'S MAGNIFICENT WORD



Our purpose is to journey into Scripture, God's unified story leading to Jesus, who invites us into a new way of life and continues God's story in us through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

THE BEGINNING: WEEK 1



INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

The book of beginnings starts with the most significant words of all time: "In the beginning God." With these words, the story of God's grand and glorious plan for humanity commences. The opening book of the Bible is about God's created design for his world, humankind's fall into sin and rebellion, and God's gracious plan to rescue his beloved people from the terrible implications of their sin. The stories of famous people such as Abram/Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph fill the book and trace the story of God's grace toward his chosen people. At the outset of the Bible, right after the first sin, God promised to send One who would defeat Satan and sin forever. Jesus, the creative Word by which God spoke all things into being (Jn 1:1), would one day make his dwelling in a fallen world in order to save sinful humanity...

God's created design and mission in the world have not changed. He is still intent on filling the earth with his glory and using his created image-bearers to accomplish that goal. Christ, in his wrath-bearing death and life-giving resurrection, allows people to fulfill the very purpose for which they were created. His death fulfilled the covenant promises of God to make a way for people to have a right relationship with God in spite of human sin. Jesus' perfect obedience demonstrated the values of the kingdom of God and defined the hope that we look for - the coming day when sin and death will be eradicated forever.

Source: The Jesus Bible