

“In the Beginning...God”

Sermon Notes

- **God is the maker of (and thus the main reality in) the universe**

**Genesis 1:1-2 is perfectly clear that...*

1. God is the Creator of all that is (vv.1-2a; John 1:1-3, 10; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:3)
2. God intensely cares for all that is (v.2b; Deuteronomy 32:11)

Next Week: Genesis 1:3-5 - “Let There Be Light”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the week of May 18th-14th

Getting Started

1. How is your familiarity with the book of Genesis? Have you ever read through all fifty chapters? Heard it preached in the pulpit in church? If you have a history with this book of the Bible, take some time to share it with the rest of the group.

Digging Deeper

2. As you consider the days ahead for our church in the book of Genesis, what portion(s) do you most look forward to exploring together (creation, the image of God, man as male and female, marriage, the Fall, Noah and the flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and their families, etc)? Why?

Open Your Bible to Genesis 1:1...

3. Take some time to scan through the creation narrative found in Genesis 1:1-2:3. Is there a particular portion of it that stands out to you? Into the spring and summer months, we will have the privilege of exploring one day of creation each Lord's day morning until we come to day six which we will take over the course of three Sundays together. In order to get a sense of how foundational the creation account is, imagine any given day and what God created there. Then, imagine the rest of the Bible's storyline without that portion of creation. Furthermore, imagine the rest of our lives without that portion of creation.

4. What is your view on the age of the earth? Do you take a young earth or an old earth position? What in the text itself leads you to your view? Do you believe that the Bible and the findings of honest, humble scientific inquiry are ultimately agreeable or at odds with one another? How important is the question of the age of the earth for evangelical believers? Is this a matter upon which members of the same congregation can agree to disagree? If so, why? If not, why not?

5. Do you believe that Adam and Eve are historical persons? What in particular in Genesis 2-3 leads you to the view that you hold? How important is the question of the historicity of Adam and Eve for evangelical believers? Is the Bible's storyline coherent without it? Consider the genealogy found in Luke 3:23-38 or the comparison and contrast that the Apostle Paul draws between Adam and Christ in Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:45-49. What makes this question (the historicity of Adam and Eve) different from the question regarding the age of the earth as it relates to unity among believers in the same congregation?

6. What do you believe about the value, dignity, roles, and responsibilities of men and women according to Genesis 1-3? What does the Bible say about these things prior to the Fall (Genesis 1-2)? What does the Bible say about these things during and after the Fall (Genesis 3)? How does the New Testament bring further clarity to these matters (Colossians 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:15-33; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 1 Peter 3:1-7)? Would you say that you understand, are confused about, merely put up with, struggle against, or treasure and delight in the Bible's teaching concerning men and women? Explain.

7. Genesis 6:1-9:29 contains the biblical account of Noah and flood. What stands out to you in this portion of Scripture? What questions does it raise for you? Many folks believe that this account is simply a myth. Others have suggested that it took place, but was merely a local flood and not a global catastrophe. What do you believe this portion of Scripture teaches? How important are these particular questions for the purposes of evangelical unity in the local church?

8. As we study the book of Genesis together, we want to bear in mind that this portion of Scripture (like every portion of Scripture) is given to us by God in order to "make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). In other words, let's keep our eyes peeled for sightings of our Savior as the offspring of the woman (Genesis 3:15; 22:18; Galatians 3:16); the true Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-24; Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:1-28); Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28:10-22; John 1:43-51), the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12; Revelation 5:1-14), and much, much more. Take some time to explore these references as a group before closing your time in prayer together, asking for God's richest blessing on our upcoming study of Genesis.