

01 WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 1:1-5,26–2:3

CENTRAL truth

When the world feels confusing, it's helpful to go back to the beginning—the foundation of the world. Genesis means “beginning,” and the insight it gives us into the beginning of the world help us better understand ourselves and the world around us. Here's the most important part: **God created the world and everything in it—including humans**, who were made in His likeness.

key question

How does the creation narrative teach us humans are worthy of respect and distinct from other aspects of creation?

God made us in His likeness, an honor unique to humans out of all God's created creatures. He also created men and women distinctly. This matters because this aspect of creation is connected to humanity's role as image-bearers (see 1:27) and our call to be fruitful and to rule (see 1:28). After creating man and woman, God called His work “very good”—very excellent. It may feel like an act of faith to call the distinct genders “very good” in today's culture, but remember, God created the world and therefore is the authority on the world.

keep in mind

- The creation of man and woman in particular may create some tension in the group as students wrestle with the cultural values they may have absorbed regarding gender. There will be more time next week to talk about this, but for now, try to lay a foundation of God's goodness and abundance. In Genesis 1, we see Him create a world of wonderful flourishing. His character is essential for us to consider as we wrestle with the big issues of our day.
- Students might have questions about whether or not to take the creation narrative literally. These questions may even cause them to mistrust God or the Bible. It's probably not necessary to debate earth's various origin stories during your group time, but encourage students that even the Bible says we believe these things by faith (see Heb. 11:3). Even the disciples asked God to increase their faith! (See Luke 17:5).

application

How might viewing God as a God of abundance be challenging for us? What can we do to see Him in this way more often?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students have the opportunity to consider the origin story of the world and humanity and consider how its good design impacts how they view the world, themselves, and others.

FOR THE LEADER: Challenge students to genuinely trust God and God's goodness when it comes to foundational things like creation, gender, and human dignity.

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