

Session 01

Beginning of **ALL THINGS**

CENTRAL TRUTH | God is the Creator and Ruler of all things.

The beginnings of stories can grip us. In fact, many of us determine whether we will continue down the path that the book, movie, or video game has laid based on how it started. We want our attention captured as we immerse ourselves in a new story. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, provides an epic beginning to the story of Scripture—the beginning of all things. As we begin this quarter’s study, we will see that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things. And God providentially created human beings in His image and likeness to worship Him, enjoy a relationship with Him, and reflect His goodness into the world.

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

GENESIS 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there

was light. ⁴ 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.” There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

GENESIS 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on

the earth.” ²⁹ God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

GENESIS 2:1-3

¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from

all his work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Day01

GENESIS 1:1-5



Refer to page # for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

When it comes to a story, we want to be gripped and captivated from the very beginning. In Genesis 1:1-5, we learn not only about the creation of all things, but about the Creator Himself. God is eternal, the Author of all things, and the main character of Scripture. As we see His creative work begin, we find that He declares what He made to be good, and this declaration is a pattern we see throughout the creation story. Rather than looking to the culture around us to receive our definition of “good,” we must look to the Lord. He is the good Creator who defines what goodness is and invites us to enjoy a relationship with Him.

↑ What does this passage reveal about God?

↪ What are some ways you can praise God for being the Creator of all things?

→ Why is it important for us to look to the Lord to help us understand what “good” is?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of **Genesis 1:27** on notecards or scraps of paper and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

📍 PRAY

God, thank You for being the good Creator who defines what goodness truly is. By the Spirit's power, help me to reflect your goodness into the world.

Day02

GENESIS 1:26-31

📍 READ & RESPOND

When you think about your highest achievement, what comes to mind? A championship trophy, a piece of art you've made, or maybe even a car you helped your friend or family member to restore? In this passage, we learn about God's most significant act of creation—human beings. God made humans—both male and female—in His image and likeness. We've been set apart from the rest of God's creation to enjoy a relationship with Him and to reflect His goodness into the world. As God's image bearers, all human beings hold inherent dignity, worth, and value. The culture around us attempts to dictate the value of individuals. This passage reminds us that *all* people are made in God's image, regardless of ethnicity, gender, social status, or education level.

↓ What does this passage reveal about humanity's purpose?

→ What are some ways you can remind yourself that you are made in God's image?

↔ How does today's passage invite you to treat others?

📍 MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of **Genesis 1:27** aloud as you can remember.

📍 PRAY

Lord, You are the Creator and Ruler of all things. Thank You for making me in Your image and creating me to enjoy a relationship with You. Enable me to treat others as fellow image bearers.

Day 03

GENESIS 2:1-3

📍 READ & RESPOND

After a long day at school, work, or practice for a sport, there is nothing like having the opportunity to rest—especially when we're proud of the work we've done. In Genesis, we learn that after creation was completed, God also rested. However, He didn't rest because He was tired; rather, this means that He ceased creating and appreciated everything He had made. God's creation was good, beautiful, and ideal. The seventh day was marked by God's blessing and He declared it holy. In fact, the Hebrew day of rest, called *sabbath*, is linked to the creation story (see Ex. 20:8-11)! True, eternal rest is found in Jesus. In following Him, we are invited to cease our striving and live out of the overflow of what He has accomplished for us through His sinless life, death, and resurrection.

🔄 Why did God rest? How does this help you understand the creation story?

↑ Why is it important to understand that true rest is found in Christ?

→ What are some practical ways you can rest and worship the Lord this week?

📍 MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out **Genesis 1:27**. Read the verse out loud five times. Finally, try to say it out loud five times without looking, trying to picture it in your mind instead.

📍 PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for all that You have accomplished on my behalf. In You, I have a true, eternal rest that cannot be taken away.

Day04

PSALM 8:3-9

📍 READ & RESPOND

Reflecting on God’s vast and epic creation, the psalmist asks this simple question: “What is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him?” Perhaps you’ve asked a similar question before. The psalmist doesn’t stop here, but goes on to say that humans have been given a divine purpose from God. We have been created to reflect God’s goodness and rule into the world. Like the psalmist, we are invited to celebrate God for being the magnificent Creator who has designed us with dignity and purpose. Friend, He is mindful of you and wants you to enjoy a relationship with Him.

↪ How can this passage shape the way you pray?

↓ What does this passage teach you about humanity?

→ What are some ways you can help those around you to see their value and dignity as image bearers?

📍 MEMORIZE

Tell a friend or family member that your memory verse this week is **Genesis 1:27** and explain what it means. Then, invite that person to randomly quiz you on the verse at some point today.

📍 PRAY

Gracious God, thank You for creating me with dignity and purpose. As I enjoy a relationship with You as the Creator of all things, help me to see opportunities to love and serve those around me.

Day**05**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

📍 READ & RESPOND

Paul's words to the church at Corinth remind us that, in Christ, we have been transformed. The Creator of all things put on flesh, lived a sinless life, died in our place, and was resurrected. Through what Jesus has accomplished, those who trust in Him are reconciled to God and are made new. At times, we can lose sight of our new identity—this is why we must ask God's Spirit to help us embrace and live out this new reality. As new creations, we are called to participate in God's mission to a hopeless and hurting world. We serve a God who is both Creator and Savior!

← Why do you think the church at Corinth needed this reminder from Paul?

↓ Do you find it difficult to remember that you are a new creation? Why or why not?

↔ What does it look like to live as a new creation among those around you?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of **Genesis 1:27** on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

📍 PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to reconcile me to You. In Him, I am a new creation. By the Spirit's power, teach me to live out my identity as a new creation among those around me.