

## Small Group Curriculum

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### **FOUNDATIONS PART 2 • WEEK 2 • Genesis 1:2**

Genesis 1 tells us of the eternal Creator who created everything. The creation story teaches us not only about the world around us, but about our Creator and how we relate to him.

Sometimes, we are overcome by the beauty and awe of creation. Other times, we take in the circumstances of our lives or the world around us and it feels chaotic and hopeless.

Genesis 1:2 tells us the state of the earth when God begins creating. In the creation narrative that follows, we will see a God who brings order from chaos and light from darkness. Genesis tells us of the God who creates, not just one time, but as an introduction for how He will care for the world and His people again and again for all time.

### **REMINDERS**

- Is anyone in your group ready to become an official member of Awakening Church? Encourage them to join Awakening 201 this March [here](#).
- Is there anyone in your life who is spiritually seeking and ready for an invite to Alpha? More information [here](#).
- Looking for a place to serve? Try serving on set-up or tear-down once-a-month with the Space Team. Email [layth@awakeningchurch.com](mailto:layth@awakeningchurch.com) for more information.

#### Past Session Check-In:

- Take a moment and review the application from your last discussion. Ask the group where they were challenged, if they made any commitment for change and/or action, and if they followed through with their decision.

### **ICEBREAKER**

#### OPTION #1

- Do you prefer the ocean and beaches, or lakes, rivers, and mountains (or neither)? Why? Do you have a favorite place?

#### OPTION #2

- Have you ever been on any kind of boat? What was your experience?

**Transition:** Our experience with water here on earth can be beautiful or terrifying or anything in between. At times, we may enjoy the beauty and serenity of creation or fear what seems wild and untamed.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we discussed Genesis 1:1, God as Creator. Verse 1 acts as a title or introduction to the creation narrative that follows. The eternal God created everything. Verse 2 tells of the state of things when God began creating and why it matters.

# AWAKENING

## DISCUSSION

READ: Genesis 1:1-2 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 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.” (Gen 1:1-2, NIV)

## QUESTIONS

1. Read various translations and notice the words used. In Genesis 1:2, how would you describe the state that the earth is in? Who is mentioned as being present on the earth?
2. Compare the words used to describe water in the first half and second half of verse 2. What are the connotations of the words for water? What is different and why is this significant?
3. Look up these verses together: Job 33:4; Psalm 104:24-30; Romans 8:11. What does the Spirit do? Considering what is about to take place in Genesis 1:3-31, why do you think the Spirit is hovering over the waters?
4. Read Deuteronomy 32:10-12. This is an excerpt of the Song of Moses, which he gives as a reminder to the people of God, Israel, as they are about to enter the Promised Land. Compare the imagery of God caring for Israel with the imagery of Genesis 1:2. What do you notice? What does this reveal about God?
5. With these verses in mind, think of your own life and journey with God. What times have felt like a wilderness? Reflecting back, where can you sense God’s presence and provision in these times?

## RESPONSE

1. Where do you feel the most chaos right now? What feels formless, empty, or dark?
2. Where do you want to have more awareness of God’s personal presence, his Spirit? Where do you need God to move or act?
3. In chaos or wilderness, how can you remain hopeful that God’s Spirit can birth something new and good? How can your community support you?
  - a. BONUS QUESTION: Tell your group what you are needing from them this week to support you.

**Transition:** God, our Father, knows what we need and also desires for us to come to Him with our requests and to listen for Him to speak to us.

## PRAYER

Spend time thanking God for when the Spirit brought life, hope, and light to seemingly hopeless situations- those in Scripture, within the group, and personally. Ask for His guidance in the things that currently feel like wild and waste. Ask for Him to move and listen for Him to show you where He is already present. Thank Him for His Spirit that dwells with us and praise Him that one day we will dwell fully with Him in new creation.

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## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

# AWAKENING

Check out our outreach page at <https://awakeningchurch.com/outreach/> to explore ways your group can volunteer at our biweekly food pantry, support Foster the City, or join the City Team movement.

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## VERSES

Job 33:4

<sup>4</sup> The Spirit of God has made me;  
the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Psalms 104:24-30

New International Version

<sup>24</sup> How many are your works, Lord!

In wisdom you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> There is the sea, vast and spacious,  
teeming with creatures beyond number—  
living things both large and small.

<sup>26</sup> There the ships go to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

<sup>27</sup> All creatures look to you  
to give them their food at the proper time.

<sup>28</sup> When you give it to them,  
they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things.

<sup>29</sup> When you hide your face,  
they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to the dust.

<sup>30</sup> When you send your Spirit,  
they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

Romans 8:11

New International Version

<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of <sup>fa</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

Genesis 1:3-31

New International Version

<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.

# AWAKENING

<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,<sup>[a]</sup> 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.

# AWAKENING

<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.

Deuteronomy 32:10-12

New International Version

<sup>10</sup> In a desert land he found him,  
in a barren and howling waste.

He shielded him and cared for him;  
he guarded him as the apple of his eye,

<sup>11</sup> like an eagle that stirs up its nest  
and hovers over its young,  
that spreads its wings to catch them  
and carries them aloft.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord alone led him;  
no foreign god was with him.

Genesis 1:2

New International Version

<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.