



Small Group Curriculum

FOUNDATIONS • WEEK 3 • Genesis 1:3-31

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. This week, as we read and study Genesis 1:3-1:31, we will see God create with order and abundance, and declare that what He has made is good.

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](#).
- Our café team is in need of volunteers. Would you be willing to serve once a month to offer care and hospitality to our guests and church family? Email bailey@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

- Have you ever had a creative hobby (any skill that creates)? What do you like or dislike about that skill or activity?

OPTION #2

- Do you like to organize? Why or why not? What is your organization style?

Transition: When we create, we are faced with varying results - a beautiful painting, a bad meal, an impressive Lego set, a blurry photo, a heartwarming video, an incomplete book or poem. Genesis 1 tells us of the God who creates everything and calls it all good.

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we discussed Genesis 1:1-2, the God who created everything and was present in the wild and waste. This week, we will read the creation narrative of God bringing order to chaos, light to darkness, and abundance to emptiness. In creation, we see the goodness of God on display.

DISCUSSION

READ: Read Genesis 1:3-31 and listen to the pattern in the days of creation.

AWAKENING

QUESTIONS

1. In each day of creation, what phrases are repeated?
 - a. *“God said, ‘Let...’”*
 - b. *“And it was so...”*
 - c. *“And God saw that it was good.”*
 - d. *“God called...”*
 - e. *“And there was evening and there was morning, the ____ day.”*
2. What does the repeated phrase “God saw that it was good” tell us about creation?
 - a. BONUS: The creation story tells us that God is more than creator, but law-giver. How so? (i.e. divides light from dark and sea from land, names them, etc.)
3. Notice how many times God is the subject of the sentence. What is the Biblical author (Moses) emphasizing by this?
 - a. BONUS: How is the creation of humankind the climax of the 6 days of creation? What is unique about this day of creation and its impact on humankind.
4. Read Psalm 116:5-9 in NIV or CSB.

5 The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

6 The Lord protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.

7 Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.

8 For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,

9 that I may walk before the Lord
in the land of the living. (Ps. 116:5-9, NIV)
5. What attributes does the psalmist ascribe to God in verses 5-6? When have you seen these attributes of God at work in your life or around you?
6. What reason does the psalmist have to rest (verse 7)? How does the psalmist personally know God is good (verses 8-9)?

RESPONSE

1. When have you tried to find or define “good” outside of God’s will? What were the results?
2. When has God’s goodness given you wisdom, courage, or delivered you from death, tears, or stumbling? (When has the Lord been good to you?)
3. What present circumstances do you need God’s goodness to give you hope or rest?
 - a. BONUS: What do you need from the group right now through this circumstance? (Acceptance, Connection, Comfort, Understanding, Validation, Confrontation, Feedback, Grieving, Encouragement, Rest, Challenge, Affirmation, or Celebration?)

A W A K E N I N G

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

Reflect on when the Lord has been good to you, to your group, to those around you. Give Him thanks. Offer Him your doubts for situations and circumstances where you question His goodness. Ask for His help. Tell Him the things that are troubling you. Pray the words of the psalm back to Him or use your own to ask for hope and rest. Praise Him for His ultimate victory over sin and death and for being our Living Hope.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

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.

VERSES

Genesis 1

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day

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and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” ²¹ 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. ²² 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.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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.

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.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ 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.”

²⁹ 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.³⁰ 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.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.