

CREATION: GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

Genesis 1:1–2:25

THE BIG IDEA: God created the world intentionally, declared His creation good, and designed human beings to know Him, reflect His image, cultivate His creation, and live in relationship with Him and others.

The Biblical Story

CREATION → FALL → REDEMPTION → RESTORATION

God's original design was good. Sin brought brokenness into that good creation. Through Jesus Christ, God is redeeming His creation and moving history toward restoration.

1. GOD IS THE CREATOR

Read:

- **Genesis 1:1–5**
- **Psalms 24:1–2**
- **Psalms 95:3–7**

"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."
— Psalm 24:1

Notice: Genesis begins with **God**, not humanity.

- God creates.
- God speaks.
- God orders.
- God evaluates.
- God declares.

Personal Application: What is one thing in your life that you need to begin viewing more as something God has entrusted to you rather than something you own?

2. CREATION IS GOOD

Read:

- **Genesis 1:26–31**

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." —
Genesis 1:31

The word **good** is repeated throughout Genesis 1.
God's creation is not presented as an accident or as something inherently evil.

Remember: God did not create a bad world that needed to be escaped. He created a good world that was later corrupted by sin.

3. CREATION REVEALS GOD

Read:

- **Psalm 19:1–4**
- **Romans 1:19–20**

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." —
Psalm 19:1

Key Thought: Creation is not God — but creation reveals God.

4. JESUS IS THE CREATOR

Read:

- **John 1:1–3**
- **Colossians 1:15–17**

"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." — John 1:3

Connection

1. Genesis begins with: **"In the beginning God created..."**
2. John begins with: **"In the beginning was the Word..."**
3. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the One through whom all things were created.

5. WE ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

Read:

- **Genesis 1:26–28**
- **Psalm 8:3–6**

- **James 3:9**

"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." — Genesis 1:26

Because every person bears God's image: Every person has inherent dignity. Our value is not ultimately determined by:

- Wealth
- Intelligence
- Appearance
- Career
- Productivity
- Age
- Popularity
- Social status
- Ability

Personal Application: Who is one person you need to see differently because they bear God's image?

6. WE WERE CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

Read:

- **Genesis 1:28**
- **Ephesians 2:10**

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." — Ephesians 2:10

Personal Application: What good work might God be calling you to that you have been neglecting?

7. WE WERE DESIGNED TO WORK

Read:

- **Genesis 2:15**
- **Genesis 1:28**

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." — Genesis 2:15

Important Truth: Work existed before sin. The Fall did not create work. Sin made work difficult and frustrating.

Personal Application: What responsibility has God given you that you need to approach differently this week?

8. WE WERE DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP

Read:

- **Genesis 2:18–25**

"It is not good that man should be alone." — Genesis 2:18

Notice something remarkable: Everything God had previously evaluated was **good**. Then God says: "**It is not good that man should be alone.**"

Personal Application: Who is someone God may be calling you to invest in more intentionally?

9. GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE

Read:

- **Genesis 2:24–25**
- **Matthew 19:4–6**

Jesus Himself goes back to Genesis when explaining God's design for marriage. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." — Genesis 2:24

10. WE WERE DESIGNED FOR STEWARDSHIP

Read:

- **Genesis 1:28**
- **Psalms 115:16**
- **Proverbs 12:10**

God gives humanity authority over creation. But biblical authority is not permission for selfish exploitation.

Key Thought: We don't ultimately own God's creation. We steward what God has entrusted to us.

11. GOD DESIGNED REST

Read:

- **Genesis 2:2–3**
- **Exodus 20:8–11**

"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done..." — Genesis 2:2

Remember: God's design includes work, worship, and rest.

12. SIN BROKE GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

Read:

- **Genesis 3:1–7**
- **Romans 8:19–22**

Sin enters God's good creation and brings brokenness.

13. GOD IS RESTORING CREATION

Read:

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- **Revelation 21:1–5**
- **Revelation 22:1–5**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." — 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Bible begins with: **Creation + a garden + humanity with God**

The Bible ends with: **New creation + God's dwelling place + humanity with God**

THE BIG PICTURE: GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

God's Design

God created me

God made me in His image

God gave me a body

God gave me work

What It Means for Me

My life belongs to Him

I have inherent dignity

My physical life matters

My work has purpose

God's Design

What It Means for Me

God designed relationships	I need God and other people
God designed marriage	Marriage has a purpose
God gave me stewardship	I am a caretaker, not ultimate owner
God designed rest	I don't have to live endlessly producing
Sin distorted creation	Brokenness isn't God's original design
Christ is redeeming creation	My life has hope
God promises new creation	History is moving toward restoration

MY RESPONSE

Take a few moments and honestly consider:

- 1. Creation: What is one thing in God's creation I can intentionally stop and appreciate this week?**
- 2. Identity: What changes when I remember that I am made in God's image?**
- 3. Work: What responsibility has God entrusted to me that I need to approach differently?**
- 4. Relationships: Who do I need to intentionally invest in?**
- 5. Stewardship: What am I treating as "mine" that I need to recognize belongs to God?**
- 6. Rest: Where do I need to learn to rest and trust God rather than constantly produce?**
- 7. God's Design: What area of my life most needs to move from "What do I want?" to "God, what did You design?"**