

NOTES

Scripture: Genesis 1

REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?

2. What's your favorite kind of story? Do you prefer to experience a story by reading it in a book, hearing it, or watching it as a movie or TV show?

In The Beginning
Week 1
The Origin of Our Story

Chris Dew
Teaching Team
April 24, 2022

MY STORY

1. Chris said, "stories have power ."Based on your experience, have you found this to be true? How?
2. While true stories root us in identity, reality, and purpose, false stories can have grave consequences when we believe them and incorporate them. Have you experienced this? What were the consequences?
3. Have you ever spent time thinking about "the beginning"? Why is it important to understand our origin story?
4. There are four primary views of origin history presented in Chris' message: 1. It was all created by chance (atheism); 2. It's all an endless cycle (pantheism); 3. It was created by an uninvolved clockmaker (deism); and 4. In the beginning, our God (who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent) created the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1). Which do you believe? Why do you believe that?
5. Have you ever been challenged in your belief of the origin story? What happened?
6. Have you ever heard the view of creation that spiritual parts of creation are good, but physical things are bad and shouldn't be enjoyed? What are your thoughts on that view?
7. Another view of creation is that all creation is a part of God. All things created are divine and should be worshipped. Have you encountered that view? What is your reaction to it?
8. Chris told us that Genesis 1 answers three primary questions: 1. How big is your God?; 2. Where did all of this come from?; and 3. Who are we? What are your thoughts about each of these three questions?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Genesis 1:2, Genesis 1:26-28, and Romans 1:20

1. How do you see the Trinity in these verses? What other verses can you think of that support your understanding of the Trinity?
2. What does it mean that we have been created in God's image and likeness?
3. How does this impact the way you view God?

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4. How does this impact the way you view other people? How does this impact the way you view people you disagree with?
5. Why is it important that He blessed them immediately following the statement that God created them in His image? What do you think it means that God blessed the man and woman He had just created? Do you believe that this blessing applies through the generations to you?
6. According to Romans 1:20, through creation, God has made Himself known.
7. Did you notice creation and wonder before you came to Christ? What is an example you think of that shows that there was a designer?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. What story are you living into? What influences that story? How does your content (shows, books, news, social media, podcasts, video games, conversations, teachings, etc.) influence that story? How do your relationships influence that story?
2. How do you view God? How does your view of God impact how you approach a typical day? How does your view of God impact how you face challenges and trials? How does your view of God impact how you celebrate victories and wins in life?
3. The author of Genesis tells us that God spoke it all into existence, and it was good. Do you believe that? Have you ever seriously considered this idea? Do you feel your belief on this is consistent with or opposed to most people in your life? Are you OK with that?
4. Chris said we should enjoy God's creation and let that roll up into worship and enjoyment of the Creator. Think about that. Do you do that? How can you or do you do that? Share some specific examples with your Life Group.
5. Genesis 1:31 tells us that God saw everything He had made, and it was "very good." Do you think everything is good now? Why or why not? What has changed? How do you balance current reality with the reality at the time of creation (Genesis 1:31)? Do you feel a tension that things aren't as they were intended to be? What do you do with that tension?

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6. Chris presented some possible theories for when and how God created everything. A brief synopsis for each of these is below. Spend some time talking about these in your Life Group. What do you believe? Why do you believe this? How does what you believe about when and how everything was created impact how you view what God created?
 - a. Literal six days young earth creationism.
 - b. Gap theory with a space between verses 1 and 2.
 - c. Flood theory which is a young earth theory, but the flood in Genesis made it look like the earth was older.
 - d. Ideal-time theory where just as God made Adam look aged and trees in maturity, He made the earth the same way.
 - e. Age-day theory where the creation was over a long period of time and not just six days because the word used for "day" is the Hebrew word "Yom", which can mean long periods of time.

7. Why is it important that we take time to think about our origin story? How does what we heard in Chris' message shape our understanding of God? How does it impact how we view our own identity? How does it impact how we relate to others?

Your Next Steps are: 1) Take some time seriously considering the story you're living into. Think about it. Look at the people and content you are listening to/read who feed your mind. Consider how you view the people with whom you interact regularly. As you evaluate the story you're living into, compare it to our origin story that God gives us in Genesis 1. What does this tell you about who you believe God is, who you believe you are, and what you think of the people He has created? Where you see a disconnect between your story and the story God has for us, will you choose to take God at His word and give up your story for His?