



## The B-I-B-L-E

### Week two - "The Beginning"

#### Genesis 1 and Genesis 3:21

**Bottom line: Creation and redemption both took root "in the beginning."**

1. **Read Genesis 1:1.**

What do you think about when you read this sentence? Have you or someone you know tried to explore faith by using "In the beginning" as a starting point? What obstacles come with that approach?

2. In Genesis, Moses is not trying to explain *how* God created the heavens and the earth. Moses is making the case *that* God (not the gods) created the universe. How does this distinction change the way someone can approach reading Genesis?
3. Do you see anything in nature or life that supports the idea God created the universe with purpose and intent? What would change if you embraced the idea that everyone is here on purpose for a purpose?
4. Many civilizations had creation stories that supported the idea that the human race was an afterthought of the gods. Consequently, individuals had no rights, hope, or intrinsic value. How did those beliefs shape the cultures of that time? Do you see evidence of that kind of view now?
5. Read Genesis 3
  - When it seems like Adam and Eve so quickly make the wrong choice, why do you think God gave us free will?
  - In what ways does it seem like God had a plan to save us even before the Fall happened?
  - How does what we know about Jesus change how we understand the Fall, both the consequences and the ways God cared for Adam and Eve in the midst of it?

6. In what ways do you feel far from God right now?

7. How does understanding the Fall in light of Jesus' sacrifice change your expectations that God will redeem you?

For further reflection, please check out the BibleProject video "The Messiah" which highlights God's plan to invite us into relationship at the very beginning at <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/messiah/>

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