

SEASIDE CHURCH // SERMON NOTES

January 6 | Genesis: Introduction

SUMMARY

The book of Genesis begins with phrase, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" These words are arguably the most important ever penned because they establish two key truths, namely that *God is* and that *God creates*. They tell us that there is an eternal God who has created all that we see and know. These facts alone are worth a few cups of coffee and an afternoon of meditation! As Genesis continues, we read about the creation of the world in Genesis 1. This is where many questions and differing opinions arise. Because of that, it's important to begin with some ground rules on how to interpret and read Genesis. This introductory message to our series in Genesis focused on a reading guide for Genesis as well as some initial thoughts on Genesis 1.1. This message is crucial for understanding how we will be reading and interpreting Genesis 1-3.

GROUP QUESTIONS *(For use with your family, roommates, Community or Bible Group, or individually)*

- As we begin our study of Genesis, share something you are looking forward to studying more or a question you may have.
- Read Genesis 1.1. Discuss each word.
 - What do we learn from this verse this about God?
 - What does this teach us about everything else?
 - Why do you think the Bible begins this way?
- Why is it important to read Genesis *humbly*? Have you witnessed division among Christians around various interpretations of Genesis 1-3? Note Job 38.4-5.
- Why is it important to read Genesis 1-2 *theologically*? What pitfall can Christians fall into here?
- One of the most important things for us to do as we study Genesis 1-3 is to be aware of how we are reading these unique texts (*Read Genesis Literarily*). Pastor Rob attempted to expose how we can see them through a modern lens instead of the author's intentions using the two images of the night sky. What was the point of that illustration? How could it be compared to reading Genesis with a scientific/historic lens verses a literary one? What thoughts or questions did this bring up in your mind? (This was a lot to process so feel free to skip this section as we'll get into this some more in the coming weeks).
- How does knowing that *God Is* and that *God Creates* a comfort and foundation for your faith?

PRAYER POINT

Genesis 1.1 confronts us with God. God is inescapable and worthy of our praise. Take time to recount who God is in prayer. Take time to think about God and praise Him. Pray Psalm 73.25-26, other texts, or meditate on his self-existence and eternal nature that Genesis 1.1 communicates to us.

FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

Introduce your kids to Genesis by reading and discussing Genesis 1.1. Also, view the Bible Project Video.

RESOURCES

- The Bible Project Video's: *Genesis* and *How to read the Bible Series*.
- Keep in mind these 5 "reading guides" or lenses for Genesis.
 1. Read Genesis Humbly
 2. Read Genesis Theologically (to know God)
 3. Read Genesis Literarily (Ancient Jewish Literature)
 4. Read Genesis Eschatologically (It has the end in mind)
 5. Read Genesis Holistically (It is a part of the whole Pentateuch)
- Interpretive Statement: *Genesis 1-3 is a highly stylized literary and theological representation of pre-history written for the nation of Israel post-exodus.*

Email any questions to rob@seasidechurch.com

UPCOMING EVENTS // January 2019

NEW TO SEASIDE LUNCH

Sunday, January 20, 12:45- 1:45pm

If you are new to Seaside, this is a great first step in finding out more about our church and getting connected. We'll talk through what we do as a church and how you can get connected. This is a casual event and families/ kids are welcome. RSVP/ find more info @ seasidechurch.com/events

SEASIDE MEN'S GROUP // Becoming Godly Men in a Broken World

Saturday, January 12, 8-10 am

An open group for Seaside men meeting the second Saturday of each month in the Seaside Garage with coffee and donuts. Email Jeremy: jddaniel40@gmail.com with questions.

FINANCIAL PEACE CLASS

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 [starting January 21]

A 9-week class that will show you step-by-step how to create a budget, pay off your debt, make wise spending decisions, and save for the future. Nate and Alyssa Lawler are leading this class, utilizing material from Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.

Cost is \$100/ individual/couple however, Seaside will cover/ refund 50% of the cost if you complete all 9 weeks of the class (full need-based scholarships are available upon request). No childcare.

Interested? Email Nate @ n8lawler@gmail.com

SEASIDEYOUTH GATHERINGS

Wednesdays, 6-8pm

A community-centered group for youth [grades 6-12] to grow in character and develop healthy relationships with leaders and peers. We gather weekly at the Seaside garage, sharing dinner, playing games, having fun and learning from/ discussing the Bible.