

CREATION

Story

The story begins with God, the Holy Creator and King who came and spoke the universe into existence by His Word. His Spirit was present with all that He made. In reflection of the Creator God being good, true, and beautiful, everything He created was good, true, and beautiful. He made outer space surrounding the earth, the sky above and the sea around the earth, and the land and plants on the earth. And then He did wonderful work to fill these places. He spoke stars and planets into existence to fill space, birds and fish to fill the sky and sea, and animals to fill the land and help spread out the life and plants. And it was all beautiful and good. Then He made humanity, the crown of His creation, by breathing into them His very own life. He formed a man and woman, diverse and unified, to reflect His own image. And then He rested from His very good work. And before the man and woman did anything for Him, He graciously blessed them. In resting in their identity in Him, they then learned to work well in His creation. There was family, food, and work. The holy Creator God and King walked with them like a good Father for this first family, and as a generous King He gave them wonderful responsibility to rule the land and animals with Him in His Kingdom mission for the earth.

He placed the first humans inside a garden at the center of His creation and called this family of husband and wife to receive knowledge from Him in how to give life to everything around them. They were to make the world flourish by working and resting as they spread the glory of God and the beauty of His garden temple to the ends of the earth. They were to work like He did by being creative, making more image bearers to fill the earth, cultivating the potential of the earth, and ruling the garden and animals with understanding, good authority, and care. The relationships between God and His family, between the man and woman, and between the humans and the creation were all very good in the garden. The man and woman trusted the Word of God. Their lives were a song, full and wholly good in working, ruling, playing, and resting like God. God dwelt among them and His glory filled the garden with the humans and creation.

God was with humanity and everything was very good. – Mike Sullivan

Creation Scriptures

[Genesis 1-2](#); [Genesis 5:1-2](#); [Deuteronomy 10:14](#); [Psalms 8](#); [Psalms 19:1-7](#); [Psalms 24:1](#); [Psalms 47:6-8](#); [Psalms 74:12](#); [Psalms 90:17](#); [Psalms 148](#); [Isaiah 40:28](#); [John 1:1-5](#); [Romans 1:20](#); [Colossians 1:16](#); [Revelation 4:11](#)



Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: The Grand Story

Message: CREATION

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: October 1, 2023



Connect (30min)

*If this is your first meeting of the fall season, we recommend using the *Connect* segments from the past two guides.

*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. High-Low-Taco

Briefly share 1 Highlight, 1 Low (Challenge) and 1 Random Fact (Interesting, weird, funny) from you past week.

2. Monthly Health Check: Every month we will give opportunity for a personal health check-in.

Using a scale of 1-10 (Poor-Excellent) how is your **a. Physical Health** **b. Mental Health** **c. Spiritual Health**?

Message Discussion (45min)

1. Canvas of Creation

Creation is the canvas on which God has painted His character. – Unknown

📖 Read [Romans 1:20](#) and then answer these three questions in groups of 2-3 people.

- Why does an artist create anything?
- Think of 5 of your Favorite Things about God's Creation and share together.
- What have you learned about God's character from Creation?

2. The Grand Story - CREATION

a. Share your initial feedback on *Sunday's Message*.

What connected with you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you?

What did you learn? Which wonders and questions did it leave you with?

b. 📖 Read [Genesis 1](#) as a group.

{🎥 Optional Video: [Genesis 1- The Bible Project](#) (5min)}

i. Using just 1 or 2 words – what is your initial reaction/response to this story?

c. 📖 Read [Genesis 1:26-27](#) as a group.

i. What do you learn about God here?

ii. What do you learn about humanity? Who are we made like? What purpose and job are we given by God?

3. Our Story

a. 📖 Read [Psalm 139:13-16](#) and [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)

i. What do you learn about God here? ii. What do you learn about yourself (and others)?

ii. Why did God create you, and what did He create you for?

b. God created us as *human beings*, but we often live as *human doings*.

i. What happens to us when we live as human doings? Discuss

ii. What happens with our relationship with God and others when we focus on living as *human beings*?

4. **“In the beginning, God created...”** establishes that God wrote *The Grand Story*, giving us insight (revelation) into who He is.
- Do you remember the three attributes Shawn shared about God?
{God is **powerful** (sovereign), **wise** (all knowing) and **good** (loving)}
 - Why is it important for us to understand these attributes of God to understand *The Grand Story* of Scripture properly? How would the story be different if God wasn't these things? Discuss.

5. **Engage The Story**

- What is one way that you can engage and celebrate your Creator through His Creation this week?
- Believing that God created us first for relationship with Him through faith, why do we need to continue to read His Word and believe Him daily? How does this empower our spiritual growth?
- 📖 Check out these verses on *Creation* in your time with Jesus this week: www.openbible.info/topics/creation
[Genesis 1-2](#); [Genesis 5:1-2](#); [Deuteronomy 10:14](#); [Psalm 8](#); [Psalm 19:1-7](#); [Psalm 24:1](#); [Psalm 47:6-8](#); [Psalm 74:12](#); [Psalm 90:17](#); [Psalm 148](#); [Isaiah 40:28](#); [John 1:1-5](#); [Romans 1:20](#) ; [Colossians 1:16](#); [Revelation 4:11](#)

Prayer (15min)

*Share and pray as a large group or break into smaller groups (Men/Women or groups of 3-4).

P.R.A.Y.

📖 **Read: Psalm 8.** Have one of the group members read this psalm for the group.

>> **In response to the discussion and scripture – how can we pray for you (personally)?**

God's Power – Provision – Protection – Presence – Peace

🙏 **Pray:** Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Time & transition to each component.

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| -- <u>P</u> ause (be still & listen. 2min) | -- <u>R</u> ejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min) |
| -- <u>A</u> sk (invite & request. 4min) | -- <u>Y</u> es (surrender & trust. 2min) |

