



Connect Discussion Guide
2.7.21 Message | Chuck Sackett | Genesis 1:1-2:3

We respond to creation by worshiping the Creator.

Key Scriptures:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...

- Genesis 1:1–2

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- Genesis 1:27–31

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

- Genesis 2:4

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

*In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.*

- Psalm 95:1–5

*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.*

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

- Psalm 33:6–8

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!*

- Psalm 150:1–2

Message Highlights:

- Genesis chapters 1-2 point us to the Creator, not the creation.
- What you revere you resemble, either for ruin or for restoration (GK Beale).
- Reading the creation story in Genesis as an explanation of origins distracts us from its true purpose.
- Our response to creation is to worship the Creator.
- Genesis 1-2 persuade us to be on mission for the Creator.

Conversation Starter:

- If you were given one day completely free of personal and professional demands, what is one way you would choose to creatively spend your time communing with God?

Discuss the Message:

1. Worship is continuous communion with the Lord; it is not something that we come to partake in on Sundays and then leave at a building. What disciplines do you already engage in or do you want to adopt that help you to be in constant communion with God?
2. We become like what we worship; if you take an honest look at what you revere, are the things you hold high in your life restoring you toward Christ or pulling you away?
3. Genesis 1-2 are meant to point us to the Creator, not merely the creation itself. How does approaching this text from that perspective shift your appreciation for these chapters?
4. Psalm 95 celebrates the joy of praising our Creator, and verse 4 illustrates the wonder of his power; "In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also." Pick 2 or 3 Psalms to read through, and keep a lookout for verses that illustrate worship as the appropriate response to our Creator.
5. What does it look like to shift from simply reading and noticing the splendor of God's creative attributes to truly praising God? How do the excerpts from the Psalms Chuck shared guide you in your response?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, our God and Lord, Almighty Creator, we are in awe of you and the world you have given us. We pray that you would give us eyes to see your majesty as we reflect on the beauty of creation. We embrace the invitation to worship you that the story of Genesis provides. Forgive us for the times we have approached your Word as if you owed us answers and explanations. Father, we commit to recognizing your sovereignty over all that you have made, including our everyday lives. Empower us, by your Spirit, to live out the mission in your world for which you have created us. Amen.