

God-Made – Genesis 1 – Week 1 – Genesis 1:1-5

Genesis 1:1-5: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

INTRO to Series: Genesis 1 describes God’s work of speaking and forming all of creation, including our own existence. As we revisit the story of creation in Genesis and beyond, we will discover countless ways the Bible points us to the wonder of God’s good creation, made by His powerful word. We’ll also discuss each week some helpful practices to help us pull away from the intense draw of our technology and media and find space again for the goodness of God.

INTRO to **Genesis 1:1-5:** On the first of the seven days of creation, Genesis describes God creating light to shine into the darkness.

-Key Thought for Week 1: God’s creation is filled with the light of His glory, goodness, and truth.

-Screens/Tech/Media Tip for Week 1: Try to start your mornings without scrolling on your phone as the first thing. Instead, go to your Bible first, step outside, look out a window, or give your attention to something living first. Before going to bed, you can set your phone to only essential notifications (i.e. texts or calls from family). If you use your phone as your wakeup alarm, snooze, or silence it without unlocking your phone.

I. God’s creation is filled with the light of His glory.

vs. 1: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

-Creation is placed “in the beginning,” and God (*Elohim*) is not explained in any way. God is assumed both before and during creation, for He has no beginning or end.

-The Hebrew word for create (*bara*’) is only ever used for God. Humans can give birth, humans can build, humans can produce, but **only** God can create.

-From the very first verse of the Bible it is clear—there is no one like our God!

II. God’s creation is filled with the light of His goodness.

vs. 2: *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

-Before creation, not only was the earth was not formed yet, but there was no pre-existent matter of any kind. Early Christians described creation as *ex-nihilo*, which is Latin for “out of nothing.”

-The darkness described in this verse is best understood as the absence of light before God spoke light into existence.

-Though we often think of God the Father as Creator, God the Spirit (**vs. 2b**) and God the Son were there! In fact, **John 1:1-5** (see below) uses the same language as **Genesis 1** to proclaim that everything God-Made was created through Christ the Son.

-The “deep” and the “waters” are words that describe the foundational elements of the universe and the earth.

-vs. 3-4: *And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*

-From the first day of creation on, starting with light, God proclaimed that all He has made is good.

-The light God created on the first day is different than the light which comes from the sun, moon, and stars (see **Isaiah 30:26** and **Psalms 104:2** below). This is the light of His divine goodness that shines in the darkness; the light of His kingdom advancing throughout all of creation.

III. God’s creation is filled with the light of His truth.

-vs. 5: *God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.*

-From the very beginning, God gave definition to all that He made.

-So that we might understand the light of God’s truth in creation and beyond, Scripture tells us that God Himself is light. Those who walk in His truth “walk in the light as He is in the light.” (1 **John 1:5-7** below).

-Think about all the ways light is used throughout Scripture – life, holiness, righteousness, justice, truth, purity, joy, salvation, and God’s presence!

***Our challenge for these next seven weeks is to retrain our minds and bodies by developing daily practices to spend more time looking to God and encountering all that He and spend less time looking down at the artificial and our devices!

Other Scriptures Referenced:

John 1:1-5: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Isaiah 30:26: *The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.*

Psalms 104:2: *The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent.*

1 John 1:5-7: *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 2:8: *At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-“God first created, then put things in order; like an architect lays a foundation first and then begins to layout the building’s parts.” –Ambrose

-“The constant thing in our universe isn’t space or the flow of time but the speed of light. And everything else in the universe has no choice but to adjust itself to maintain light in its preeminent position.” –Marcus Chown (cosmologist)