

# 1.1

SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING

# CREATION OF THE WORLD

## **TRUTH ABOUT GOD**///

God desires to have a relationship with humanity.

### **SERIES AIM**

God was intentional about His creation and the purpose it would serve, and the same can be said for the way He created you and me. God loves us and made us to thrive and live according to His perfect will.

### **BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

Genesis 2:1-9, 18-25

### **LESSON BIG IDEA**

I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

## **WHERE DO WE BEGIN?**///

Throughout the work of Creation and into the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, we see that God desires a close relationship with His creation. He put so much detail and care into not only creating humanity, but also in creating the world that we would live in and enjoy. He showed through nature that He cares about the smallest of details, resulting in order and structure. He is an intentional God.

Knowing this truth can enhance our perspective on our relationship with God. Instead of just thinking of Him as a distant, uncaring God, Creation proves that He is close and concerned about everything we do and everything that happens to us. The Bible says that if He cares that birds are fed, how much more important are we to God than birds that He would care about us? (Matthew 6:25-26). He wants us to know that we do not have to worry because He is close and He cares.



## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Have you felt Jesus this week? When?

/// What is it like to hear the voice of God?

/// What kind of things might be preventing you from hearing God speak to you?

/// What is God's will for your life this week, and who is He asking you to reach?

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE *///*

## *CREATED FOR A PURPOSE*

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

#### Read Psalm 23.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23 is a constant reminder of God's unchanging feelings toward us. He is our shepherd, protector, and healer. God created us, not so that we would have hard and painful lives, but for the purpose of cultivating a beautiful life with Him here on Earth. Sometimes it feels like life is more challenging than it is enjoyable, but the psalmist is telling us that, in those moments, if we seek God, He will show us how we can find peace and joy in the pain around us. A life in relationship with God is a blessed life; we just need to take time to meet with Him.

**Jr. High *///* Make a list of some words and phrases that describe God.**

**Sr. High *///* Make a list of some difficult things you have been going through that you need God's help with.**

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

#### Read Genesis 2:8.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

At a glance, this verse seems to be just a statement of fact. God put a man in a garden that He planted. But if we think about it critically, we gain deeper understanding of God's intention for His creation. Adam was not created and then dropped into a desert; he wasn't created and placed in a stark, empty space. Adam was made by God and placed in a position where God knew Adam would grow and thrive. When you think of where you are in life and what you have, just remember that He has given you everything you need to thrive, so long as you stay connected to Him and His plan.

**Jr. High *///* Think about why God has placed you in your specific town, church, or school.**

**Sr. High *///* Write down what you're doing to follow God's plan and help the Kingdom.**

## CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### Read Genesis 1:28.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

What a wonderful verse! God's intentions for you and me are on full display. God was telling Adam and Eve that He wanted them to live fulfilling lives. So many times we are convinced that in following God's will for our lives, we won't enjoy ourselves and that we won't get to do the things we want to do. But God is clear in this verse that His will for our lives will be exciting and fulfilling; He will give us the joys of love, family, and purpose. We are children of God, and it is in that identity that God has given us great power and the ability to make the most of this life.

**Jr. High ///** What are some things you enjoy doing that either give God praise or allow you to see God's creation?

**Sr. High ///** Why is it important to know who you are before you choose your job, spouse, and so on?

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

#### Read Genesis 3:6-21.

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

We find Adam and Eve in a very bad place in this passage: defeated and covered in the shame of the very first sin. They had no defense for what they had done, and they were punished for their disobedience. But in all of this, we find a ray of hope in the way that God dealt with them. God could have killed them, perhaps should have killed them, but instead He spared their lives and even gave them clothing so that they would not be unclothed, cold, and ashamed. Even in our mistakes, God has mercy on us and provides us the very things we need to survive the situation that we caused. Even when we fail Him, God still loves us.

**Jr. High ///** Write on a note card or piece of paper about all the things that God has given you or your family.

**Sr. High ///** Think of a time God gave you exactly what you needed exactly when you needed it. What is it like to know that God is looking out for you?

## CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

#### Read Genesis 2:18.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

God saw Adam's needs even before Adam knew them. This should be a comforting reminder for us, especially when life doesn't work out exactly how we think it should. Maybe we didn't get to go on that cool summer trip, maybe our crush didn't text us back, or maybe we just feel like life isn't giving us any breaks lately. The truth is, maybe we didn't get that job because it would have been a bad environment, and maybe our crush just wasn't a good fit. Life is full of maybes, but only God knows for certain exactly what we need. The great news is, that He wants to give us everything we need for a better life.

**Jr. High /// Think about a time that you found or were given something without you having to ask for it.**

**Sr. High /// Have you ever dealt with a breakup, not getting a job, or missing out on something you thought you needed and deserved? Write down some questions you had in that disappointment.**

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

#### Read Genesis 3:22-24.

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

This passage marks a really important moment—the moment God made it clear that humanity had gained understanding of what is good and what is evil. Suddenly, Adam and Eve—and us now by extension—didn't have the excuse anymore that they didn't know what they were doing was wrong. But just as important is God's concern that Adam and Eve would eat of the tree of life and live forever in their sinful and separated state. Just as Jesus made a plan for Adam and Eve, now Jesus provides us with everlasting life. We no longer have to live in a sinful state, separated from Him because we can respond to Jesus' gracious plan of salvation. The beautiful thing with God is even when we fail Him and suffer the consequences, He often provides us with the solution to our consequences before we can even ask for help. If we will follow Jesus and obey His commands, we can—find happiness in eternal life with Him.

**Jr. High /// Write what you think eternal life will be like. Ask a parent, guardian, or teacher if you need help.**

**Sr. High /// Write down who you are most looking forward to meeting in eternity. Also, list some questions or topics that you would ask about if you were to meet that person.**

