

Session 1: Beginnings

Scripture questions:

Genesis 1:1-25

What patterns do you see in the way the creation story is told?

What significance exists in these patterns of creation?

Do you think Genesis tries to explain, or just defend, God's existence?

Genesis 1:26-27

Genesis 2:18-25

What does it mean to be made in the “image” of God, and in His “likeness?”

How is the creation of humanity different from the rest of creation?

Is Adam complete without Eve? Are we complete without others?

What do you think God means when He tells Adam & Eve that they are to rule over the rest of creation?

Does God give Adam and Eve any responsibilities? What is the relationship between humans and creation according to this passage?

In Module 1, we will explore the first five books of the Bible, also known as **the Pentateuch**:

- **Genesis:** The story of creation and the fathers of our faith.
- **Exodus:** How God delivered His people from slavery and His covenant with the people.
- **Leviticus:** God's covenant with Israel.
- **Numbers:** The story of God's people, who wandered for 40 years.
- **Deuteronomy:** Moses' final words to his people.

The stories we will study in Module 1 are important because they not only tell us about our **origins**, but they also help us understand something about the **character of God, who we are**, and the **nature of the world around us**.

God's Creation

- God "spoke" or "said" things into existence.
- The latin word "ex nihilo" means that God created something out of nothing.
- God creates goodness and perfection. It is our sin that corrupts the goodness that God creates.

The Bible says we, not the rest of creation, were made in the image of God. God breathed life into us. He created us in His image, and we reflect Him in some way. This, in accordance with the creation of Eve, shows us that we were created for community.

We were told to rule over creation, which carries great responsibility. These sections of Genesis talk not only about creation, but tell us about God's power and love.

Application Questions:

If we say that God is the source of creation, and believe that He is omnipotent (all powerful), how does this affect how we relate to God?

If God continually affirms creation as “good,” then does our sin destroy the goodness that God created? How do we understand the reality of both God creating good and the way we sin and create evil?

If creation is good and we are called to have dominion or responsibility for the physical world, how does that direct our actions? How do we express our “dominion” over the earth?

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