

THE STORY OF GOD

“In the Beginning”- Genesis 1-2
September 20th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Genesis 1-2

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. The Bible begins with the words, “In the beginning...”. What do those words mean- the beginning of what?
2. Christians believe that God has always existed as a perfect community as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Why would a God who needs nothing choose to create anything?
3. The first 5 days of creation are described and then God announces his creation “good”. Why does God say that his creation is good? Is he just saying it is good in general, or specifically good for mankind?
4. Genesis 1:26 describes God’s creation of the man and gives us several of the central themes of all of Scripture and this story that we are all a part of. Describe the themes that we see in the rest of Scripture that these phrases introduce:
 - “Then God said, “Let us...”
 - “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
 - And let them have dominion... over all the earth.”
5. Man was created on day 6, and day 7 was a day of rest. What does this tell you about God’s desire for us as his people as it regards work and rest? What is the purpose of the sabbath?
6. Read Genesis 2:15-17. What command did God place on the man and woman? Why did God leave the tree there, fully aware of the fallout of their disobedience on all of the world and each of us?

“God intended that people would bear his imprint, and even rule the world. They would reflect his identity and represent him to all of creation.”

-Mike Breen

NEXT STEPS

- Genesis 1-2 remind us of God’s intention for us, as it introduces us to the two primary themes of Scripture: Covenant (We were made to be one with God) and Kingdom (We were made to express God’s Kingship on the earth). Do you see those two themes present in your story- enjoying both a relationship with God (Covenant), and fulfilling your responsibility to God (Kingdom)?
- You were created in the Image of God. How does this impact your view of yourself?
- There is an order to God’s creation that we must recognize follow: Covenant before Kingdom, Relationship before Responsibility, Rest before Work. Is that true of your life? Do you find your soul at rest? Why or Why not? Do you find yourself exhausted, and resting from your work -or- do you find yourself working from your rest? Do you understand the difference?