



# 01

GENESIS 1:1-5,26-2:3

## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



### THIS WEEK'S focus

Do you ever look around and think, “Where did this all come from?” The way the world started matters, because the beginning of a thing helps us understand it better. If a messy craft was made just for you by your baby sister, you probably won’t think it belongs in the trash. If you know a car was built to run with gasoline, you won’t fill its tank with orange juice. The word Genesis means “beginning.” This book offers us insight into the beginning of the world, which helps us better understand the world. Here’s the most important part: God created the world and everything in it—including humans, who were made in His likeness.



### CENTRAL truth

God created the world and everything in it—  
including humans.



EXPLORE

# scripture

GENESIS 1:1-5,26-2:3

## GENESIS 1:1-5

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. **3** Then God said, “Let there be light,” and

there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

## GENESIS 1:26-31

**26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” **27** So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. **28** God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” **29** God also said,

“Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, **30** for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. **31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

## GENESIS 2:1-3

**1** So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. **2** On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from

all his work that he had done. **3** God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE GENESIS 1:1

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# GENESIS 1:1-8

## DWELL

The Bible starts out with a very memorable string of words: “In the beginning, God . . .” We see that the earth was intentionally birthed by a life-giving and powerful being who gives purpose to everything He designs. The original audience—Israelites who had been freed from Egyptian rule—was familiar with a culture that collected gods. There were thousands of gods in Egypt, from the sun god to the god of the sky to the god of fertility.

← How might this creation narrative challenge the way the Israelites thought about God (or gods)?

→ How might it challenge you to think differently about God from the way our culture teaches you to think?

## MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out Genesis 1:1 on a piece of paper. Then, “take a picture” of it with your mind and try to say the verse to yourself a few times without looking.

## PRAY

Ask God to increase your faith as you dig into the creation narrative this week. You may want to borrow words from Hebrews 11:3 for your prayer.

day 2

# GENESIS 1:9-19

## DWELL

There's a moment in today's text that's easy to overlook: the second part of verse 14. Go back and read it. Essentially, we see that God created time! The shape of our days and years was in God's mind back during this particular day of creation. Time can feel like something overwhelming to us—it moves too fast; it moves too slow; it holds unexpected change; it holds too much of the same old thing. That's why it's wonderful to remember that God is not bound by time—in fact, He is the One who created and bound time in the first place.

↓ Why do you think time is such an overwhelming thing for human beings?

↻ The next time you feel anxious about time, how can this passage help you pray?

## MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 1:1 on a note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to read it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

## PRAY

Praise God for being bigger than time itself. Tell Him about things in the past, present, or future that cause you worry or pain, and ask Him to give you a greater perspective about who He is.

day 3

# GENESIS 1:20-25

## DWELL

Throughout the creation narrative, we hear this refrain: "And God saw that it was good." In a culture where we can just as easily say "pizza is good" as "God is good," it can be hard to pin down the meaning of the word "good." In Genesis, it refers to excellence. In other words, God is good at making stuff. Everything He made was made well.

↻ Where do you see evidence of excellence in this week's Scripture?

↑ How does this inform your view of God and how He works?

## MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words of Genesis 1:1, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but when something is weird, it helps us remember!

## PRAY

Praise God for His ability to create and to create with excellence! Invite Him to show you aspects of His creation around you that you might have overlooked.

day 4

# GENESIS 1:26-31

## DWELL

It's easy to feel overly important or completely unimportant. But the manner in which God created humanity helps us put ourselves in proper perspective. He is God, our powerful Creator, and this should humble us. Yet He created us to be like Him in some ways, and this gives us honor. God made us—something we're tempted to forget when we feel self-made! And God made us with dignity—something we're tempted to forget when we feel ashamed. We can hold these both in tension.



In your own words, describe the humility and honor of being a human being.



How does this challenge the way you view and treat others?

## MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of Genesis 1:1 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at these letters.

## PRAY

Praise God for making you! You may want to borrow the words from Psalm 139:13-16 to incorporate into your prayers.

day 5

# GENESIS 2:1-4

## DWELL

On the sixth day of creation, God called His creation “very good,” and then Genesis 2:1 tells us that He was finished. Humanity was the big finale! Then, after creating all of this excellence, God rested. Just as He separated the waters from the land, He separated the seventh day of the week from the other six days. This day was holy (which means “set apart”), and God modeled something else excellent for us: rest.



God doesn't need rest; God has no needs! So why did He rest?

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What role do you think rest should play in your life?

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## MEMORIZE

Tell a friend or family member that your memory verse this week is Genesis 1:1, and explain what it means. Then, invite that person to randomly quiz you on the verse at some point today.

## PRAY

Ask God to help you better understand rest and how you can incorporate it into your life. Trust Him because He is the One who has shaped you and your days.

