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**THE BEGINNING**

**Story:** Creation

**Scriptures to study:** Genesis 1-2, John 1

This discussion is based on the Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship study “Genesis”, available at https://leadmin.org/genesis.

Genesis begins with the story of creation. The Bible teaches that God’s creation was *creatio ex nihilo,* which means it came from nothing. This is a key teaching of the Christian faith. Everything about the way we view existence is driven by the belief that it was created by God through a divine act. The first four words of the Bible, “In the beginning, God…” sets the ground rule not only for the Bible, but for everything else to follow. Think about it: If God made it, then it is His and He sets the rules. If God did not make it, then all bets are off. Through the account of creation, God is teaching us not only about our world, but about Himself:

**God’s Name.** Genesis tells us as much about God as about His creation. The Hebrew word *Elohim* is used 24 times in Genesis 1-2. This is the plural word for God, indicating that all of the Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—were present and participated in creation. This teaching is echoed in the New Testament in John 1, which reminds us that Christ Himself was a participant in the creation. Then in Genesis 2:4 we see God called by the Hebrew name for LORD (*Yahweh*), used when indicating His relationship with His people. In this we learn that *God’s Name is important.*

**God’s Word.** In Genesis 1 we see the power of God’s Word. Eight times we read, “Then God said, let…” and creation manifested from His words. What God says sets actions into motion. Throughout Genesis 1 we read that God *created* or God *made.* We should be in awe at the power of God displayed in creation. Biblical creation is not compatible with the belief that the world just happened through an extended, naturalistic, and chance process over many billions of years. God intentionally *spoke creation* into existence.

**God’s goodness.** Seven times in Genesis 1 we read, “God saw that it was good.” The Bible teaches that creation is not a neutral and self-serving “mother nature”. It is God’s goodness made real. God’s creation was complete—nothing was lacking. Everything in it, including rest, relationships, enjoyment, began as completely good. It was good because God made it. God defines and determines what is good. God Himself is good.



Use one of these to get the group talking about today’s topic:

* Ever work for a start-up or begin a business? What was it like? What did you enjoy about the process?
* What is something positive that you started doing most recently? When and why did you decide to start it?
* Do you like to tinker with cars, motorcycles, the dishwasher? How does knowing how something works or how it is made affect your understanding of it?
* Is it more enjoyable for you to start something or to finish it? Why?



Go in-depth with these questions. Based on your available time, choose 3-4 that you believe are most thought-provoking:

* Read Genesis 1:1-31. Note each time you see that *God created* or *God made.* What does this teach us about the power of God? Why do you believe this is true?
* Why do you think God chose to use words (His voice) to bring about creation? What does this teach us about God’s Word?
* Does God using words to create the world add any extra weight to His Word, the Bible? Why or why not?
* Go back and note each time you read *God saw that it was good.* What does this say about God’s intent with creation? Is it all still good today? Why or why not?
* Read Genesis 2:1-3. What is significant about God taking a rest after He finished creation? Did God need to rest? Why do you think He rested?
* Read Psalm 19:1. What does creation teach us about God Himself?
* Read Nehemiah 9:6 and Colossians 1:16. What is God’s position or authority with respect to His creation?
* If God made the world, what authority do you think He has over it?
* How should we react or respond to Genesis 1 as a leader?



* If God made everything, how does that affect your view of life and work? Is there a purpose or intent for your life that is bigger than you?
* How can God’s intent for good be reflected in your life and work this week? Where can you do good in your work, and through relationships?
* What responsibility comes with someone who is in authority? How can you better steward those areas in marriage, home and work where you are “in charge”?



• Commentary on Genesis 1: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/genesis/1.html>

• What does Genesis 1 mean? <https://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/1/Genesis-chapter-1.html>

• *Study Guide for Genesis 1* by Chuck Smith: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/smith_chuck/StudyGuides_Genesis/Genesis.cfm>

• Precept outline and commentary on Genesis 1: <https://www.preceptaustin.org/genesis-1-commentary>

• *Genesis 1-11: Creation, Sin, and the Nature of God* by John MacArthur: <https://churchsource.com/products/genesis-1-to-11-creation-sin-and-the-nature-of-god>

• *Exalting Jesus in Genesis* by Phillip Bethancourt: <https://www.amazon.com/Exalting-Genesis-Christ-Centered-Exposition-Commentary/dp/0805496556/>

• *Genesis: A 12 Week Study* by Mitchell M. Kim: <https://www.amazon.com/Genesis-12-Week-Study-Knowing-Bible/dp/1433535017>

• *BibleProject Guides: Book of Genesis:* <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-genesis/>

**More ways to apply “The Beginning” to your life and leadership:**

• Is God in charge of your life and leadership? In light of Genesis 1, clarify your position with respect to God in terms of His authority over you and over His creation?

• How do you go about starting something or making something in life or work? Is there any aspect of this that you should adjust in light of Genesis 1?

• Of our total of 10,000 years of recorded history, about half of that (5,000 years) is contained in the book of Genesis. Consider studying this Bible book at length.

• God’s intent was for creation to be good. How can you add a sense of goodness to your leadership in all facets—marriage, family, home, work, community? Are you doing good things for those around you?

• Consider how your business or company might be a Gospel influence with your employees, customers or in your community.

• Get involved in a Bible study or small group through your church.