GENESIS: THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS · STUDY NOTES

Study 1: In the beginning, God

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

📖 **Before you start: read Genesis 1:1–2:3.** Read it in your own Bible, all the way through, before the videos. Then in this study we go through it together, a few verses at a time. (About 5 minutes.)

PART 1

In the beginning

Genesis 1:1–2

These two verses are the foundation of everything else in the Bible. If we understand them, we understand a great deal about God, about the world, and about ourselves. So we take them one phrase at a time.

1 **Read Genesis 1:1–2**

Write down the three things verse 2 says about the earth.

1. "In the beginning God." The Bible's first words take us back to the beginning of time itself. Before there was space or matter or time, God was there. Genesis is a book of beginnings, but there is one thing in it that has no beginning: God Himself. He always was, and He always will be.

2 **Read Psalm 90:2**

Was God there before the mountains and the earth were made? For how long is He God?

2. God needs nothing. Because God was there before anything else, He did not need anything else. He did not make the world because He was lonely or lacked something. In Athens, Paul spoke to people who thought their gods needed houses, gifts and food. The true God is not served "as if He needed anything". It is the other way round: He gives everyone life and breath and everything else. So everything God gives, He gives freely, out of His own goodness and for His own glory.

3 **Read Acts 17:24–25**

Does God need anything from us? What does He give to everyone?

3. "God created." In the Old Testament this word for "create" is used only with God as the one who does it. A carpenter makes a table out of wood that is already there. God did not shape something that was already there: before verse 1 there was nothing, except God. He made everything out of nothing, by His word.

4 **Read Hebrews 11:3**

How was the universe made? How do we know this?

No human being was there to watch. We know because God, who was there and who cannot lie, has told us. And the God who "calls into being what does not yet exist" is the same God who later gave Abraham and Sarah a son when they were far too old to have children. The God of creation is the God of the promise.

See also: Romans 4:17.

4. "The heavens and the earth." This is the Bible's way of saying "everything", seen and unseen. And so God is not part of the world. He is not the sun, the stars, the sea or nature itself, as many of the peoples around Israel believed. Everything that is not God was made by God, and so He alone is to be worshipped.

5 **Read Nehemiah 9:6**

What did God make? Who worships Him?

5. What these words rule out. In Hebrew, Genesis 1:1 is seven words, and they rule out a great deal: that there is no God; that there are many gods, each ruling a part of the world; that everything is God, or that God is just another name for nature; and that the world simply happened by chance. Notice too that the Bible does not begin by arguing that God exists. It simply tells us. The world itself shows that it did not make itself.

6 **Read Romans 1:20**

What can everyone see in the world God has made? Why are people "without excuse"?

If God made all things, He made you. You belong to Him. Your life is not yours to do with as you please: you were made by Him and for Him.

See also: Revelation 4:11.

6. "Formless and void" (verse 2). "Formless" means not yet shaped. "Void" means empty. The earth was covered with deep water, and it was dark; nothing could yet live there. It was not a ruin, but simply not yet finished, like a building site before the house goes up. In the rest of the chapter God deals with each of these: what was formless, He shapes; what was empty, He fills; and where there was darkness, He brings light.

7 **Read Isaiah 45:18**

Why did God form the earth?

See also: Jeremiah 4:23, the only other place where "formless and void" come together, describing the land after God's judgement.

7. The Spirit of God hovering. The word "hovering" is used, near the end of the books of Moses, of an eagle hovering over its young: a picture of care, and of readiness to act. This is the Holy Spirit, not a wind. Before God said a single word, His Spirit was already there over the darkness. He was not far away, and the darkness was not out of His control.

8 **Read Deuteronomy 32:11**

What does the eagle do for its young? How is the Spirit of God like this in Genesis 1:2?

8. The Word through whom all things were made. John begins his Gospel with the same words, "In the beginning", and takes us further back still: in the beginning the Word already was. A few verses later John tells us who the Word is: the Son of God, who became a man, Jesus Christ. Paul says the same: all things were created through Him and for Him, and in Him all things hold together. "Firstborn" here is a title of rank: He is the heir, the Lord over all creation, not the first thing made.

9 **Read John 1:1–3**

Who was with God in the beginning? What was made through Him?

See also: Colossians 1:15–17.

One God

In these first verses we meet God, who creates, the Spirit of God, and (as the New Testament shows us) the Word, His Son. There is only one God, and Genesis is very clear about that. But already there are hints that the one God is more than one Person. As the Bible goes on, it is made plain: one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all at work in creation.

PART 2

Six days

Genesis 1:3–25

Now we read how God gave the earth its shape and filled it, in six days. The passage is long, so read it in three sections, and stop after each one.

1. Days 1 to 3: God forms what was formless (1:3–13). God does it by separating. On the first day He separates the light from the darkness. On the second, the waters below from the waters above, with the sky between them ("expanse" simply means the open sky). On the third, He gathers the seas into their place so that the dry land appears, and He covers it with plants. And He names each thing: "day" and "night", "sky", "earth" and "seas". In the Bible, to name something is to show your authority over it.

10 **Read Genesis 1:3–13**

What does God separate on each of the first three days? What does He name?

2. Light before the sun. There is light on the first day, but the sun is not made until the fourth. Light does not depend on the sun; it depends on God. And at the very end of the Bible it will be like that again.

See also: Revelation 21:23.

3. "According to their kinds." The plants are "seed-bearing", and the trees bear "fruit with seed", each "according to its kind". God made a world that goes on: He put the seed in the fruit, so that life would carry on, year after year. Every harvest is God's faithfulness still at work.

4. Days 4 to 6: God fills what was empty (1:14–25). On the fourth day He fills the sky with lights. Moses does not even name them "sun" and "moon": he calls them "the greater light" and "the lesser light", and the stars come almost in passing. The nations around Israel worshipped sun, moon and stars as gods. Genesis puts them in their place: they are lamps God hung in the sky to serve His creatures.

11 **Read Genesis 1:14–23**

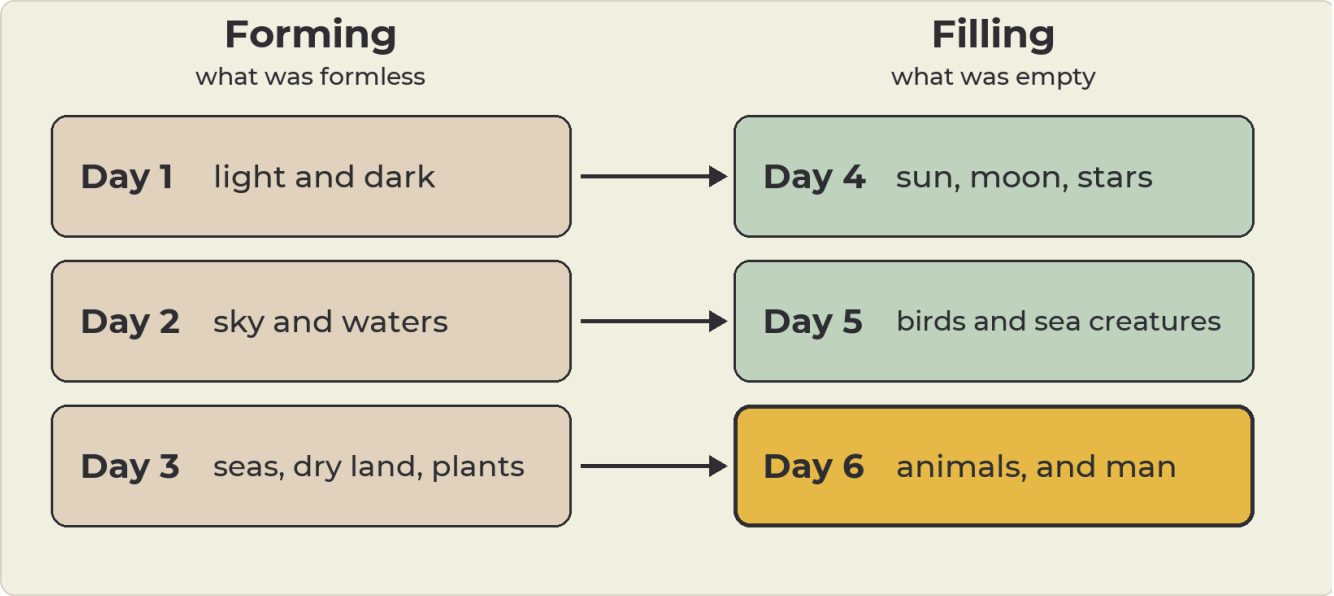
What are the lights in the sky for? What does God say to the creatures of the sea and the air?

12 **Read Deuteronomy 4:19**

What does Moses warn Israel not to do when they look at the sky?

On the fifth day God fills the seas and the sky. In the stories of the nations, the great monsters of the sea were enemies that even the gods had to fight. In Genesis there is no fight: God simply created "the great sea creatures". And for the first time in the Bible God blesses: "Be fruitful and multiply." On the sixth day He fills the land with animals of every kind, and then He makes man.

See also: Genesis 1:24–25.



Forming and filling: in days 1–3 God forms what was formless; in days 4–6 He fills what was empty, each day of filling matching a day of forming, and the work rises to its high point, man.

5. Three phrases repeated. "And God said": ten times in the chapter. God created by speaking, with no tools, helpers or trials. "And it was so": whatever God said happened, exactly as He said it. "And God saw that it was good": the verdict of the One whose standard is perfect.

13 **Read Psalm 33:6–9**

How were the heavens made? What should all the earth do?

The same voice is heard in the Gospels. One evening, crossing the Sea of Galilee, Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea, and they obeyed Him. Only one voice has ever commanded the waters like that: the voice of the Creator.

14 **Read Mark 4:39–41**

What did Jesus say to the wind and the sea? What did the disciples ask one another?

6. "It was good." Some religions teach that the material world is bad, and that the body is a prison for the soul. The Bible does not. Food, sunshine and the body itself are God's good gifts, to be received with thanks. The world as we know it now is not quite that world (chapter 3 will show what spoiled it), but its order and beauty still speak of the Creator.

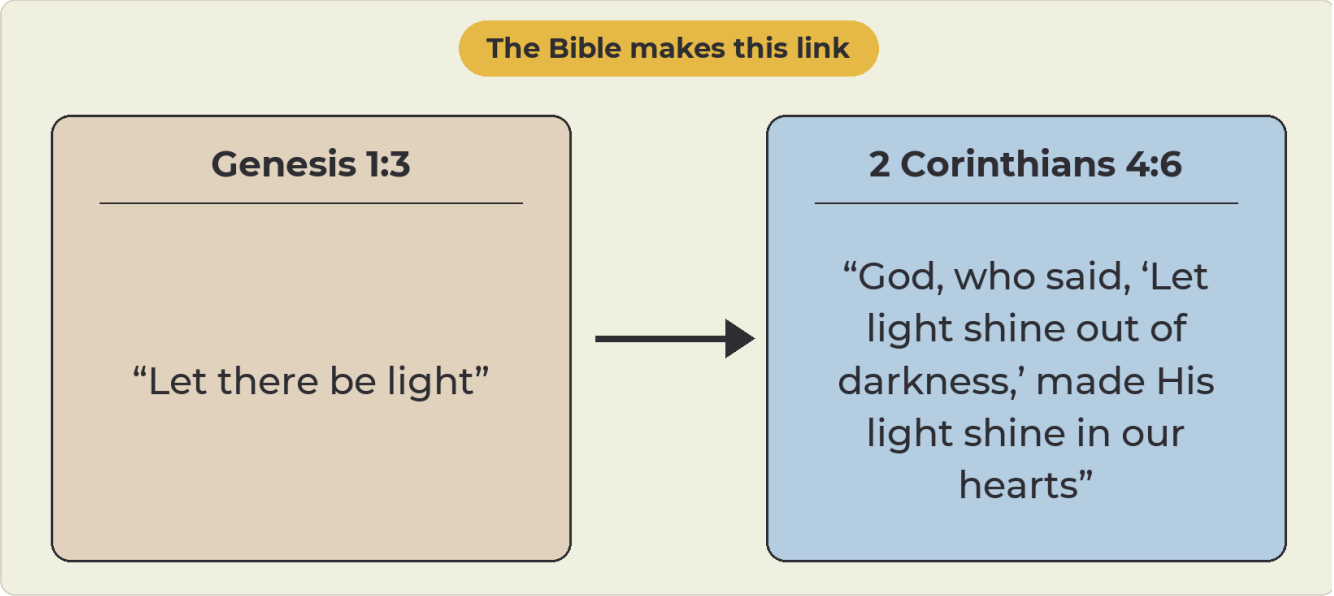
See also: Psalm 104:24.

7. Six ordinary days. Genesis 1 is not poetry. It is written as an account of what happened, and the Bible gives good reasons to read these as ordinary days. Each day is marked "there was evening, and there was morning". The days are numbered. In the same chapter, "day" is used in its ordinary sense ("seasons and days and years"). And God Himself, in the Ten Commandments, based our week on the six days of creation. Genesis is not a science textbook, and it does not answer every question we might ask. But what it tells us is true, because God, who was there, has told us.

15 **Read Exodus 20:11**

In how many days did the LORD make the heavens and the earth? What did He do on the seventh day?

8. Light in our hearts. Here the Bible itself makes a link. Paul looks back at God's first words in creation and sees in them what God does when He saves someone. The dark, formless earth could not make light for itself, and did not even ask for it. A human heart without God is like that, until God speaks and the light shines.



A link the Bible itself makes: the God who said "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3) is the God who makes His light shine in our hearts (2 Corinthians 4:6).

16 **Read 2 Corinthians 4:6**

What has God done in our hearts? In whose face do we see the glory of God?

Small beginnings

On the first day there was only light: no plants, no animals, no people yet. But "God saw that the light was good." When God begins His work in a heart, it may look very small at first. But God sees it, and He calls it good. He does not despise small beginnings.

17 **Read Isaiah 42:3**

What will the Lord's Servant, the Lord Jesus, not do to a bruised reed or a smouldering wick?

PART 3

In His image, and the seventh day

Genesis 1:26–2:3

Now we come to the high point of the creation week, the making of man, and then to the seventh day, when God rested.

1. "Let Us make man." Until now God has said, "Let there be" or "Let the earth bring forth". Now He says, "Let Us make man", as if He pauses before His last and greatest work. And for the first time God speaks to the creatures He has made: "God blessed them and said to them". Man is the creature God speaks with.

18 **Read Genesis 1:26–28**

How many times does verse 27 say that God created man? What does God say to the man and the woman?

Who is God speaking to? Not the angels: they did not create man, and man is not made in their image. And God needed no one's advice. When God says "Let Us", He is speaking within Himself: another hint that the one God is more than one Person.

See also: Isaiah 40:13–14.

2. Made in the image of God. "Image" and "likeness" mean the same thing: something that reflects or represents someone else. Man is made to reflect God as no other creature does. We are made to know God: to think, understand and choose, to hear Him speak and answer Him. Man was made good and upright. The New Testament shows what that uprightness was: in Christ, God's people are being renewed in knowledge, and made like God in true righteousness and holiness. And man has a soul that will not die.

See also: Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24.

3. A task: to rule for God. In the ancient world a king set up statues of himself in the lands he ruled, to show that they were his. God has placed His own living image in His world: man and woman, to rule the earth on His behalf. We rule the fish, the birds, the animals and the earth, never other people. We are stewards, and one day we will give account.

19 **Read Psalm 8:3–6**

What amazes David? What has God given to man?

4. "Male and female He created them." Both the man and the woman are made in God's image: neither is more truly human, and neither is more precious to God. Yet they are different, and made for each other (study 2 will show us the first marriage). God's blessing, "Be fruitful and multiply", shows that marriage and children are His good plan. And from that first man and woman the whole human race has come. There is no room in the Bible for looking down on anyone because of their race.

See also: Acts 17:26.

5. Every life precious. Even after sin came into the world, people are still made in God's image. Sin has deeply spoiled the image, but it has not wiped it out. So every human life is precious, from the womb to its last breath. That is why Christians cannot treat abortion or euthanasia as small matters. A life is not valuable because it is wanted, or useful, or strong, but because it bears God's image. And there is full forgiveness in Christ for all who come to Him.

20 **Read Genesis 9:6**

Why is taking a human life so serious?

See also: James 3:9.

21 **Read Psalm 139:13–14**

What was God doing in the womb?

6. Christ, the image of God. Adam was made in God's image; Christ is the image of the invisible God. In Him we see perfectly what God is like. And God's purpose for His people is that they will be conformed to the image of His Son. The image that sin has spoiled is being restored in all who trust in Christ, and one day it will be complete. The image of God gives us

our dignity, what we were made to be; in Christ it gives us our destiny, what God will make us to be.

See also: Colossians 1:15; 2 Corinthians 4:4.

22 **Read Romans 8:29**

Whom does God plan His people to become like?

7. Whose image? Asked about taxes, Jesus took a coin: "Whose image is this?" Caesar's. So it could be given back to Caesar. "And to God what is God's." The coin bears Caesar's image; you bear God's. So give yourself to Him.

23 **Read Mark 12:16–17**

What belongs to Caesar? What belongs to God, and why?

8. "Very good." God gives food to man and to the animals: in the stories of the nations, people had to feed their gods, but the true God feeds His creatures. And then God looked on all that He had made, and it was very good.

24 **Read Genesis 1:29–31**

What does God give for food? What is His verdict on all He has made?

9. The seventh day. The heavens and the earth were completed. The seventh day is different from the other six: there is no evening and morning to end it. God did not rest because He was tired. He stopped creating because His work was finished, and He was satisfied with it: the rest of a king who has finished his work. And He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as holy.

25 **Read Genesis 2:1–3**

What did God do on the seventh day?

See also: Isaiah 40:28.

In the Ten Commandments God based the pattern of our week on the creation week, and the day of rest was for everyone in the household, even the servants, the foreigner and the animals. Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for man, and that He is Lord even of the Sabbath.

See also: Exodus 20:8–11; Mark 2:27–28.

10. The Lord's Day. In the New Testament the Christians met on the first day of the week, the day Jesus rose from the dead, and John calls it "the Lord's day". By His resurrection Christ showed that a greater work was finished: the work of redeeming His people. So the day of rest was not done away with: it became the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, the Christian Sabbath, set apart for the worship of God and for rest from our ordinary work.

26 **Read Acts 20:7**

On which day did the Christians come together? What did they do?

11. The rest Christ gives. The weekly day of rest points to a greater rest. Whoever trusts in Christ stops trying to earn his way to God by his own work, and rests in the finished work of Christ. The Lord Jesus Himself invites you into that rest.

27 **Read Hebrews 4:9–10**

What rest is there for God's people? What do they rest from?

See also: Matthew 11:28.

Study 1 in summary

In the beginning, God made everything from nothing. In six days, by His word, He formed and filled the world, and it was very good. He made man and woman in His own image, to know Him and to rule the earth for Him. And He rested, and blessed the seventh day. All through the chapter the New Testament shows us Christ: the Word through whom all things were made, the light that shines in our hearts, the true image of God, and the One who gives us rest.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. God needs nothing from us. How does that change the way you see the good things He gives you?

2. If God made you, you belong to Him. What does that mean for how you live this week?

3. Paul says of Jesus that "all things were created through Him and for Him". What does that tell you about who He is?

4. What does the order and care of the six days tell you about God?

5. Where do you see His wisdom and His goodness in the world around you today?

6. **Has the God who said "Let there be light" made His light shine in your heart? If you are not sure, ask Him. He still speaks, and He still gives light.**

7. **If every person is made in God's image, how should that change the way you treat others, including those you find difficult?**

8. **Jesus said we are to give "to God what is God's". What would it mean for you to give yourself to Him?**

9. **How do you use the Lord's Day?**

10. **Have you entered the rest that Christ gives, by trusting in His finished work?**

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 1

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

GENESIS · STUDY 1 · MEMORY VERSE

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Genesis 1:1–2** *[1]In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [2]Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

2 **Psalm 90:2** *Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.*

3 **Acts 17:24–25** *[24]The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands. [25]Nor is He served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.*

4 **Hebrews 11:3** *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

5 **Nehemiah 9:6** *You alone are the LORD. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all things, and the host of heaven worships You.*

6 **Romans 1:20** *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse.*

7 **Isaiah 45:18** *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens—He is God; He formed the earth and fashioned it; He established it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

8 **Deuteronomy 32:11** *As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, He spread His wings to catch them and carried them on His pinions.*

9 **John 1:1–3** *[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was with God in the beginning. [3]Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.*

10 **Genesis 1:3–13** *3And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. 6And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, to separate the waters from the waters." 7So God made the expanse and separated the waters beneath it from the waters above. And it was so. 8God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. 9And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered into one place, so that the dry land may appear." And it was so. 10God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of waters He called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees, each bearing fruit with seed according to its kind." And it was so. 12The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.*

11 **Genesis 1:14–23** *14And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to distinguish between the day and the night, and let them be signs to mark the seasons and days and years. 15And let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth." And it was so. 16God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. And He made the stars as well. 17God set these lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth, 18to preside over the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. 20And God said, "Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky." 21So God created the great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters teemed according to their kinds, and every winged bird after its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.*

12 **Deuteronomy 4:19** *When you look to the heavens and see the sun and moon and stars—all the host of heaven—do not be enticed to bow down and worship what the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.*

13 **Psalm 33:6–9** *6By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the stars by the breath of His mouth. 7He piles up the waters of the sea; He puts the depths into storehouses. 8Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere Him. 9For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.*

14 **Mark 4:39–41** *39Then Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the sea. "Silence!" He commanded. "Be still!" And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm. 40"Why are you so afraid?" He asked. "Do you still have no faith?" 41Overwhelmed with fear, they asked one another, "Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"*

15 **Exodus 20:11** *For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day He rested. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.*

16 **2 Corinthians 4:6** *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

17 **Isaiah 42:3** *A bruised reed He will not break and a smoldering wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.*

18 **Genesis 1:26–28** *26Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it." 27So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth."*

19 **Psalm 8:3–6** *3When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place— 4what is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You care for him? 5You made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honor. 6You made him ruler of the works of Your hands; You have placed everything under his feet:*

20 **Genesis 9:6** *Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man his blood will be shed; for in His own image God has made mankind.*

21 **Psalm 139:13–14** *13For You formed my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. 14I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well.*

22 **Romans 8:29** *For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.*

23 **Mark 12:16–17** *16So they brought it, and He asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they answered. 17Then Jesus told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." And they marveled at Him.*

24 **Genesis 1:29–31** *29Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit contains seed. They will be yours for food. 30And to every beast of the earth and every bird of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth—everything that has the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31And God looked upon all that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

25 **Genesis 2:1–3** *1Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2And by the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on that day He rested from all His work. 3Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on that day He rested from all the work of creation that He had accomplished.*

26 **Acts 20:7** *On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Since Paul was ready to leave the next day, he talked to them and kept on speaking until midnight.*

27 **Hebrews 4:9–10** *9There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10For whoever enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 1: In the beginning, God

> **Memory verse:** “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- See from Genesis 1:1–2 that God is eternal, needs nothing, and made everything out of nothing by His word, and that the Spirit of God and the Word, His Son, were at work in creation.
- See from Genesis 1:3–25 how God formed and filled the world in six days, by His word, and that everything He made was good.
- See from Genesis 1:26–2:3 what it means to be made in God's image, why every human life is precious, and the rest God gives: the Lord's Day, and the greater rest in Christ.

Suggested timing (about 110 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer. Ask the group to read Genesis 1:1–2:3 before the meeting.
- **30 min** Part 1 video (14 min); Genesis 1:1–2, with Psalm 90, Acts 17, Hebrews 11, John 1 and Colossians 1.
- **35 min** Part 2 video (16 min); Genesis 1:3–25, with Psalm 33, Mark 4 and 2 Corinthians 4.
- **35 min** Part 3 video (16 min); Genesis 1:26–2:3, with Psalm 8, Psalm 139, Mark 12 and Hebrews 4.
- **5 min** Reflection questions. Close in prayer, thanking God as Creator.

For most groups, take one part each week. If you do, read the passage for that part aloud together before the video.

Tips

- Keep the main point in view: Genesis 1 is first of all about God. Before it tells us anything about the world or about ourselves, it tells us who God is.
- Some in your group may hold other views on the days of creation. The study gives the reasons for reading them as six ordinary days, with Exodus 20:11, and it does not discuss the age of the earth. If the question comes up, answer gently, go back to the passage and to Exodus 20:11, and do not let it take over the meeting. The heart of the chapter is the Creator.
- Part 3 names abortion and euthanasia, because every human life bears God's image. Someone in the group may carry that in their own story. Speak with care, and make sure the group hears what the study says straight after: there is full forgiveness in Christ for all who come to Him.
- When the study speaks of the Trinity in Genesis 1, it calls it a hint that the rest of the Bible makes plain. Do not claim more from Genesis 1 alone than that; let John 1 and Colossians 1 show who the Word is.
- On the Lord's Day, the study teaches that the day of rest was given at creation and became, from Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week. Ask how members use the day, not to make rules for one another, but to receive it as God's gift.
- The diagrams in these notes (forming and filling; the link between Genesis 1:3 and 2 Corinthians 4:6) are the ones in the videos. They are useful for a short recap at the start of the next meeting.