



Welcome to the May-June 2022 Small Group Study on Genesis!

In this six-session series, pastor Dr. Charlie Dates offers a big-picture view of the foundational book of Genesis, exploring the splendor of creation and the significance of God's work in the lives of flawed yet faithful men and women. And while it tells of fascinating people experiencing transformational events, Genesis continually points us back to their God and ours, the Creator. We will consider what God teaches about Himself through creation and how the lives of His people can glorify Him and further His eternal purposes.

SESSION 1

Paradise Lost

The story of creation and sin, and sin's disastrous effects on all creation

WATCH

Week 1 Video | Paradise Lost

[Session Video](#) (15 minutes)

What are your main takeaways from the video? (10 minutes)

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READ THESE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ALOUD:

Genesis 1:1–3 NIV

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Psalms 8 NIV

¹Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ²Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Matthew 8:26–27 NIV

²⁶He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. ²⁷The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

DISCUSSION

God, our purposeful Creator, is the center and foundation of all that exists and deserves our worship and praise.

Head

(15–20 minutes)

1. “In the beginning, God...”: What are the implications of a God who preexists all things?
2. “...God created the heavens and the earth”: What are the implications of a God who is the creator of all things?

Heart

(15–20 minutes)

1. Speech was an attribute of God at the beginning—an attribute that we, as humans, share. How does your use of speech align with, or fall short of, the reality that we share that capacity with Almighty God?
2. What might it mean for us to take seriously and humbly God's command that we are to rule over every living thing?
3. What encouragement can we take from the fact that the God who spoke galaxies into being also formed the first human from the dust and breathed into him the breath of life so that he "became a living soul"?

Hands

(10 minutes)

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

1. Meditate on the care and intimacy with which God created you and caused you to become a living soul. (Gen. 2:7, Psalm 139:13–18).
2. Meditate on the God who can bring order and peace to chaos in your life because he did so to the chaos of the universe. (Gen. 1:2–10, Matt. 8:26–27).

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

1. Prayerfully consider one adjustment to some aspect of your speech toward others that will better honor the God-like power you have been granted.
2. Prayerfully consider one way in which you can better honor your stewardship over God's creation in the next week.

READING PLAN

To reinforce learnings in Session 1, read the following this week at your pace or according to this suggested plan:

Day 1: The Creation of Man and Woman (*Genesis 1–2*)

Day 2: The Fall: Sin Enters the World (*Genesis 3*)

Day 3: Cain and Abel (*Genesis 4*)

Day 4: Adam's Family Line (*Genesis 5*)

Day 5: Evil Dominates the World (*Genesis 6:1–8*)