

STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: WEEK 1 5.25.14

[WARM-UP]

Do you have a LifeHouse story from this last week, especially in relation to the “Unite to Serve” weekend? Do you remember when you first started wondering where everything came from and what was the meaning of your life? How did you first answer those questions and how do they differ from what you believe now?

List out a handful of the most popular views/theories of how everything came to exist:

[DIGGING DEEPER]

This week we kicked off our series in Genesis, one of the most significant books of the Bible. It has been said that the first five words of Genesis are the most important for us to know. Why is that?

Who or what is Genesis 1:1 really about?

What are the implications that we were created by God rather than products of random chance or offspring of an alien race, etc?

Over the years, the study of origins have led people down a path of seeing faith and science as opposing forces. Is that really the case? How do Ps. 111:2 and Heb. 11:3 speak to that?

What are the “non-negotiable” beliefs of origin that are needed in order to be biblically grounded as a follower of Christ? In other words, when you think to “Major on the majors and minor on the minors”, what are the majors and what are the minors when it comes to the creation account?

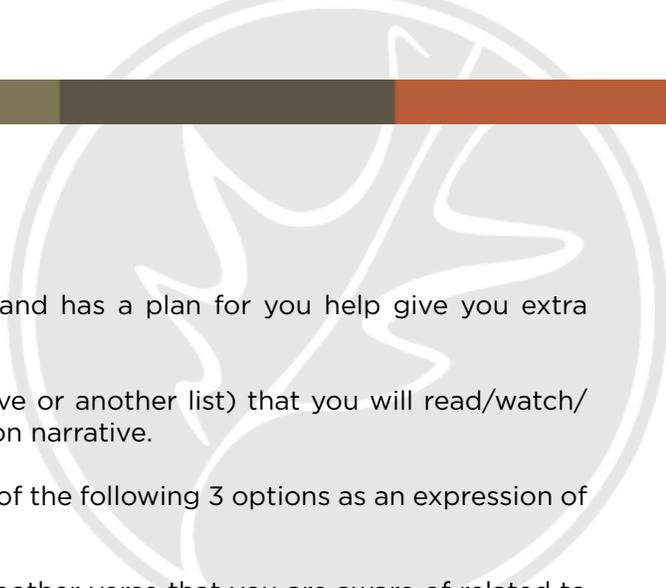
There has been much division among Christians over the years regarding the specific details of the creation account. Various theories have evolved (pun intended) specific to the Genesis narrative. What theories are you familiar with and at what point does it become unnecessary and even counterproductive to debate over these views?

What does the Creation account reveal about God and what does it reveal about us? Read through the following verses for insight: Isaiah 40:28; Rev. 4:11; Ps.8:3-4; Psalm 90:1-4; Ps. 33:6-9; Acts 17:24-28; Ps. 100:3.

A couple of good follow up Resources:

For a great introduction into Genesis, view a creative video at <http://youtu.be/KOUV7mWDI34>

Good (but not exhaustive) list of resources for further study <http://theresurgence.com/2006/07/04/resources-for-further-study-on-creation>



[LIVING IT OUT]

How can knowing that God made you, knows you, loves you and has a plan for you help give you extra encouragement, value, meaning and purpose today?

Commit to find an additional resource (either from the list above or another list) that you will read/watch/listen to in order to strengthen your understanding of the creation narrative.

Because God is Creator and has given us creative ability, do one of the following 3 options as an expression of your understanding of creation:

Creative option #1 - Take one of the verses from this study, or another verse that you are aware of related to God as Creator and you as His created beloved, and do something creative with it as a reminder of who God is and who you are (print and frame it somewhere visible, memorize it and repeat every day for the next month, write or draw it out and place it in a place where you will see it daily, etc)

Creative option #2 - Write a letter to God (on a piece of paper, in a journal, etc) capturing your thoughts about Him as Creator and you as His precious and unique creation. Place it somewhere that you can occasionally pull out and review. A variation of this exercise is to write a letter to yourself as if you were God, your Creator, letting you know how His creation of you gives you great meaning, purpose and value.

Creative option #3 - your choice. Share with us! (song, poetry, art, etc)

Close in an extended time of prayer thanking God for Who He is and what He has done as Creator.

If you have any questions or a story to share related to this topic, connect with us by emailing at: connect@cvconline.org