

## GENESIS

### Genesis 1

#### Week 1: In the Beginning

**Opening Question:** What is your greatest creation?

**You can read Genesis 1 if you want to go over it again, or you can just read the order of creation below as a reminder, but have everyone open to the passage:**

“In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And **God separated** the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God **said**, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God **made** the expanse and **separated** the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God **called** the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God **said**, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God **called** the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God **saw** that it was good. And God **said**, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God **saw** that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God **said**, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God **made** the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God **set them** in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God **saw** that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God **created** the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God **saw** that it was good. And God **blessed** them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God **said**, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God **made** the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God **saw** that it was good.

Then God **said**, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God **created** man in his own image, in the image of God he **created** him; male and female he **created** them. And God **blessed** them. And God **said** to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God **said**, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have **given** every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had **made**, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” (Genesis 1, ESV)

1. Light and darkness
2. Sky and water
3. Land, seas, vegetation
4. Sun, moon, stars
5. Fish and fowl
6. Animals and humans
7. God rested

**Tell them:** *In Genesis 1 let's take a look at all of the verbs used for describing the actions of God. What do these verbs tell us about who God is?*

**Tell them: Pastor Michael made 6 points from Genesis 1:**

1. **God can create from nothing, but humans cannot.** In Latin the term for ‘out of nothing’ is ‘Ex nihilo.’ **Ask them:** *Why is it important to understand that only God can create something ex nihilo?* **Tell them:** Let's go back and read verse 1, just verse 1. **Ask them:** *How many things can we learn about God from just looking at this one verse? (ex. God is eternal; the universe is not. Everything originates from God. He creates out of nothing.)*
2. **God is a God of process, patience, and plan.** **Pastor Michael said:** God didn't need six days, but yet he took six days. *What does the fact that God is a God of process, patience and plan tell us about Him?*
3. **God created us in His image.** In Latin the Image of God is called ‘Imago Dei.’ *What does it mean to be created in God's image?* **Pastor Michael said:** We are not God impersonators. God is Spirit and has no body like we do. It is our consciousness, our ability to process morality that is made in His image. Right now, many people are protesting the failure of our culture to see every single human in the image of God. *In what ways would you say that people or groups of people dehumanize one other?* **Pastor Michael said:** When we dehumanize *ourselves*, we remove our moral compass and that helps us dehumanize others. **Ask them:** *In what ways would you say that we even dehumanize ourselves?* **Pastor Michael answered that this way:** We dehumanize ourselves when we disconnect the wiring that makes us feel regret

and remorse for our sin. Then as we either accept or deny our anger and impatience, we can more easily hurt others. In this, we remove the Imago Dei. We remove the intrinsic holiness of being created in the image of God. We all must remember that even when someone else sins they are not an animal; they are still the image of God.

4. **Humans are to work. Ask them:** *How can we see from Genesis that humans are to work?*
5. **God is a God of rest. Ask them:** *What are the implications of God's rest on humanity?*
6. **God is triune – Father, Son and Spirit – Read John 1:1-5** - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* (John 1:1–5, ESV)
  - a. **Ask them:** *Who is ‘the Word’? What do we see the Word doing in this passage?*
  - b. **Pastor Michael said: The Word gave us life in Genesis 1. He gives us life as we believe and trust in Him, and He gave His life for us. Ask them:** *As Christ followers what do you think the implications of this giving are on us? (Jesus wants us to share our life with others.) Ask them: In what ways can we share our lives with others the way Christ shared His?*

#### **Tweetable Quotes and things to ponder as we go:**

1. Even sinners are made in the image of God. **Or** All sinners are made in the image of God, even your enemies.
2. Jesus makes you a new creature, you have no ingredients to give to the recipe.

**NOTE:** This coming Sunday we will be in Genesis 2. Pastor Michael wants us all to read Genesis chapter 2 before Sunday.