

GENESIS

Genesis 2:4-25

Week 2: "Make Your Own Dirt"

Opening Question: What food can you not eat without a corresponding food? (Ex. Peanut butter and jelly.)

Summary of the Text

Tell them: Pastor Michael gave us an outline of Genesis 2. Let's take a closer look:

1. "Nothing grows without God and water" V. 4-6

*"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created—when the Lord God made the earth and heavens. ⁵Now **no shrub** of the field had yet grown on the earth, and **no plant** of the field had yet sprouted, for the **Lord God had not caused it to rain** on the earth, and there was **no man** to cultivate the ground. ⁶**Springs would well up** from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.*

2. "Man is formed and filled with life by the breath of God." V. 7

*⁷The Lord God formed the man from the soil of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils** the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

3. "God plants an orchard in Eden." Vs. 8-9

*⁸The Lord God planted an orchard in the east, in Eden; and there **he placed the man** he had formed. ⁹The Lord God made **all kinds of trees** grow from the soil, every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food. (Now the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the orchard.)*

4. "God created the rivers." Vs. 10-14

¹⁰Now a river flows from Eden to water the orchard, and from there it divides into four headstreams. The name of the first is Pishon; it runs through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is pure; pearls and lapis lazuli are also there). The name of the second river is Gihon; it runs through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris; it runs along the east side of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

5. God gave boundaries. Vs. 15-17

^{2:15} The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for it and to maintain it. ^{2:16} Then the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat fruit from every tree of the orchard, ^{2:17} but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die."

6. "Not good..." Vs. 18-20

*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will **make a companion** for him who corresponds to him." 2:19 The Lord God **formed out of the ground every living animal** of the field and every bird of the air. He **brought them to the man** to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 2:20 So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but **for Adam no companion who corresponded** to him was found.*

7. You've got male. Vs. 21-23

So the Lord **God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep**, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man's side and closed up the place with flesh. 2:22 Then the Lord God **made a woman** from the part he had taken out of the man, and he **brought her to the man**. 2:23 Then the man said, "This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

8. A new tree. Vs. 24-25

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become **a new family**. 2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

Tell them: Pastor Michael listed four things that God gave us in this passage. Let's look at each one and see the instances of these things in scripture:

1. God gave us life. **Ask them:** *Who remembers Pastor Michael's analogy about sandcastles? What is the importance of water in forming something out of clay; or who knows the human body's composition and percentage of water content? And what fills the form with life?*
2. God gave us work. **Ask them:** *Have you ever thought that work was part of the curse of sin? How does knowing God gave man potentially tedious work (naming every animal) before his disobedience change your perspective?*
3. God gave us family. **Ask them:** *Who remembers the name of Pastor Michael's new cartoon series on Nickelodeon? (Dirt Boy and Rib Girl) What are some of the practical and spiritual reasons that God might say it's not good to be alone?*
4. God gave us boundaries. **Pastor Michael said:** "God is infinite. We are finite. Even our eternal souls have boundaries." **Ask them:** *Why do you think that God would give the first parents the boundary of not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? The ultimate goal of everything ever made is God's glory. How can the fall lead to God's glory? The ultimate result of the fall was our need for a Savior. Our need and love for Jesus brings all the glory to God. So everything serve the glorious purpose of leading us to the Savior's feet.*

Pastor Michael then showed us four things that Jesus gives us:

1. Jesus came to breathe life into our dusty lives. **Tell them:** Let's look at a passage where Jesus breathes life into our dusty lives: John 20:21-22: *"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you." And after he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."* **Ask them:** *What happened when Jesus breathed on them?*
2. Jesus gives us the new work of reconciliation. Reconciling sinners to God. **Tell them:** Let's look at 2 Corinthians 5:18: *"And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation."* **Ask them:** *In what way do you think we are to practice the ministry of reconciliation?*
3. Jesus gives us a new faith family. **Tell them:** Let's read Galatians 6:10: *"So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith."* **Pastor Michael said:** *that based on scripture the idea that blood is thicker than water is wrong. Why does this verse speak to the fact that blood is not thicker than water? (the word 'especially' is the hint)*
4. Jesus gives our lives new boundaries. **Ask them:** *What are some new boundaries you ran into when you first believed?* **Pastor Michael said** that, "If you want to follow Jesus you have to be ready and willing to give up everything." *What are you not ready or willing to give up today?* **Pastor Michael said:** "You can't pick up your cross and follow Jesus with your hands full of stuff." *How do you feel about this statement?*

Pastor Michael said, "If someone said, "You have to give up BLANK to follow Jesus, would you say okay without knowing what is in the blank before you surrender it all? If you have to know what's in the blank first you are putting boundaries in your faith that God wants to remove. God commands you to love Him with your all. He doesn't stop there, but he says because of that you will love everyone else selflessly, sacrificially, that's what a cross is; you being sacrificed. We try to gather everything up that we love and hold it to our chest like picking fruit from a tree we shouldn't pick from. We do this by cherry picking boundaries from the Bible instead of giving God a blank check.

Ask them: *How do you feel about the blank check to God for your life and the lives of everyone and everything you love?*

Tweetable Quotes and things to ponder as we go: Consider posting these throughout the week. Ponder and post:

1. Those who tire of rescuing best remember what you were rescued from.
2. You can't pick up your cross and follow Jesus with your hands full of stuff.
3. You can't have Jesus and _____.

Pastor Michael told us about a missionary family from Italy needing supplies for their two girls going to college. They have moved here with nothing but a suitcase. If you'd like to give to Emma and Micah Worthy, you can give online by selecting the "missions" tab and they will be able to buy bedding and supplies they will need for college. As of Sunday night, \$226 was received for their two girls to replace everything they left behind in Italy and Germany. Please consider what your group could contribute to welcoming them to our community.

NOTE: This coming Sunday we will be in Genesis 3. Pastor Michael wants us all to read Genesis chapter 3 before Sunday.