

GROUP DISCUSSION



Warm Up

Mutual Invitation - A Discussion Technique

Select your favorite question below. Using the discussion technique of mutual invitation, share a short (one or two sentence) response to the question you have chosen. The leader or a designated person should go first. After that, he or she then chooses another person across the room to share. Once that person has spoken, they invite another to share and so on. If a person is selected and they don't want to speak, they can simply say "pass" and proceed to invite someone else to share. Continue this until everyone has been invited. Select a second question if time permits.

- 1.) How are you feeling about being involved in a Jesus 365 group (e.g. anxious, excited, etc.)?
- 2.) What are you hoping to take away from this Jesus 365 group experience?
- 3.) What are you willing to put into this Jesus 365 group experience?
- 4.) How are you feeling about reading and studying directly from the bible?



Dig In

Q. If the opening chapters of Genesis, specifically chapters 1 - 11, serve as a narrative preface to the key themes and ideas in the rest of the Bible, what themes and ideas did you notice while you read? Can you point to any particular passages where you found them?

Key Theme	Yahweh creates by bringing order and beauty out of chaos and darkness	GEN 1
1		

The literary ordering of Genesis 1 depicts God as creating ordered environments (Days 1-3) and then filling those with corresponding inhabitants (Days 4-6) and then taking up control of the world in his rest (Day 7.)

ENVIRONMENTS	INHABITANTS
1. LIGHT (= DAY) VV. 3-5	4. LIGHTS VV. 14-19
2. DOME CEILING VV. 6-8 SKY VV. 6-7A SEAS VV. 7B	5. INHABITANTS VV. 6-8 BIRDS (SKIES) VV. 6-7A FISH (SEAS) VV. 7B
3. DRY LAND VV. 6-8 VEGETATION VV. 6-7A	6. LAND ANIMALS VV. 6-8 HUMANS VV. 6-7A
7. GOD'S REST	

Q. What does it mean for humanity to be created in the “Image of God?” (Genesis 1:26-31)

Key Theme
2

Humans are the divine image bearers.

GEN 1:26-30

GEN 2:15

The Hebrew word for “image” (tselem) literally means “statue” and usually refers to idols. You see the same word in Amos 5:26; Ezekiel 7:20; Numbers 33:52; 1 Samuel 6:5. An “image” is a physical representation that points to some other person or deity.

In Genesis this means that humans are commissioned as actual representatives of God’s rule over the creation (Genesis 1:26-30) and to steward and guard God’s good world on his behalf (Genesis 2:15).

Q. Why do you suppose God created a choice for humans by planting the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:1-24)

Q. What happens when humans attempt to define good and evil independently of God, and how does sin manifest itself throughout the first 11 chapters of Genesis? (Genesis 3:6-24)

Key Theme
3

Humans selfishness and sin lead to the fracturing of the divine-human relationship and the ruin of human relationships on all levels.

GEN 3-11

All of the stories in Genesis 3-11 offer different examples that explore the various facets of human sin and its results.

GENESIS 3, 4	GENESIS 6	GENESIS 11
SUSPICION OF GOD’S GOODNESS, SELF DECEPTION	SPIRITUAL BEINGS “THE SONS OF GOD” DEFY GOD’S GOOD ORDER	HUMAN ARROGANCE AND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD
QUEST FOR WISDOM AND GOODNESS APART FROM THE CREATOR	HUMANS BECOME MORALLY CORRUPT AND RUIN GOD’S WORLD AND EACH OTHER	NAIVE TRUST IN TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS
JEALOUSY, MURDER		
HUMANS ESTABLISH CITIES WHICH ARE CORRUPTED BY SIN AND VIOLENCE		

Q. Why did God decide to flood the earth? (Genesis 6:9-9:17)

Q. What was the sinful ambition of the people at Babel, and why did God scatter the people by confusing their language? (Genesis 11:-19)

Key Theme	Yahweh responds to human sin in two ways: He brings justice on rebellion and offers grace by promising future blessings for His world.	GEN 3-11
4		

Notice the narrative pattern at work in these chapters. Every story of human sin is met with immediate consequences along with a response of divine grace.



GEN 1-3	REBELLION ▶ LAND CURSED ▶ PROMISE OF A REDEEMER
GEN 4-5	MURDER ▶ SOCIETAL, BREAKDOWN, DEATH ▶ ENOCH & NOAH
GEN 6-8	LAND IS CORRUPTED ▶ FLOOD ▶ COVENANT WITH CREATION
GEN 9-11	TOWER OF BABYLON ▶ SCATTERING ▶ BLESSING TO ALL NATIONS

Q. Why do you think God had a plan to rescue humanity even though we were sinful and rebellious?

Key
Theme

5

Yahweh initiates his plan to rescue humanity through his covenant with the family of Abram.

GEN 12

Genesis 12:1-3 is a key moment in the unfolding of the biblical story: God responds to humanity's corruption by choosing Abraham's family as the means of restoring divine blessing to all nations.



Where's Jesus?

Q. What textual linchpin is revealed in Genesis Chapter 3? Who will crush the serpent's head?





Grow

These questions are designed to help you look at yourself, be aware and honest about who you are in light of your interaction with Scripture, and consider any appropriate actions.

Q. Based on your initial experience with the Read Scripture plan and your time in the Jesus 365 group, what do you need to do to make the most of this study?

Q. What specific invitations or challenges will this journey present to you? Do you need to make any changes in your habits, or would you like to make any new commitments before you continue with the study?

Q. What are some practical ways you can begin each day to open your heart and mind to God?

* Study synopsis, information and questions generated directly from materials provided by Reality Church SF - Year of Biblical Literacy and The Bible Project.

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