

HE SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD

MAIN POINT.

Our **good** Creator wants a relationship with us.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God created the universe by the spoken word, and everything He created reveals His glory. Jesus, the Word of God, is the perfect representation of God's glory (**Hebrews 1:3**). Jesus came to restore all of creation, including humanity, to God's original design. Jesus was there with God in the beginning, and in Him all things were created (**John 1:1**).

"EX NIHILO"—OUT OF NOTHING.

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. We encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Genesis 1:1

Genesis 2:7

EVERYTHING GOD CREATED IS GOOD

GENESIS 1:1-5

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

WE WERE CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD & OTHERS

GENESIS 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

27 So God created man
in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." 29 God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, 30 for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

GENESIS 2:7

7 Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

MAIN POINT.

Our **good** Creator wants a relationship with us.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CREATION OUT OF NOTHING

The Bible teaches that God created the universe—everything both visible and invisible—out of nothing (sometimes expressed in the Latin phrase, “**creation ex nihilo**”). This means that before God created anything, nothing else existed except God Himself. God alone is eternal—every created thing has a beginning. Therefore, the eternal God rules over all of His creation, and **He alone is worthy of worship**. Denial of this doctrine has implications for God’s sovereignty over and providence in creation. Because God created out of nothing, creation has meaning and purpose and points us to the Creator.

DISCUSSION

EVERYTHING GOD CREATED IS GOOD

GENESIS 1:1-5

- How is the way God creates different from the way we create?
- Since everything God created is good, what does this help us know about Him?
- Why should knowing God as the Creator lead us to worship Him?

WE WERE CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD & OTHERS

GENESIS 1:26-31

- Why did God create man? What was different about how God created him?
- Who was God talking to in Genesis 1:26? Why is this important?
- Why is it better to seek God with others? When have you isolated yourself?

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO LIVE LIKE YOU’RE MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE THIS WEEK?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

How can God really be good when so much is wrong in the world? How can He be good when He lets bad things happen to good people? How can God be good while wars rage on, leaving orphans in their path? It just makes no sense sometimes, right? But God is infinitely good even when things here on earth aren’t. Here’s where we get it wrong. Something horrible happens—maybe a death or a divorce or a betrayal. And we shift our eyes to the God who is supposed to be in control. We wonder where He’s at. We blame Him for not intervening, and we question His goodness. But God’s character doesn’t change based on our circumstances or the circumstances in the world. He is good despite them.



DAY ONE

GENESIS 1:1-5

You know that feeling when you do something really well? It’s a great feeling. Maybe you sang in front of a crowd and hit every note. Or maybe you scored the winning point for your team. Whatever it may be, it just feels good to know you did something well. When God finished creating the heavens and the earth along with everything in them, He then created humankind on the sixth day. At the end of the first five days, God looked at His creation and saw that “it was good.” But when He finished creating man, God looked out and saw “it was very good” (v. 31).

Do you see the difference? When God created humans in His image, He didn’t just feel good about it; He felt very good. God delights in you. You are the work of His hands. God didn’t just speak humans into existence like the rest of creation. He breathed His own breath into Adam’s lungs! Genesis 2:7 tells us once God’s breath entered Adam’s lungs, he then became a living creature. If you’ve ever doubted your worth, know that the God of all creation takes joy in you. You are His best creation—the part He wants relationship with and the only part that represents His own image.

○ **WHEN HAVE YOU DOUBTED YOUR WORTH? HOW DO THESE VERSES HELP YOU IN THIS STRUGGLE?**

○ **HOW CAN KNOWING THE WAY GOD FEELS ABOUT YOU HELP YOU WHEN YOU DOUBT YOUR WORTH?**

PRAY

GOD, HELP ME TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME AND TO REMEMBER MY WORTH COMES FROM YOU.

DAY TWO

GENESIS 2:1-3

Think back to kindergarten. Remember how they used to make you take a nap each day? Most of us fought that nap as children, but as we get older, we long for the days of getting to sleep in school. Some of us still sneak in a nap from time to time! As a culture, we struggle to rest. We struggle to slow down. We've got so much constantly fighting for our attention, especially with social media and our phones. When God created the universe in six days, He then took the seventh day to rest. But think about this for a minute: What was God resting from? He simply spoke and everything came into existence, so He wasn't physically weary from the act of creating. Perhaps God rested to pause and enjoy His creation. God rested as a model for us, and He considered it holy.

When we refuse to pause and to step away from the chaos of our lives, we miss out on so much. We miss out on recognizing the good things God has given us. We miss out on spending quiet moments with Him and letting the Holy Spirit speak to us. When we live in a state of constant hurry, we miss out on this "holy" day, which God Himself modeled for us. If the God of all creation paused, we should too.

○ **HOW CAN YOU BUILD MORE TIME FOR MEANINGFUL REST INTO YOUR SCHEDULE?**

○ **WHEN HAVE YOU STRUGGLED TO HEAR FROM GOD OR FEEL HIS PRESENCE? COULD IT BE YOU AREN'T MAKING TIME TO PAUSE? EXPLAIN.**

PRAY

GOD, HELP ME TO KNOW WHEN TO PAUSE
AND TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD REST.

DAY THREE

MATTHEW 22:34-40

Most of us wonder about our purpose in life from time to time. Why are we really here? Is our main purpose to work hard and earn money? Is it to one day get married and have a family? To complete a specific task? For a lot of us, these things can be part of the plans God has for us. But while we wait for those plans to unfold, we can begin to question what we should be doing in the meantime. We can start to feel like where we are in life right now doesn't matter as much as where we will be one day. But this couldn't be further from the truth.

God didn't create man accidentally or without reason. When He created Adam, God gave him a purpose: to rule over the earth and the animals and to multiply. And He made Adam to be like Him. Don't miss that. Adam's purpose wasn't flashy. Adam couldn't yet see how his life would impact the rest of humankind, and neither can we. In the Gospels, Jesus explains our purpose in a simple way: love the Lord and love other people (Matt. 22:37-40). That's it! We love God and others as we go about our daily lives. Sure, God may have a crazy big purpose for your life, but don't underestimate the truth that what you are doing right now—in your relationships, with your passions, and in your activities—matters. You have the opportunity to live out God's purpose for your life each and every day as you love Him and love other people.

○ **WHEN HAVE YOU STRUGGLED WITH WONDERING WHY GOD CREATED YOU?**

○ **HOW DOES KNOWING GOD HAS A SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU VIEW LIFE?**

PRAY

GOD, I COMMIT TO REMEMBERING AND
FULFILLING YOUR PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE.



DAY FOUR

HEBREWS 10:24-25

It can be easy to slip into a pattern of thinking that we don't need other people. We live in a culture that makes it easy to isolate. One minute you're watching Netflix, scrolling social media, or playing video games, and suddenly you realize hours have passed and you haven't spoken to or seen a single person. It's easy to spend days like this, and the longer we live this way the more normal it feels. But we weren't designed to live daily without other people. We weren't designed to walk alone.

God created Eve so that Adam would have a partner in life. God knew it wasn't good for Adam to be alone (Gen. 2:18). Most of us view this passage as a model for marriage—and it is—but it's also a model of relationships in general. The writer of Hebrews reminds us of this truth: We are meant to seek God with others. We are meant to encourage others as they follow Jesus, and we need others to encourage us as well. It's easy to forget this, letting busyness keep us away from the local church and Christian community. But this passage reminds us that it's critical to stay plugged in. The writer urges believers to stay connected, pushing one another toward greater faith. Maybe you've been hurt in the past, and it caused you to isolate yourself from others. But God designed you to need people. He created us to walk with each other as we walk with Him.

○ **WHAT HAS CAUSED YOU TO ISOLATE FROM OTHERS? HOW CAN YOU STAY PLUGGED IN TO GODLY COMMUNITY?**

○ **HOW CAN YOU ENCOURAGE OTHER BELIEVERS? WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

PRAY

GOD, HELP ME STAY CONNECTED TO GODLY COMMUNITY EVEN WHEN I AM TEMPTED TO ISOLATE MYSELF.



DAY FIVE

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

If you look on Instagram, you'll find people imitating others. Our feeds are full of people trying to look and act like other people—usually someone famous. Maybe you've also gotten caught in this way of living. We are natural imitators, aren't we? Even when we try to be unique, we are still likely copying others.

God created us in His image. We are created to imitate Him, but we often imitate the world around us. God's Word gives us a clear picture of God's character: He is loving, kind, good, holy, compassionate, forgiving, and so on. These verses in Philippians even explain Jesus's character when He took on human form. He was humble and selfless, willing to become a servant even though He is the King of kings. So what does this show us? If we are created in God's image, then we were created to display His qualities. Many of these character traits go against what the world tells us to be. If we truly imitate the Lord, we will live counter to culture in many ways. It isn't always easy to model Jesus in the way we act. It takes us getting to know the Lord daily if we are to become more like Him. Thankfully, God is patient with us as we learn to be like Him, showing us mercy when we fail. Each day is an opportunity to show the world what God looks like through the way we live our lives. As we imitate God, others will see Him and know Him.

○ **HOW HAVE YOU IMITATED THE WORLD IN YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS?**

○ **HOW SHOULD KNOWING YOU'RE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE CHANGE THE WAY YOU LIVE?**

PRAY

GOD, I WANT TO LOOK LIKE YOU; HELP ME SHOW OTHERS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE MADE IN YOUR IMAGE.