

FIELDSTONE CHURCH

In the Beginning

Creation, Genesis, and Why What You Believe Matters

Weekly Discipleship Resources - 3.8.26

Full Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Thought

It's easy to treat Genesis 1 as a warm-up — a few familiar verses before the "real" story starts. But what we believe about the opening pages of Scripture has ripple effects that run through the entire Bible. The questions are real: Were the days of creation literal 24-hour days? Does modern science contradict Genesis? And why does it matter enough to dig in?

This week's message made the case that the stakes are higher than a language debate. The meaning of the word "day" in Genesis 1 connects directly to the nature of sin, the reality of death, and the weight of what Jesus came to do. What you believe really does matter — and it's worth thinking carefully.

Big Ideas

1. Scripture consistently presents God as the creator of all things — not a distant force, but a personal, all-powerful God who spoke everything into existence (Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:1-3).
2. The Hebrew word for "day" (yom) can mean different things — but when combined with a number, morning, evening, or contrast with night, it almost always refers to a literal 24-hour day. In Genesis 1, all four markers appear.
3. If death isn't the catastrophic consequence the Bible says it is, then sin isn't as devastating as the Bible says it is — and if sin isn't that devastating, the cross isn't as necessary or significant as the Bible says it is.
4. Neither extreme is helpful: insisting someone can't be a Christian if they hold a different view of creation, or abandoning Scripture every time it doesn't align with current science.
5. The goal is not to win a debate — it's to search Scripture with intellectual honesty, think carefully about downstream implications, and stand in awe of a God who exists outside of space and time.

Ice Breaker

(Easy and fun — good for any group)

What's a topic you used to have a very simple, settled opinion on that got more complicated the more you learned about it?

Scripture Discussion & Life Application

Take your time with these. This is a topic that rewards slowing down and thinking carefully together.

Understanding Scripture

1. Read Colossians 1:16-17 and John 1:1-3. What do these passages tell us about who Jesus is in relation to creation — and why does that matter for how we read Genesis?
2. Read Genesis 1:1-5. The message focused on the Hebrew word *yom* (day) and how context determines its meaning. What are the contextual clues in Genesis 1 that point toward a literal 24-hour reading? Does that reading seem convincing to you?
3. Read Romans 5:12 and Romans 8:19-23. What does Paul say about the origin and scope of death? How does that connect to what was "broken" in Genesis 3?

Personal Reflection

4. Before this message, where did you land on the creation debate — or had you thought much about it at all? Did anything shift or deepen for you?
5. The message argued that diminishing the catastrophe of death also diminishes the significance of Jesus' solution. Does that logic connect for you? Where do you find yourself agreeing or pushing back?

Life Application

6. Hebrews 11:3 says that by faith we understand the universe was formed at God's command. What does it look like practically to hold your convictions on creation with both intellectual honesty and genuine faith — especially in conversations with people who disagree?
7. The message closed with an invitation to sit with the bigness of a God who exists outside of space and time. What is one concrete way you could build more wonder and awe of God into your everyday life this week — not just as a concept, but as an actual practice?

Prayer Prompt

Father, you spoke and everything came into being. You existed before time, outside of space, and nothing that was made was made without you. We confess that we don't always take the opening pages of your Word as seriously as we should. Give us curiosity and humility as we dig deeper. Guard us from the arrogance of easy answers and the laziness of not thinking at all. Help us to hold your Word as the authority, and to stand in genuine awe of a God who is bigger than any theory we could construct. Amen.