

Week Two: Teachers Guide

“How Did We Get Here?”
“Where Did We Come From?”

[You’ll notice the prompts to show slide. These are optional. However, you will notice that they will enhance the experience by placing images to words as you share certain aspects of the Bible Study]

Overview:

1. How Did We Get Here?
2. Other Ancient Creation Stories
3. The Beginning of Humanity
4. The Beginning of Sin
5. Closing

Last time we got together we looked at how:

[Show WEEK ONE Title Slide at this part -]...
[You can also refer to the Week One Recap]

- The Bible is the Word of God,
- Our hearts and minds must be open as we begin to study it,
- It was God-breathed, meaning it came directly from Him,
- We can trust the Word and the translations we hold,
- We should not add or take away from His Word

Before we start, we always want to ask God to bless the lesson and help us to draw closer to Him... **PRAY!**

How Did We Get Here?

Now that we established that we can trust the Bible, let's look at some of the first big questions that we all may have.

1. **"How did we get here?"**
 2. **"Where did we come from?"**
- The very first book of the Bible addresses this. As a matter of fact, let's read the most difficult passage of Scripture to believe in the entire Bible! If you can believe what we are about to read, then you will not struggle to believe that God could...
 - Flood the world
 - Part seas or rivers
 - Control nature
 - Open blind eyes
 - Raise the dead
 - Fill believers with His Spirit
 - Or that He has an eternal place for those who love and obey Him.

[Show Scripture]...

 **Genesis 1:1** (KJV)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.



- If you can believe that God spoke an entire world into existence, nothing else in the Bible should even be hard to believe.
- God truly does have complete dominion, power, and control.

[Show "Genesis" slide]...

- The first book of the Bible is entitled, "Genesis." The very word itself means an origin or beginning of something.

In Genesis, we have the beginning of:

[Show List of following things]...

- Creation,
- The human race,
- Marriage,
- Sin,
- God's forgiveness,
- Prophecy,
- The nation of Israel,
- And even "**passing the buck**" and blaming others for your own personal choice!

The entire book starts off by God making a succinct and powerful claim that **He made** the entire world.

- Some believe the earth was created by God in 6 days, and others say a “Big Bang” 6-billion years ago evolved into what we have now.

[Show Slide that compares Creation with Evolution]...

- Since no human being was there as an eyewitness... **either** approach is a “belief system” that takes an element of faith.

We all choose to place our faith in something that no one was there to witness.

- There are various modern-day arguments about how long-ago God made the earth, or how long it took Him to make it, or did He take time off between making it?
- At the end of the day though, does it really matter? Does it matter if the Earth is six-thousand years old or six-million years old?
- What we do know is that God spoke the world into existence, and based on Scripture, He did it in six consecutive days.

[\[Show Scriptures\]...](#)

 **Genesis 1:3** (KJV)

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

 **Genesis 1:6** (KJV)

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

 **Genesis 1:9** (KJV)

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

 **Genesis 1:11** (KJV)

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

 **Genesis 1:14** (KJV)

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

 **Genesis 1:20** (KJV)

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

 **Genesis 1:24** (KJV)

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

-
- God established something immediately at the beginning of time that still sets a precedent today. There is power in the spoken word!
 - Even later, when it comes to salvation, we will see that Scripture says God chooses our mouths to establish His plan for salvation in our lives.
 - Everything about creation points to an intelligent Creator!

Look at just four points of interesting information regarding Creation:

[Show Slide with Planet Earth]...

1. **The Earth . . .**

- Earth is the only known planet equipped with an atmosphere appropriate for plant, animal and human life.
- The Earth is located exactly the right distance from the sun. Consider the temperature swings we encounter, roughly -30 degrees to +120 degrees. If the Earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze. Any closer and we would burn up. Even a fractional variance in the earth's position to the sun and life on Earth would be impossible.
- The Earth remains at its perfect distance from the sun while it rotates around the sun at a speed of nearly 67,000 mph. And the Earth's rotation on its axis allows the entire surface of the earth to be properly warmed and cooled every day.

[Show Slide with Moon]...

2. **The Moon...**

- Our moon is the right size and distance from the Earth.
- The moon creates important ocean tides and movement, so ocean water does not stagnate, and yet it restrains our massive oceans from spilling over across the continents.

[Show Slide with Water]...

3. Water...

- Colorless, odorless and without taste, and yet no living thing can survive without it.
- Water has not been found on any other planet yet covers more than 70 percent of our earth's surface.
- Plants, animals, and human beings consist mostly of water . . . about two-thirds of the human body is water.
- Water has a unique surface tension. This, combined with another property of water, allows water in plants to flow upward against gravity, bringing life-giving water and nutrients to the top of even the tallest trees.
- Water freezes from the top down and floats, allowing fish to live in the winter.
- Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is in the oceans, but on our Earth, there is a system designed which removes salt from the water and then distributes that water throughout the globe. Evaporation takes the ocean waters, leaving the salt, and forms clouds which are easily moved by the wind to disperse water over the land, for vegetation, animals and people. It is a system of purification and supply that has sustained life on this planet, a system of recycled and reused water.

[Show Slide with the Human Brain]...

4. The Human Brain . . .

- Your brain takes in all the colors and objects you see, the temperature around you, the pressure of your feet against the floor, the sounds around you, the dryness of your mouth, even the texture of the handout [piece of paper] in your hand. In addition to all the sensory information, your brain recognizes emotional responses, ideas and memories.
- The human brain processes more than a million messages a second.
- Fortunately, your brain weighs the importance of all this data, filtering out the relatively unimportant. This screening function of the brain is what allows you to focus and operate effectively in your world.
- A brain that deals with more than a million pieces of information every second, while evaluating its importance and allowing you to act on the most pertinent information.

Creation points to our Creator!

[Show Scripture]...

Psalm 19:1–6 (NLT)

1 The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.

2 Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

3 They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

5 It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

6 The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.

The heavens have a voice and they speak! We don't need a translator to get this! Their influence goes out to all the earth! The sun, moon, and stars don't just point to the fact that God is a Creator:

- They point to His faithfulness!
- His promises!
- To covenant!
- To eternity!
- To the fact that He sees you!
- He never forgets you!
- He is always faithful!

Even the Psalmist later wrote a “Creation Hymn” that exalted God’s goodness and power in creation! Let’s read a few portions of this...

📖 Psalm 104:1-9 (NLT)

1 Let all that I am praise the Lord. O Lord my God, how great you are! You are robed with honor and majesty.

2 You are dressed in a robe of light. You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens;

3 you lay out the rafters of your home in the rain clouds. You make the clouds your chariot; you ride upon the wings of the wind.

4 The winds are your messengers; flames of fire are your servants.

5 You placed the world on its foundation so it would never be moved.

6 You clothed the earth with floods of water, water that covered even the mountains.

7 At your command, the water fled; at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.

8 Mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed.

9 Then you set a firm boundary for the seas, so they would never again cover the earth.

Psalm 104:14 (NLT)

14 You cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use. You allow them to produce food from the earth—

Psalm 104:19 (NLT)

19 You made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to set.

Psalm 104:24 (NLT)

24 O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.

25 Here is the ocean, vast and wide, teeming with life of every kind, both large and small.

Psalm 104:30-31 (NLT)

30 When you give them your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth.

31 May the glory of the Lord continue forever! The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made!

Other Ancient Creation Stories

- Yet in spite of all this, some naysayers of the Bible will state that the Bible was not the only ancient book with a "Creation Story."
- By doing a study of the Ancient Near East writings ("ANE" from this point forward) we will find that other ancient civilizations also had their own creation stories.
- The Bible focuses on the time period around 930-500BCE, and this time period is even thousands of years after the writings of ancient civilizations before this time.
- Yet, although other ancient civilizations have creation accounts, no other civilization has an account where their god(or gods) are so focused on humanity.

When reading the accounts of some of the ANE literature... you will see stories of:

- Gods fighting one another for supremacy,
- Tricking one another,
- Even getting one another drunk.

In all these accounts, humankind takes a back seat to the gods and their limited power. In many cases, human beings are viewed as servants, or even destroyed because they were too noisy, and they were not allowing the gods to rest.

Yet when Yahweh-God, **the God talked about in the Bible**, when He creates the world, there is none of the following:

- No epic battle,
- No murder or exchanging of hearts (like we read in other ancient stories),
- No raining down some other god's mutilated body to create humanity,
- And definitely no battle for supremacy.

God simply spoke and things happened!

Then He played in the dirt and humanity was created Then He created a woman out of a piece of a piece of the dirt!

Upon completing all of this, He simply looked out and said, **"It is good."**

The Genesis account is really an account **how things came to be**, and it naturally pushes out all of the rest of the gods and the theories.

The Bible doesn't have to denounce anyone or anything else; it just makes a clear statement about how everything came to be.

We do not have to say, "God is **not** the sun," when the Hebrew Bible simply says, "God **created** the sun."

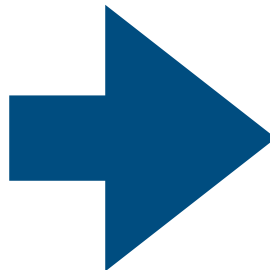
God is basically saying, **"I am the One who was, is, and is to come. I created all things. That's it. Let's move on."**

This relationship with our God is something unlike anything else we see in the writings of the ANE. Studying ancient culture doesn't belittle the Bible, it actually makes modern day readers appreciate it even more.

The entire Bible hinges on God's plan to interact with, redeem, and have relationship with His created people.

And the book of Genesis tells us all about the first ones He created...

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The Beginning of Humanity


[\[Show Scripture\]...](#)

 **Genesis 2:7** (KJV)

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

- Before God creates the first woman named Eve, God gives Adam specific instruction about the garden of Eden that he and Eve would live in.

[\[Show Scripture\]...](#)


 **Genesis 2:16–17** (KJV)

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

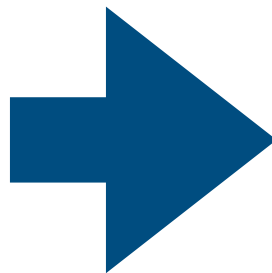
Sometimes people say the Bible is hard to understand, or that they are unsure about what God wants from them.

That's definitely not the case here.

- God clearly states that they can eat of every tree in the entire garden with the exception of one!
- God could have made us all robots and made it so we had to obey His commands. He did not do that though. He gave us the “power of choice.”
-  And some may ask, **“Well why would God even create that tree then? Was He tempting them to sin?”**
- That is not the case because the Bible tells us that God doesn’t tempt anyone to sin (James 1:13).

Simply put, **in order for humanity to truly have the “power of choice,” there had to at least be an option to choose that would be different than God’s option, otherwise it really isn’t a “choice” to begin with.**

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The Beginning of Sin

Almost immediately after God's command about the tree and Eve's creation, we read about the devil showing up as a serpent in the garden.

[Show Scripture]...

 **Genesis 3:1** (KJV)

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

- The devil shows up and brings the same exact approach to Eve as he still does to humanity even yet today.
- His first question to Eve was, "Hath God said?"
- The devil's approach will always begin with tempting you to question whether or not God's Word is really true!

If he can get you contemplating whether God's Word is actually applicable to your life or not, then it will not be long before sin enters the picture.

After the serpent tempts Eve to question the Word of God, he follows that up with tempting her to contemplate whether there are actually consequences to not following God's Word.

[Show Scripture]...

Genesis 3:2–7 (KJV)

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.


7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

The innocence of humankind was gone because Adam and Eve did not trust the Word of God and they tested whether or not God's Word really applied to them.

They tried to cover their sins and guilt, but God exposed it. God will always aim to expose guilt because He wants our sin to be brought to Him and not hidden.

So God shows up and calls Adam and Eve out...

[\[Show Scripture\]...](#)

 **Genesis 3:8–11** (KJV)

8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

- Think about that... did God not already know what they had done? **Of course, He did!**
- Then why did He bother to ask them what they did?
- Could it be that **God's grace was already alive** and reaching to humanity way back at the very first act of sin?

CLOSING:

- God rejected the covering that Adam and Eve used to hide their sin.
- Instead, an innocent animal needed to be killed to “atone for or be a “substitute” for the death they were supposed to experience in their own lives.
- With that command from God for blood to be shed, this now starts God’s Old Testament people down a path of millions of gallons of bloodshed for the covering of sins through the millennium.
- Until one day, when we get to the New Testament, one innocent Lamb of God would take away the sins for the entire world when Jesus Christ stepped on the scene to restore what Adam and Eve had broken.

We will talk about what Christ did at a later lesson, but I want you to see this theme of bloodshed as it started way back here at the beginning of time.

[Show “Thanks for joining us” slide]...

INVITE BACK FOR LESSON #3 NEXT WEEK.

 **THEN CLOSE IN PRAYER.**