

The Essentials: The Book of Genesis

Session 1

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Watch Video

Read: Genesis 1:26-31 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Have you ever thought about the simple fact that you were *created*? What has it meant to you?
2. In our video, Colin said that evolution is a perfectly acceptable theory of origins for Christians. Have you struggled with this issue conflicting with your Christian beliefs? What is the difference between evolution as a theory of origins vs. evolution as a worldview?
3. What did Colin mean when he said that you are intended to have a power sharing relationship with God? How does that make you feel?
4. Our reading details how we are created, and it also describes how we're *given* an identity—an image—that is not of our own making. How has our own cultural moment encouraged you to find your own identity? In your own life, what have you sought out as an identity? And what does it mean that it is *given* here in Genesis 1?
5. Verse 31 tells us that God declares creation “very good.” How have you struggled to believe that all of creation (including you!) is created “very good”?
6. Is there anything that you feel God might be telling you in today’s reading from Genesis?

Check in and closing prayers

Genesis 1:26–31

[26] Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

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

[28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” [29] And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (ESV)