

The book of Genesis is first and foremost the book of beginnings. Not only does it start with the creation story, but it lays the foundation of our theology. When we understand the first three chapters of Genesis, the entire "tone" of the rest of Scripture is understood. It's here, in Genesis, that the Biblical narrative establishes the entire plot of what God will embark to do in the next 65 books that follow.

Genesis 1

Who is God?

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Genesis can be an intimidating book to study. It's full of history, miraculous events, catastrophic episodes, and critical theology. While it can be difficult to understand, and often debated, as Christ-followers we really ought not be hindered from working through its challenges in order to come away with a foundation of knowledge regarding who God is, who we are, what He's done to reconcile us to Himself, and how we are to live in light of it all.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT thoughts first come to mind when you think of Genesis?

HOW significant would you consider the book to be?

WHEN you consider the first chapter alone, **WHAT** questions, concerns, or lessons tend to first come to mind?

Genesis 1

Who is God?

Genesis 1:1-31

OBSERVATION

What do verses 1-3 say about the beginning?

According to what you read from the passage, **how** did God create all things?

As you read through the creation account, what phrases do you see repeated?

What observations are you able to make from the text that raise questions or confusion?

What do you notice about the creation of man that's different from the other things God created (vs. 26-28)?

How did God view all He had created, according to vs. 31?

INTERPRETATION

Does it appear from vs. 1-2 that God used other material or matter to create? What difference does this necessarily make? Consider Isaiah 44:24.

What are the four repeated phrases throughout this chapter? What is the significance of each?

Why do you think God makes it clearly known that what He made is good? Do you think "goodness" is objective or subjective? Why is this standard important in establishing the Biblical narrative right away?

Explain the primary difference in God's creation of man compared to all other things He created. Why is this so important to recognize? What are the implications of this specific design?

What are the orders God gives to man in the garden? Is this something that still applies today?

How does Genesis 1 demonstrate God's wisdom? See Proverbs 8:27-29

How does the Genesis account of creation reveal God's desire to be known? Consider Psalm 19:1-6, 33:6-9.

APPLICATION

How would you describe your personal response to the creation account in Genesis 1?

What questions does this passage leave you with?