October 25, 2026 Mountaintop Church

STUDY GUIDE



WEEK 1

WHO, NOT JUST HOW

Opening Question

What's a favorite origin story (a movie, a book, or even a family story) that's stuck with you? Why do you think we're so drawn to learning how things begin?

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 1:1–2:3 (NIV)

Message Recap

In this sermon, we explore Genesis 1 not just to understand how creation happened, but more importantly, to discover who is behind it all and why we're here. Genesis was written in an ancient world with different assumptions. However, its purpose remains powerful: to reveal that God is the loving Creator, humanity is made in His image, and we all are here on purpose. Our purpose is for relationship with God and stewardship of His creation. So, the focus of Genesis 1 is less about the scientific "how" and more about the relational "who" and purposeful "why."

Discussion Questions



HEAD CHANGE
(Understanding)

1. Why do you think Genesis begins with "In the beginning God..." and how does this shape your understanding of the rest of the Bible?

2. How do the differences between ancient and modern perspectives (like the idea of the "vault" or "firmament") help us approach Genesis 1 with fresh eyes?



HEART CHANGE
(Belief/Emotional Response)

3. Genesis 1 repeatedly says creation was "good," but humanity was "very good." How does it make you feel to know you were made on purpose and in God's image?

4. In what ways has your understanding of your own worth or the worth of others been shaped by this truth from Genesis?



HABIT CHANGE
(Action/Practice)

5. What practical steps can you take this week to treat yourself and others as image-bearers of God?

6. How might you cultivate more wonder and gratitude by recognizing God’s order and goodness in creation amidst life's chaos?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Genesis focuses on Who created and Why, not just How.
- God brings order to chaos. He is a Creator of goodness and beauty.
- Humans alone are made in God's image and called "very good."
- All people are valuable, unique, and created for relationship with God.
- Our origin story shapes how we see ourselves, others, and our purpose.

Next Steps

- **Reflect:** Spend some time journaling this week about how you see and experience God through creation and others. Thank God for the ways His character are displayed both in the universe and nextdoor.
- **Memorize:** Commit Genesis 1:27 (NIV) to memory: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
- **Share:** Have a meaningful conversation with a friend or family member about what it means to be made in God's image.
- **Pray:** Ask God to help you see yourself and others as He does: loved, purposeful, and made in His image.
- **Encourage:** Purposefully encourage or affirm someone this week by reminding them of their infinite worth and unique purpose as God's image-bearer.