

Genesis Part 1

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

THE CREATION

(CHAPTERS 1–2)

The Creation
Genesis Part 1 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)
© 2022 Precept
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®
© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.
Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)
© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

2nd Edition (11/2022)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

PRINTED PAGE NO.	LESSONS	PDF PAGE NO.
1	LESSON ONE: Genesis 1	5
7	LESSON TWO: Genesis 1	11
13	LESSON THREE: Genesis 1 and 2	17
21	LESSON FOUR: Genesis 1 and 2	25

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on the  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

**GENESIS, PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 1
- God and creation

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at the chart at the end of the lesson “The Days of Creation” and their Observation Worksheet of Genesis 1.

GENESIS 1

Verses 1-5

What does verse 1 say about God?

He was in the beginning.
He created the heavens and the earth.

Ask your group what they learned about “God” from Day Four of the lesson.

God is a plural noun, *Elohim*, the “im” ending is a plural ending.
But it has a singular verb.

Who does this plural noun for God refer to? What do the cross-references say?

Matthew 3:16-17

God the Father spoke from heaven about His Son Jesus on whom God’s Spirit descended in the form of the dove.

God—Father, Son, and Spirit

Genesis 1:2

The Spirit of God was involved in creation.

John 1:1-4, 14-18

The Word, Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God. And He is God.

Since the Word was with God, that says there were two distinct persons of the Godhead in the beginning. But the Word also was God, and this shows that these two are one. The Word, Jesus Christ, created all things in the beginning.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God made the world through His Son Jesus.

Colossians 1:15-17

By the Son, the image of the invisible God, all things were created.

1 Corinthians 8:6

From the Father are all things, by Jesus are all things, and we exist through Him. Both the Father and the Son were involved in creation. And God's Spirit was moving in Genesis 1:2. The Trinity in the beginning at creation.

Revelation 4:2, 9-11 and 5:1-7

God is worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because He created all things. Because of His will they existed and were created.

You might ask your group if they have taken time to go before God's throne and worship Him for being Creator.

Ask what they learned about the word "created." Compare it with Hebrews 11:3.

In the Qal stem this word, *bara*, is used in the Old Testament only of God's activity.¹

Before God created everything, there was only God. There was nothing except Him, so creation was out of nothing.

NOTE: Now tell your group to follow along on the chart in the lesson as they discuss.

How does Genesis 1:2 continue from verse 1?

Verse 2 first describes the earth that God created in verse 1. It was formless (ESV—without form) and void.

Darkness and waters are also part of the description. And God's Spirit was moving.

What did God do in verse 3?

He "said."
God spoke light into existence.
This word is used nine times in Genesis 1.

How powerful is God's Word? Help your group to individually examine their view of God's Word.

In John 1, Jesus Himself is called the Word of God.
In Genesis 1 and Hebrews 11:3, the power of God's Word is clearly shown.

¹R. Laird Harris, Robert Laird Harris, Gleason Leonard Archer and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Word-book of the Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999, c1980), p. 127.

God communicates with man through His spoken Word, written for us.

NOTE: Emphasize how vital to life it is that believers study God's Word to know and live what He has said. It contains the power from death to life and the direction for how to live. And God Himself establishes this in the very beginning statements of His Word about how He created.

What did God do in verses 4-5?

He saw that the light was good.
Then He separated light from darkness.
He called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

Ask what your group learned about "day."

Light is contrasted with darkness, and then named "day" in the first part of verse 5.

"Day" is defined in the last part of verse 5 as evening and morning—one day.

Exodus 20:1-3 and 8-11

This is about the 7th day of the week—the Sabbath day, a 24-hour period.

In six days God made the heavens and the earth, and He rested on the seventh day.

This is comparing the literal 24-hour days of the week to the days of creation.

God worked for six days; Israel was to work for six days.

God rested on the seventh day, and Israel was to rest on the seventh day.

NOTE: Exodus 20:11 says that the Lord made the heavens and earth in six days. If anyone in your group brings up Genesis 1:1 or verses 1-2 not being part of the first day's creation, then you can refer to the Exodus statement. There was no part of creation before the first day.

2 Peter 3:8 and Psalm 90:4

Both of these passages compare how long time is to people and how short it is to God. Neither context is about God creating in thousands of years.

Now, to summarize, what did God do in verses 1-5?

He created the heavens and the earth.

He said that there should be light.

He saw that the light was good.

He separated the light from the darkness.

He called the light “day,” and the darkness “night.”

Verses 6-8

What did God do? When?

God said, and He made. The result was the expanse in the middle of the waters.

Again there was a separation, the waters below the expanse and the waters above it.
God called the expanse heaven.

Timing of these verses is another evening and morning, a second day.

Verses 9-13

What action took place? When?

God said. The waters were gathered into one place, and dry land appeared.
God called the dry land “earth” and the gathering of waters “seas.”

He saw that it was good.

He said, “Let the earth sprout . . .” and it happened as He said.

This was the third day, another evening and morning.

As you discuss what God did on each day of creation, ask your group what they observed about God’s order in creation.

His order shows His provision for existence.

He created water, light, and earth before the plants, and plants for food before creatures to eat the plants, and creatures before man to rule over the creatures.

Verses 14-19

What are these verses about? Which day was it?

God said—lights in the expanse of the heavens

Greater light to rule the day
Lesser light to rule the night
Stars

For signs, seasons, days, years, and to give light on the earth

Although light and days have been mentioned before in Genesis 1, in these verses God spoke of specific lights. So there was light, day, and night before God created the sun, moon, and stars.

NOTE: He spoke/made the lights as in verses 6 and 7 He said/made the expanse. Some in your group might try to have this one way or the other, said or made. God says both: He said. He made. Perhaps He made by saying. Don't be too dogmatic with these words. Simply be awed at Him and what He did.

God placed / set them in the expanse of the heavens to:
Give light on earth
Govern / rule over day and night
Separate light from darkness

God saw that it was good.

It was the fourth day, described by evening and morning.

Verses 20-23

What happened, and when?

God said, created, saw, blessed.
He said, created the creatures in the waters and the birds.
He saw that it was good.
God blessed them by telling them to be fruitful and multiply.

This took place on the fifth day, another evening and morning.

Verses 24-25

When was this and what happened?

Evening and morning, the sixth day

God said for the earth to bring forth creatures.
He made the beasts, cattle / livestock, and creeping things on earth.
He saw that it was good.

Verses 26-30

What are these verses about?

God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to (ESV—after) Our likeness..."
Relate this to "Elohim" in verse 1.

He made them, male and female, to rule over the other living beings on earth, verses 26 and 28.

He blessed them and told them to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it.

God provided food for man and the creatures He created—plants yielding seed and fruit trees as food for man and for the living creatures, plants.

To summarize, ask your group about the order of God's creation.

This shows His provision for all of His creation.

How does Hebrews 11:1-3 and 6 relate to this study?

God said that this is how He created all. Believers understand it by faith—believing what He says.

This is relevant to our faith today, to individual beliefs. Many doubt what God says concerning His creation. But that doesn't change what His Word says.

You might end this discussion by telling your group to look at the list they made about God on Day One of the lesson and ask what ministered to them the most.

**GENESIS, PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 1
- Six days of creation

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask your group what they remember about God from Genesis 1 and the list they made about Him in Lesson 1.

Who of the Godhead was in the beginning?

God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit of God existed before creation.

How long did it take for God to create everything, according to Genesis 1?

Six days

1ST DAY, VERSES 1-5

Tell them to look at their Observation Worksheet of Genesis 1 and the drawings of creation in this lesson as they discuss.

What was the earth like when God created it?

The earth was formless (ESV—without form) and void.

It was without form and empty. God had not shaped it or put inhabitants on it.

The earth and heavens weren't in the forms that they are in now. There was no form, but God put it into a form. It wasn't a waste place, only formless.

God didn't make a mistake and then re-create the earth the right way the next time.

How does the cross-reference in Isaiah 45 relate?

Isaiah 45:18

God didn't create the earth a waste place but formed it to be inhabited.

He didn't leave it formless / without form and void.

How does Genesis 1:2 continue?

More description of the heavens and the earth when God created in the beginning

Darkness was over the surface / face of the deep.

The earth didn't have a form yet. It seems that it was like water, formless.

The Spirit of God was moving / hovering over the surface / face of the waters.

In the beginning, God—*Elohim*, plural—created and the Spirit was moving / hovering over the surface / face of the waters. The Trinity was at work in creation.

How does verse 3 continue?

“Then (ESV—And) God said, “Let there be light.”

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about light.

Psalm 104:1-4

Verse 2 says that God covers Himself with light. It's like His cloak or garment.

John 1:1-9

Jesus was called the light of men.

Revelation 21:10, 23-24

In the new Jerusalem there will be light—God's glory.

God Himself will illumine the city.

Its lamp will be the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It will be like the first days of creation; no sun, moon, and stars, but yet light.

God alone is the source of light.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 1. What happened when there was light?

God saw that it was good, and He separated the light (day) from the darkness (night).

You might ask your group what needs light.

Vegetation—plants and trees; creatures—birds, fish, and animals

Man

God created light that was needed before it was needed. He created in order.

2ND DAY, VERSES 6-8

You can ask your group what God created on this day, and what they learned from the word study.

God called for an expanse in the midst of the waters and named it “heaven.”

expanse—*raqiya* or *raqia*—“stamping, as with the foot, and what results, i.e., a spreading out or stretching forth”¹; “an extended surface, expanse”²

the sky, the vault of heaven (space), the arch above”³

The expanse or heaven separated the waters above it from the waters below it.

The waters below became the seas on earth, and the waters above have to be above the open sky.

How does Psalm 148 relate?

Psalm 148:1-6

These first six verses are about the heavens and things in them praising God. He created all of them, established them forever.

It mentions the waters above the heavens; the heavens contain the sun, moon, and stars. From the statements in these verses, it seems that the waters above the heavens are still there.

Verses 7-12 are about praising God from the earth.

Verses 13-14 say that God’s glory is above earth and heaven. Praise Him.

You might ask your group how drawing these details helps them understand this chapter better. Do the details of creation help them better understand God Himself?

3RD DAY, VERSES 9-13

What happened on this day? Tell them to look at the charts in the lesson.

God said for the waters below the heavens—the expanse—to be gathered into one place and for the dry land to appear.

He called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters, seas.

¹R. L. Harris, et. al., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago, Illinois; Moody Press, 1999), p. 861.

²Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981), H7549.

³Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN; AMG Publishers, 1994), H7549.

Relate this to verse 2, the earth was formless and void, and there was water.

Are the seas and dry land still in only one place today?

There are many seas and in many places. The dry land is not all in one place either.
So the earth has changed since it was created.

NOTE: This will be studied in Genesis Part 2.

What happened in verse 11?

Next in the sequence was that God said the earth was to sprout vegetation.

Plants yielding seed after (ESV—according to) their kind. Fruit trees with seed
after / according to their kind

Give time for your group to discuss what they learn about God from this.

The plants and trees had a perfect environment, created before they were.
God created in order. Things didn't appear from chaos.

4TH DAY, VERSES 14-19

What did God create on the fourth day? Also, ask about the word study when relevant.

Lights in the expanse of the heavens
to separate the day from the night
for signs and for seasons and for days and years
signs—*owth*—can mean a sign, mark, standard;⁴
“a *signal* (lit. or fig.), as a *flag*, *beacon*”⁵

to give light on the earth

God made two great lights:
the greater light—sun—to govern / rule the day
the lesser light—moon—to govern / rule the night

He made the stars also.

He placed / set all the lights He made in the heavens.

⁴ R. L. Harris, et. al., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago, Illinois; Moody Press, 1999), p. 18.

⁵ James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996), H226.

What do the cross-references say about the lights God made?

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens are telling of God’s glory although they don’t speak—declaring, pouring forth speech, revealing knowledge about Him.

They tell of His glory to the ends of the earth. All can see the heavens and God’s work there.

Psalm 147:4-5 and Job 9:1-10

God numbered and named all the stars.

He commands the sun and stretched out the heavens.

He made the stars—Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades—and sets a seal upon them.

You might give time for your group to discuss how what they see in the heavens, especially at night, declares God’s glory to them.

Ask about the warnings in Deuteronomy and the Isaiah 47 cross-reference.

Deuteronomy 4:19

Sun, moon, and stars are not to be worshiped and served.

Deuteronomy 17:2-7

Those under the Law were put to death for worshiping and serving the sun, moon, stars, and heavenly host.

They’re for signs, but not for direction of one’s life.

Isaiah 47:12-13

Babylon looked to sorceries and astrologers, but they couldn’t save the city from what God was bringing on it.

Give some time for your group to discuss how this lesson applies to them.

5TH DAY, VERSES 20-23

Ask what they learned about God’s creation on this day.

“Then / And God said,” and the waters teemed with swarms of living creatures, and birds flew above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.

There was a place for water creatures and the birds before they were created.

God created them “after / according to their kind.” This is also in verses 11 and 12.

After their kind; plants, trees, birds and sea creatures

What is the definition of “kind”? Also, ask about the cross-reference.

kind—*miyn*—“class, species, i.e., a type of entity in contrast to other entities”⁶;
“*form, hence species, kind, sort*”⁷

1 Corinthians 15:38-39

God gave each seed a body of its own. All flesh is not the same flesh.

There’s flesh of men, another of beasts, another of birds and another of fish.

According to Genesis 1:22 and 28 what did God command His creatures to do?

He blessed them, saying...

Be fruitful and multiply and fill a part of creation.

Sea monsters / creatures and living creatures fill the waters in the seas

Birds multiply on earth and fly in the heavens

6TH DAY, VERSES 24-31

You can ask your group how they sketched this day. What did God create? What did He think about it?

Living creatures—cattle / livestock and creeping things and beasts—were created after their kind.

“Then” man was made in God’s image, likeness. Male and female were in God’s image.

Verses 26 and 28 both speak of man ruling (ESV—having dominion) over the fish, birds, cattle / livestock, and all the earth, creeping things, every living thing that moves on the earth.

Verse 31 says that God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.

To end this discussion, you might ask your group what they have learned so far in this study and give time for them to share.

⁶James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁷Wilhelm Gesenius and Samuel Prideaux Tregelles, *Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc, 2003), p. 470.

**GENESIS, PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 1 and 2
- Man’s creation on the 6th day

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask what happened on the first six days of creation. At the end of this lesson’s guide, there’s a chart with two short lists that you can use as a visual aid.

1st day

God created heavens and earth, formless / without form and void
He separated light from darkness, day and night

2nd day

God made expanse, heaven, to separate waters above and below

3rd day

He gathered waters below into one place—seas, and dry land appeared—earth
Vegetation sprouted on the earth at His saying, plants and trees with seed

4th day

God made lights in heaven—sun, moon, stars

5th day

He created sea creatures and birds
He blessed them saying that they were to multiply and fill sea and earth

6th day

God made beasts, cattle / livestock, and creeping things on the earth.
He made man and woman.

GENESIS 1

What was unique about man’s creation? How was he different from the other living things God created?

The repeated phrase associated with other creation was “after / according to their kind.”

Man was created in God’s image, His likeness.

How do the word studies help to understand man being created in God’s image?

“Man,” *adam*, means “man” or “mankind.”¹

“Image,” *tselem*, means image, likeness, resemblance, not an exact duplicate.²

“Likeness,” *demuth*, means “likeness” or “similitude.” It is a word of comparison.³

What are the facts from Genesis 1 about man’s creation? Refer your group to the list they made on Day One.

God created male and female in His image, distinct from all creation.

They were to rule / have dominion over all of the other of God’s creation.

God blessed them and told them to

Be fruitful and multiply

Fill the earth and subdue it

Rule over the fish, birds, and other living things

He gave them every plant and fruit from trees to eat, except from one tree.

Why was man created according to the cross-references?

Revelation 4:8-11

All was created because of God’s will, man included.

Colossians 1:13-16

All things were created for God the Son.

GENESIS 2

Verses 1-3

How do these verses continue from Genesis 1? What did God do and when?

The heavens and the earth and all their hosts were completed. So, God rested on the seventh day. He blessed it and sanctified it (ESV—made it holy). God made the seventh day different from the other six.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN; AMG Publishers, 1994), H120.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN; AMG Publishers, 1994), H6754.

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN; AMG Publishers, 1994), H1823.

How does Genesis 2 fit with Genesis 1?

Genesis 1 gives an overview of God’s creation of man on the sixth day.
Genesis 2 adds more detail of man’s and woman’s creation.

Verse 4

How does this verse relate to Genesis 1:1-2:3 and 2:4-25?

It’s a bridge between the two sections.
It summarizes 1:1-2:3, and then the focus becomes man’s creation after this statement.

“LORD God” is first used in this statement.

Ask what your group learned about the use of God’s name and related cross-references.

Genesis 1

Elohim is the name for God which is used when the Scripture text accentuates His power and sovereignty, such as God the Creator.

Genesis 2

Jehovah—Yahweh, LORD—is combined with Elohim.

When LORD is used, it emphasizes God’s relationship with man. It’s used throughout this chapter beginning in verse 4.

Exodus 3:13-15; 6:1-8 and 9:30

These passages emphasize the LORD’s relationship with His people Israel. He made His name “LORD” known to them at that time when He promised to take them for His people.

What’s the emphasis of Genesis 2:5-25?

God’s creation of man, male and female

Are these verses in chronological order like Genesis 1:1–2:3? Refer your group to the chart in the lesson on Day Three.

No.

This text goes back and forth chronologically to emphasize man in relationship with the other parts of God’s creation.

Verses 5-9

What are these verses about?

This gives more details of how the LORD God created man.

Verses 5-6 present facts about what the fields were like before man’s creation. It seems that this indicates the need for man to cultivate the ground. The focus is man, not the order of creation.

What are the facts about man’s creation? Ask about the word studies.

God formed man of dust from the ground.
formed—“to form, to fashion, to shape”⁴

He then breathed into him to give him the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being / creature. He became a living soul. He was in God’s image.

“breath”—“unit of air that passes in and out of the lungs through mouth and nostrils”⁵

“being / creature—“*a soul, living being, life, self, person*”⁶

How do the Day Two cross-references add to this?

Job 10:8-12

God fashioned and made man from clay, dust.

Psalms 8:3-9

God made man a little lower than God—Elohim (ESV—heavenly beings)—to rule over the works of His hands.

Psalms 119:73 and 139:13-16

God makes each person who is born, even before being in our mothers’ wombs.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 2:8. Where was man to live?

The LORD God planted a garden in Eden and placed the man there.
He caused trees to grow (ESV—spring up) in the garden, trees pleasing to look at, and good for food.

The tree of life was in the midst of the garden.
The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was also there.

⁴Warren Baker, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003, c2002), H3335.

⁵James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁶Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981), H5315.

Verses 10-14

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson as they discuss main points of these verses.

A river flowed out of the garden and became four rivers.

The garden of Eden was located somewhere close to the base of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

NOTE: Since the flood changed the topography of the earth, no one can say for sure where Eden was, but it was probably close to where those rivers are now.

Verses 15-17

Why does the text say that God put man in the garden?

He was to cultivate / work and keep the garden of Eden.
Man had an occupation from the very beginning.

The garden provided not only a home and an occupation for man, but also food.

What was the only thing that God commanded Adam not to do?

Eat of one tree—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

God told him he'd die if he disobeyed what God said. Man already knew perfection and holiness in God's presence. He didn't need to know good and evil.

Verses 18-25

Ask your group what these verses are about and what they learned from studying them.

It wasn't good for man to be alone. God made a helper suitable / fit for him.

God had made the animals previously, but He brought them to Adam at this point in the order of events.

God knew that there was no suitable companion, helper, for Adam among the animals, but Adam didn't know it. Naming the different animals showed him that there was none that suited / fit him for a companion.

God caused Adam to go into a deep sleep. God then took one of Adam's ribs and closed up his flesh. He performed surgery on Adam. This was not a "spiritual" taking of one of his ribs, but a physical act.

God fashioned / made woman from the rib, and then He brought her to Adam.

Adam recognized that she was like him physically, not like the animals. Adam named her "woman" because he knew God had made her from him and for him.

What are verses 24 and 25 about?

God instituted marriage.

Male and female were both created in the image of God.

Both were made to rule over creation.

It was not good for the man to be alone. His wife is his suitable helper.

The man is to leave his parents and cleave / hold fast to his wife.

Nakedness brings no shame in marriage, nor does sexual intimacy.

NOTE: Don't go into much detail here. There is more study on the subject of marriage in the next lesson. There is also a Precept Upon Precept course entitled "Marriage and Song of Solomon."

How important is knowing the facts about creation? What do the cross-references say?

Genesis 6:6-7; 7:4

God made man.

He made every living thing.

Man's wickedness and his evil heart grieved God.

God judged man for his wickedness.

Isaiah 40:21-28

God stretched out the heavens.

He created the stars (ESV—hosts) and calls them by name.

He's the Everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not become weary or tired.

God rested on the seventh day because everything was complete

Isaiah 45:11-12

He made the earth, created man.

He stretched out the heavens with His hands

He is the Maker.

He ordained / commanded the host of heaven.

Isaiah 51:12-13 and 66:1-2

God is the Maker who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth.

Compare this with the definition of "expanse," something stretched out.

God made everything, but He looks at individuals too. He desires humility in those He created.

Psalm 33:6-15 and Hebrews 11:3

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. His word made the world.

Romans 4:17

He called into being that which didn't exist.

Jeremiah 32:17-27

The Lord God made the heavens and the earth by His great power and His outstretched arm. Twice it says that nothing is too difficult for the Lord.

Isaiah 37:14-21

Hezekiah began his prayer with, "O LORD of hosts . . . You have made heaven and earth." In the midst of his circumstances, Hezekiah worshiped God.

He knew God made heaven and earth. Certainly, God could take care of the Assyrians who were about to come against Israel, and Hezekiah prayed asking for deliverance.

Hezekiah believed that nothing was impossible with God because he believed that the Lord God had made heaven and earth.

Acts 17:22-26

Paul spoke to men in Athens, Greece, who didn't know God. In his witness to them, he began with God as Creator, Lord of heaven and earth.

Hebrews 1:1-3, 8-12

God through His Son made the world and all in it. The Son's throne is forever as He rules over all.

You might ask your group members where they go in difficult circumstances. Do they go to God, the Creator of heaven and earth?

You can conclude this discussion with a question to your group of what they have learned about the importance of the creation account and specifically how it has impacted their lives.

Genesis 1

God created in 6 days

Heavens and earth

Creatures

Man in His image

Genesis 2

God rested 7th day

Creation of man and woman



GENESIS, PART 1 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 1 and 2
- Marriage

REVIEW

To begin this last discussion, you might ask what happened in Genesis 1 and 2.

God created the heavens and the earth in six days.

He rested on the 7th day because His work was completed.

Genesis 2 focuses on man’s creation, male and female.

GENESIS 1 AND 2 COMPARISON

Tell your group to look at the chart “A Comparison of the Content of Genesis 1 and 2.”

Then ask how they would answer someone who says that Genesis 1 and 2 contradict each other.

The literary style or structure:

Genesis 1 is an overview of the whole creation account in 6 days.

Genesis 2:5-25 focuses on man’s creation.

The different names of God:

Genesis 1 uses “Elohim” for the Creator God.

Genesis 2:5-25 uses “Jehovah Elohim,” a more personal name.

“Created” is used in Genesis 1 and “formed” in chapter 2. But the same God created / formed man and beasts. There is a different focus in the two chapters.

Matthew 19:4-5

Jesus quoted from both chapters at one time.

He connected the two as describing one creation.

MARRIAGE

Genesis 1:26-31

Use the chart in the lesson “Relationship to” as a visual aid for this part of your discussion. Ask your group what they learned from these verses and the word studies.

God initiated marriage.

God created man, male and female, in His image and likeness.

Verse 26, “man” is *adam* and generally refers to mankind.

“Male” in verse 27 is *zakar* and “is often used when a sharp sexual distinction is made.”¹

“Female” is *neqebah* and also often used “when a clear sexual distinction is made.”²

They were to rule / have dominion over all of the other of God’s creation.

God told the man and woman to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.
That’s one of His purposes for marriage—to populate the earth that He created.

Genesis 2:18-25

What do these verses and the word studies add?

This passage contains the account of God fashioning / making woman from Adam’s rib. God said that it wasn’t good for the man to be alone, which is another purpose for marriage.

God fashioned “a helper suitable for him,” (ESV—made a helper fit for him). When God brought the animals for the man to name, there was not found among them one that was suitable to be his helper. His helper had to be flesh and bone like he was.

helper, *ezer*—succour³; support, designates assistance or the assistant⁴

suitable / fit, *neged*—in front of, in sight of, opposite to, what is conspicuous, corresponding to, parallel to⁵

God created woman as a support parallel to the man, corresponding to him.

The only thing in the text of Genesis 1–2 that God said was not good was for the man to be alone. The animals were not suitable / fit to keep him from being alone. God fashioned / made from the man’s own flesh and bone the one suitable / fit for, corresponding to him. She was to be for his support, assistance, to keep him from being alone.

¹ Lawrence O. Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publish House, 1985), p. 426.

² Lawrence O. Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publish House, 1985), p. 427.

³ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), H5828.

⁴ Robert Laird Harris, Gleason Leonard Archer and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1999), p. 661. H5828.

⁵ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), H5048.

Verse 22, “woman,” and verse 24, “wife,” are both *ishshah*, which means an individual woman.⁶ It is “the most common word for ‘woman’ and ‘wife’ in the OT.”⁷

The second use of “man” in verse 23 is *ish*, meaning a man, a husband.⁸ It “designates any individual male.”⁹ The first use is *adam*.

The man was to leave his father and mother. Since Adam had no parents, it is clear that this statement is to teach about marriage for all who would come from him.

The man is to be joined / hold fast to his wife. This is the primary relationship that people have, other than their relationship with God Himself. It is the man’s responsibility to cleave to his wife above any other relationships, even the relationship with his own parents.

“Joined / hold fast” *dabaq* is “to cling, stick, stay close, cleave, keep close, stick to, stick with.”¹⁰

They shall become one flesh.
They were naked and not ashamed.

This is speaking of the sexual union in marriage, one flesh . . . no shame.

Give time for your group to discuss application of what they’ve learned here.

Ask what your group learned from the New Testament references where Genesis 2:24 is quoted.

1 Corinthians 6:13-18

The main topic of the verses is immorality. Immorality is a sin against one’s own body, a sin to flee.

Verse 16 is the quote from Genesis 2 about a man and his wife becoming one flesh. It’s clear from these passages that this is speaking of the sexual union of marriage.

Ephesians 5:22-33

The main topic of this passage is a comparison of Christ and the church with a husband and wife. It’s about marriage.

⁶Lawrence O. Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publish House, 1985), p. 427.

⁷Robert Laird Harris, Gleason Leonard Archer and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999, c1980), p. 059.

⁸W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996), 1:148.

⁹Lawrence O. Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publish House, 1985), p. 426.

¹⁰James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), H1692.

Verse 31 quotes Genesis 2:24. The whole Ephesians passage is about the marriage relationship and responsibilities showing a picture of Christ and His church.

As Christ is the head of the church, so the husband is the head of the wife in marriage. As the church is submissive to the leadership of her head, so the wife is to be subject to her own husband.

As Christ loved the church to the degree that He gave His life for her, so the husband is to love his wife . . . as he loves his own body.

He's to sanctify her, cleanse her by the washing of water of the Word. The husband should be the one who lovingly leads the wife in the study and living out of what God says in His Word. The husband should be the one to bring Bible study into the home as a priority to help his wife live holy and blameless.

The husband is doing well for himself if he loves his wife in this way, nourishing and cherishing her as he does his own body, taking care of her.

Then comes the quote from Genesis 1 about the sexual union of becoming one flesh.

This passage ends with telling the husband again to love his wife, and the wife that she's to respect her husband; his headship is a picture of Christ's headship over the church.

Again, give time for your group to discuss how this applies to them.

What is the order presented in 1 Corinthians 11?

God is the head of Christ.
Christ is the head of the man.
The husband is the head of his wife.

They are not independent of each other in Christ.
Woman was made for man, but man comes from woman.

NOTE: Be careful not to get sidetracked on head coverings and lose time you need for discussing the rest of this lesson. There is a "Precept Upon Precept" course on 1 Corinthians.

What did Jesus say in Matthew 19?

Matthew 19:3-12

The Pharisees were testing Jesus to see if He would make a statement about divorce which would contradict what Moses wrote in the law, Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Jesus said that from the beginning God made them male and female, and He joined them together in marriage. Therefore, man is not to separate them.

NOTE: If needed, remind your group that there is forgiveness in Christ. If we confess our sin, He is faithful to forgive and cleanse us.

LEVITICUS 18

At this point, you can ask what your group learned from Leviticus 18.

Beginning with verse 6, there is a list of sexual sins.

It includes sexual sins that some societies today accept as natural behavior.

Incest
Adultery
Homosexuality
Bestiality

These are all defiling sins worthy of death in God's view.
He calls them abominations.

To end your discussion of this chapter, you can ask your group if their ambition is to be pleasing to the Lord, 2 Corinthians 5:9?

Then you might ask what lessons for life they learned from their study of Genesis 1 and 2.