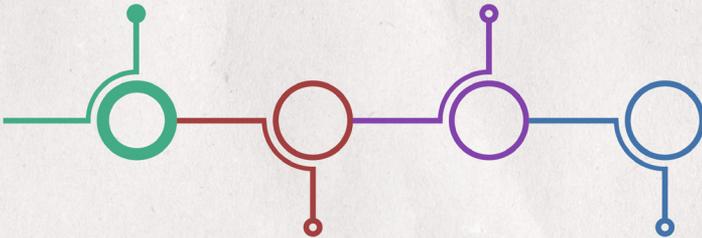


meeting God

UNFOLDING

on the pages of His story

Origins



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Everything is very good.
Something threatens that goodness.
Someone rises to make things better than ever.

True of OUR stories because
this is true of THE story:
The story of the three-in-one God.

ORIGINS

God is love and has always existed. He created all things. And made US to enjoy His love and serve His mission in the world. But we wanted to do our own thing instead. So, God rightly sent humanity away, and the whole world fell into sin and death.

**But He was still
unfolding His purposes.**

He chose one couple, Abraham and Sara, and delivered the nation that came from them—Israel. Gave them life with Him, and the mission—to bring His blessing to the nations. But Israel wanted to do its own thing instead. So, God sent them away.

**But He was still
unfolding His purposes.**

ISRAEL

JESUS

Having preserved a faithful few in Israel, God came into His world as a human. Jesus loved God and people, and embraced God's mission in the world. Yet the world wanted to do its own thing instead. So, they sent Jesus away. Though He had done nothing wrong, Jesus gave Himself to be killed on a cross, where He absorbed all of humanity's sin against God.

**Even in this,
God was unfolding His purposes.**

He raised Jesus from the dead and made Him King over all creation. And King Jesus IS saving people from every nation to enjoy God's love and join His mission in the world.

Which CAN include you! Grace received. Sins forgiven. Adopted into God's forever family. His Spirit empowering your love and your hope. King Jesus will return, set everything right, and we will enjoy God's presence in His new creation forever.

CHURCH

**This is the true story of the
three-in-one God -
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

And we find it in the Bible.

HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

- **Accessing Digital Journal & Resources:** The Unfolding Origins journal questions, group discussion questions, and video links are available via Church Center.
 1. Search ‘Church Center App’ in the App Store (Apple devices) or Google Play Store (Android devices) to download on your phone.
 2. Open the app and select your church by searching ‘Hope Church.’ Look for our logo!
 3. When prompted, enter your mobile phone number or email address. Check your texts or emails for a six-digit code. If you already have a Church Center account, you’ll be prompted to input the code and log in. If you don’t have a Church Center account, follow the prompts to create an account.
 4. Click the Unfolding button right under our logo, then click the button for the current week. You’ll see the journal questions and video links. The button taking you the group discussion questions is at the bottom of the page.
 5. Don’t have or want the app?
Scan the QR code or visit
hopechurchmasonoh.churchcenter.com
- **Weekly Format:** Mondays are generally “Overview” days and Fridays are “Wrap-Up” days. Only have time for the journal once a week? Do Monday’s questions. Time for two days? Do Monday’s and Friday’s questions to get the big picture for the week.



- **Questions:** Each day, read the assigned passage slowly, then reflect on the questions. You'll also see these additional ways to interact sprinkled throughout:
 - **Dig Deeper** questions point you to a related passage somewhere else in Scripture. For the Unfolding series, we are tracing Scriptural themes through the whole Bible so we can see how it all ties together.
 - **Reflect** questions ask you to think about how the passage applies to your life - past, present, and future.
 - **Psalm of the Week** questions will feature one Psalm every Friday that reinforces that week's theme.
 - **Listen** to the "Song of the Week" included in Tuesday's *Life at Hope* email. These songs relate to the week's theme and are part of Wednesday's questions.
 - **Challenge** questions offer resources each week for additional context and different ways to engage in the scriptures.
- **Group Discussion Questions:** Many Communities use these questions to guide their group discussions. Reach out to Pastor Bill Craig (bcraig@hopemason.org) if you are not plugged into a Community. Or grab a couple of people and meet on your own time for these weeks to discuss them.

GOD CREATES ALL THINGS

GENESIS 1:1-2:3

OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What does this passage stir in your heart? Write a brief prayer about that.

CHALLENGE

Today or sometime this week, watch the Bible Project video titled *Understand God's Creation Story* by scanning the QR code on page 4.

GENESIS 1:1-13

You are probably very familiar with these verses. Read them slowly, as if for the first time. Picture each event as it happens. Is there anything new that stands out, or that stirs wonder?

How are we first introduced to God in the Scriptures, and why is that significant? What else do we learn about God in these verses?

DIG DEEPER

Read John 1:1-18. What does this teach us about God and creation? What is striking to you about that?

GENESIS 1:14-27

What is different about what God says and does on days 4-6 than what He says and does on days 1-3? What does this teach us about God? About creation?

At the end of each day, God delights in what He made, seeing that it was good. What parts of God's creation bring delight or awe in you? Write a brief prayer of praise and thanks to God.

DIG DEEPER

Dig Deeper: Read Job 38:1-21. What point is God making to Job in these verses, and what can we learn from this?

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

GENESIS 1:26-2:3

God says He made man and woman in His image. What do you think that means? How does that impact your view of yourself? Of others that you'll interact with today?

What does God command the man and woman to do, and what does each command mean? How do we live those things out today?

DIG DEEPER

Read Romans 1:18-25. What do we learn about God, creation, and humanity in these verses?

GENESIS 1:1-2:3

WRAP-UP

Look back at your notes over the week. What is one thing you sense the Lord most wants to tell you? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write below the names of one or two people who are outside the faith but inside your reach. How might these passages be good news to them? Pray for them as you write.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 148:1-14 – What does this teach us about God? Creation? Ourselves? What is most meaningful to you?

GENESIS 1:1-2:3

SERMON NOTES

GOD MAKES US IN HIS IMAGE

GENESIS 1:26-2:25

OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What does this passage stir in your heart? Write a brief prayer about that.

CHALLENGE

Today or sometime this week, watch the Bible Project video titled *Image of God Biblical Theme* by scanning the QR code on page 4.

GENESIS 1:26-2:3

What do we learn in this passage about God's intent for our identity, our role, and our dignity as humans?

What does it teach us about God that He made us that way? Write a brief prayer of response.

DIG DEEPER

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and 3:5-10. What do these passages say about the "image of God," and what strikes you about that?

GENESIS 2:4-17

What do we learn about God in these verses?

How does 2:4-9 relate to 1:1-2:3? What insights does it add, and what questions do you have about that?

DIG DEEPER

Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-49. What does this passage say about the “image of God,” and what strikes you about that?

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

GENESIS 2:18-25

What does this passage teach us about men and women, individually and together? What is meaningful to you about that, and what questions do you have?

What does this passage teach us about marriage?

DIG DEEPER

Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What do we learn here about how God wants to “image Himself” through us? What is striking to you about that, and what questions do you have?

GENESIS 1:26-2:25

WRAP-UP

Look back at your notes over the week. What is one thing you sense the Lord most wants to tell you? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write below the names of one or two people who are outside the faith but inside your reach. How might these passages be good news to them? Pray for them as you write.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 139:7-18 - What do these verses tell us about God? Us? Write a brief prayer of response.

GENESIS 1:26-2:25

SERMON NOTES

WE TURN AWAY FROM GOD

GENESIS 3:1-24

OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What does this passage stir in your heart? Write a brief prayer about that.

CHALLENGE

Today or sometime this week, watch the Bible Project video titled *Genesis 1-11* by scanning the QR code on page 4.

GENESIS 3:1-7

What did the serpent tell the woman? Which parts were true, and which were false? What do we learn in these verses about Satan's character, tactics, and goal?

What temptation(s) are you facing today? What is the lie behind it, the promise that makes it appealing? Write yourself a brief note of encouragement to go God's way.

DIG DEEPER

Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. What does this teach us about Satan and our response to him? What else stands out to you from that passage?

GENESIS 3:8-13

How would you describe Adam and Eve's approach to God after their sin? God's approach to them? What does this reveal about Adam and Eve (and about us)? About God?

List the ways Adam and Eve justify their sin. When you justify your sin before God or others, what do you hope to accomplish? How does the gospel offer a better way?

DIG DEEPER

Is there any area where shame holds you captive? Write a brief prayer, bringing that sin, guilt, or regret to the Lord. Consider sharing it with a trusted brother or sister in Christ for prayer and healing.

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

GENESIS 3:14-24

Which effects of sin are described in God's words to the serpent, the woman, and the man? In what ways do you see these effects reflected in the brokenness of our world today? What is striking about that, and what questions do you have?

Where do you glimpse God's grace in this passage? Take time to write a prayer thanking Him for His grace in your own brokenness and sin.

DIG DEEPER

Read Matthew 4:1-11. How is Satan's approach to Jesus similar to his approach to Adam and Eve? How is it different? How was the result different, and what difference does that make for us today?

GENESIS 3:1-24

WRAP-UP

Look back at your notes over the week. What is one thing you sense the Lord most wants to tell you? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write below the names of one or two people who are outside the faith but inside your reach. How might these passages be good news to them? Pray for them as you write.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 51:1-13 - How does David's response to his sin impact you? Where does your heart resonate with his? Write a brief prayer of response.

GENESIS 3:1-24

SERMON NOTES

GOD PLANS TO BLESS THE WORLD

GENESIS 12:1-9

OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage slowly. Write down any key thoughts and highlights.

What are the main questions you have from the passage? Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What does this passage stir in your heart? Write a brief prayer about that.

CHALLENGE

Today or sometime this week, watch the Bible Project video titled *Genesis 12-50* by scanning the QR code on page 4.

GENESIS 12:1-9

List the promises God makes to Abram in this passage. What does this teach us about God?

What did God call Abram to do, and what was Abram's response? What do you think that was like for him? For Sarai? What hard thing might God be calling you to right now, and what is your response?

DIG DEEPER

Read Galatians 3:5-14. What do we learn here about Jesus (and ourselves) in light of God's covenant with Abraham?

GENESIS 15:1-21

What are God's statements to Abram in verses 1-6, and how did Abram respond to each? What strikes you?

What do we learn about God in verses 12-21? What is most meaningful to you, and what questions do you have?

DIG DEEPER

Read Acts 3:11-26. What do we learn here about God's promise to Abraham to bless all families of the earth through his offspring? What else strikes you from this passage?

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

GENESIS 17:1-21

What was God's part of the covenant? What was Abraham's? Sarah's?

What do we learn about God in this passage? What is most meaningful to you, and what questions do you have?

DIG DEEPER

Read Revelation 7:9-17. How does this passage relate to God's promise to Abraham to bless all families of the earth through his offspring? What else strikes you from this passage?

GENESIS 12:1-3, 15:1-6, AND 17:1-8

WRAP-UP

Look back at your notes over the week. What is one thing you sense the Lord most wants to tell you? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write below the names of one or two people who are outside the faith but inside your reach. How might these passages be good news to them? Pray for them as you write.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 22:22-31 - How does this Psalm relate to God's promise to Abraham to bless all families of the earth through his offspring (especially verse 17)? What else strikes you from this Psalm?

GENESIS 12:1-9

SERMON NOTES

GOD ENABLES FORGIVENESS

GENESIS 37:1-38

OVERVIEW

This week is a little different. Each day, we'll read through a part of the life of Joseph. List the key events of chapter 37. What strikes you about them, and what questions do you have?

What do we learn about Joseph in this chapter? His brothers? These are the men who will lead the Twelve Tribes of Israel. What does that tell you about God?

REFLECT

If your life story were to be included in Scripture, what would be written about you? Which key events would it include? What would your story teach us about God?

GENESIS 39:1-23

What do we learn in verses 1-8 about how God sometimes works? How do you feel about that? Write a brief prayer of response.

What actions did Joseph take to avoid sexual temptation in this chapter? What can we learn from him in our battle with temptation, whether it's sexual or something else?

How was Joseph's faithfulness rewarded? What does this teach us about God? What is striking to you about that, and what questions do you have?

GENESIS 41:14-46

List the key events of this passage. What strikes you about them, and what questions do you have?

What do we learn about God in this passage? What is most meaningful to you today? Write a brief prayer of praise.

REFLECT

Imagine you were able to deliver a handwritten note to Joseph when he was in prison (39:20), knowing what was ahead for him (41:40). What would you say to him? What might someone from the future write in a letter to you today about a challenging circumstance you are in?

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

GENESIS 42:1-11 AND 45:1-15

What do we learn about Jacob in 42:1-11? About Joseph?
About God?

What do we learn about Joseph in 45:1-15? About God?
Write a brief prayer of response.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 105:1-25 - We're switching our Psalm to Thursday this week. What does the Psalmist say we can learn about God from His dealings with Israel and Joseph?

GENESIS 50:15-26

WRAP-UP

How do we see a transformation in Joseph from 37:5-8 to 50:19-20? How have you seen God transform your own life? Write a brief prayer of thanks.

What do we learn about God and about Joseph in the final recorded scene of his life? What strikes you about that?

DIG DEEPER

If you could point to one aspect of Joseph's life as an example for us, which one would it be? Write it below. Then read Hebrews 11:21-22. What did the writer of Hebrews highlight? What is striking to you about that, and what questions do you have?

GENESIS 50:15-26

SERMON NOTES

GOD CONFRONTS HUMAN POWER

EXODUS 3:1-22

OVERVIEW

Skim Exodus 1-2. Jot down a few of the main events from these chapters.

Now read chapter 3 and write down any key highlights and questions. Put a star by the most important ones.

REFLECT

What does this passage stir in your heart? Write a brief prayer about that.

CHALLENGE

Today or sometime this week, watch the Bible Project video titled *Book of Exodus Summary* by scanning the QR code on page 4.

EXODUS 3:1-6

List below the things we learn about God in these verses. How do you process God's welcoming call and the caution He gives to Moses?

Would you want to have such an encounter with God? Why or why not? How do you think it would change the way you approach Him in prayer?

DIG DEEPER

Read Isaiah 6:1-10. What similarities are there between these passages? What are the differences? What else strikes you from this passage?

EXODUS 3:7-12

List the words associated with God's action in this passage. What does this reveal about who God is and how He acts?

How does Moses respond to God's call, and how does God respond to Moses? How can you relate with Moses' response, and how might God's words be a comfort to you?

REFLECT

What do you sense God might be calling you to right now? How does this passage encourage you? What joy could come to you and others if you said yes to God's call?

LISTEN

Listen to the "Song of the Week" from yesterday's *Life at Hope* email.

EXODUS 3:13-22

Summarize the back-and-forth conversation between Moses and God from 3:13-4:1. What do we learn about God and Moses from this conversation, and what strikes you about this exchange?

What does God's name in this passage reveal about who He is? How does that lead you to worship or connection with Him? What questions does it raise for you?

DIG DEEPER

Read Exodus 6:2-9. How do God's words here add to what He said in the passage for today? What is most meaningful to you about that? Write a brief prayer of response.

EXODUS 3:1-22

WRAP-UP

Look back at your notes over the week. What is one thing you sense the Lord most wants to tell you? Ask Him and write any thoughts that come.

Write below the names of one or two people who are outside the faith but inside your reach. How might these passages be good news to them? Pray for them as you write.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 77:7-20 - Why does the Psalmist recount the events of the Exodus? Write a similar prayer from your own life.

EXODUS 3:1-22

SERMON NOTES

EXODUS 11:4-10

OVERVIEW

As we did in week 5, we're going to read through the account of the Exodus over the next five days. Summarize the verses above. What strikes you about them, and what questions do you have?

The passage recounts God's judgment against the stubbornness and idolatry of Egypt. How do you feel about that? Write an honest, brief prayer about that.

DIG DEEPER

Read John 1:26-34. How might this passage relate to God's judgment and Passover? What else strikes you about this passage?

CHALLENGE

Today or sometime this week, watch the Bible Project video titled *What Is Passover?* by scanning the QR code on page 4.

EXODUS 12:1-13, 21-28

What do we learn in verses 1-13 about the timing, the food, and the manner in which they were to eat the Passover meal? What is most striking to you, and what questions do you have?

In verses 13 and 21-28, what is the significance of the blood of the lamb? How were they to remember it? What is the significance of the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) for us, and how do we remember it?

DIG DEEPER

Read Luke 22:14-23. How does this Passover meal relate to the first? What thoughts come to mind, and what questions do you have?

EXODUS 12:33-42 AND 13:17-22

Read Exodus 12:33-42. What are the primary events of these verses, and what is striking to you about them?

Read Exodus 13:17-22. What do we learn about God in these verses? What is most meaningful to you about that?

DIG DEEPER

Read John 14:15-17 and 16:12-15. How does God lead us today? How have you experienced that recently, and what questions do you have? Write a brief prayer about that.

LISTEN

Listen to the “Song of the Week” from yesterday’s *Life at Hope* email.

EXODUS 14:10-31

List the events of this passage. How do you imagine the Israelites were feeling in each event? How can you relate?

What do we learn about God in this passage? What is most meaningful to you today? Write a brief prayer of response.

DIG DEEPER

Let's do another reflection on the Passover Lamb. Read 1 Peter 1:13-21. What does this teach us about Jesus, our Passover Lamb? What else strikes you about this passage?

EXODUS 16:1-12

WRAP-UP

Where do you see the grace of God (His undeserved kindness) in the passages from this week, including today's? How do the people respond to God's grace, and how have you seen this in your own life recently?

DIG DEEPER

What does Jesus say about the manna in John 6:25-35? What is your primary takeaway?

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 136:1-16 - What strikes you about how the Psalmist frames creation and the Exodus (and more)? On one of the notes pages in the back of this journal, list a handful of the key events of your life, including some of the most difficult ones. Put this Psalm's refrain after each.

EXODUS 12:33-42

SERMON NOTES

JAN 5-11

GENESIS 1:1-2:3

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing you've made that you're proud of?
- How are we first introduced to God in the Scriptures, and why is that significant? What else do we learn about God in these verses?
- What do you think it means that we are created in God's image? How does that impact your view of yourself? Of others that you'll interact with today?
- What does God command the man and woman to do, and what does each command mean? How do we live those out today?
- Which of the Dig Deeper passages this week was most striking to you? Why?
- How might this chapter be good news to someone who is outside the faith?
- Consider watching together the Bible Project video titled *Understand God's Creation Story*.

JAN 12-18

GENESIS 1:26-2:25

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Talk about a married couple you most admire, and why.
- What do we learn about God in these verses?
- What does this passage teach us about men and women, individually and together? What is meaningful to you about that, and what questions do you have?
- What does this passage teach us about marriage? What is striking to you about that?
- Which Dig Deeper passage was most striking to you this week, and why?
- How might this chapter be good news to someone who is outside the faith?
- Consider watching the Bible Project video titled *Image of God Biblical Theme*.

JAN 19-25

GENESIS 3:1-24

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is something wrong you did when you were younger that you now regret?
- What do we learn in these verses about Satan's character, tactics, and goal? How do we experience that today?
- How would you describe Adam and Eve's approach to God after their sin, and God's approach to them? What does this reveal about Adam and Eve (and about us)? About God?
- What are the consequences of sin God spells out in these verses? How did you see those consequences even this past week?
- Where do you glimpse God's grace in this passage?
- Which of the Dig Deeper passages this week was most striking to you, and why?
- Consider watching together the Bible Project video titled *Genesis 1-11 Torah Series*.

JAN 26-FEB 1

GENESIS 12:1-3, 15:1-6, AND 17:1-8

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Talk about a time you took a courageous step.
- List together (on a white board, if possible) the promises of God to Abram in Genesis 12:1-6, Genesis 15:1-6, 12-15, and Genesis 17:1-8. What do they teach us about God?
- What did God call Abram to do in Genesis 12:1-6, and what was Abram's response? What must that have been like for him? For Sarai?
- In Genesis 17, what was God's part of the covenant? What was Abraham's? Sarah's? What strikes you about that, and what questions do you have?
- Which Dig Deeper passage was most striking to you this week, and why?
- How might this chapter be good news to someone who is outside the faith?

FEBRUARY 2-8

GENESIS 50:15-26

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who seemed like the “favorite” kid in your family when you were growing up, and how did you feel about that?
- Recount the key events of Joseph’s life we read this week (quickly review the passages if needed!). Which stood out the most, and why?
- What do we learn about God from Joseph’s life?
- Talk about a time when God used a trial in your life for good.
- Which aspect of Joseph’s life stands out to you as an example for Christians? After discussing, read Hebrews 11:21-22. What did the writer of Hebrews highlight? What is striking to you about that, and what questions do you have?
- Where do we see God’s grace in Joseph’s story? Is there any overlap here with God’s grace in your story? How might you share that with someone who is outside the faith?

FEBRUARY 9-15

EXODUS 3:1-22

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt like God called you to something specific? Explain.
- What do we learn about God in this chapter?
- What do we learn about Moses in this chapter? How can you relate?
- Would you want to have an encounter with God like Moses had? Why or why not? How do you think it would change the way you approach Him in prayer?
- What do you sense God might be calling you to right now? How does this passage encourage you? What joy could come to you and others if you said yes to God's call?
- How might this chapter be good news to someone who is outside the faith?
- Consider watching together the Bible Project video titled *Book of Exodus Summary*.

FEBRUARY 16-22

EXODUS 12:33-42

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Talk about a time you needed to be rescued.
- Quickly review and summarize the key events from this week's passages. Which is most striking to you, and why?
- What do we learn about God from the events around the Exodus and Passover? Which is most meaningful to you today, and why?
- How did God lead the Israelites? What were the advantages and disadvantages to being led this way? How do you experience God's leading today?
- Read Luke 22:14-23. How does this Passover meal relate to the first? What thoughts come to mind, and what questions do you have?
- Where do you see the grace of God (His undeserved kindness) in the passages from this week? How did the people respond to God's grace, and how have you seen this in your own life recently?
- Consider watching together the Bible Project video titled *What Is Passover?*

NOTES



HOPE CHURCH

4934 Western Row Road | Mason, OH 45040
513.459.0800 | hopemason.org