

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**SERIES: Genesis: In the Beginning****TITLE: WHICH GOD?****PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1–2:3**

SUMMARY: Genesis begins by answering the most foundational question: **Which God?** Genesis 1:1–2:3 presents God as the Creator, distinct from and greater than everything He has made. Creation is therefore a gift—we are recipients of existence, meaning, and love. Throughout creation, God repeatedly declares what He has made to be **good**, establishing Him as the one who defines reality and goodness. Finally, God rests on the seventh day, reminding us that our lives are not defined by production and consumption. We are made to receive God’s good gifts with gratitude and live differently because of them.

DISCUSSION**GOD IS CREATOR — GENESIS 1:1–2***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

- What does Genesis 1:1 establish about God before anything else exists? (1:1)
- Genesis makes a distinction between **Creator and creation**. What difference does that make for how we understand ourselves?
- Sunday, it was said in the sermon, “God’s existence does not depend on you. You depend on God.” How does that challenge the way we naturally think about our independence or control?
- If creation is a gift from God, what changes when we see ourselves primarily as **recipients** rather than people who have to earn everything we receive?

GOD DECLARES WHAT IS GOOD — GENESIS 1:3–31*“God saw that it was good.”*

- What do you notice about the repeated pattern of God speaking and then declaring His creation good? (1:3–31)
- God is not discovering that creation is good; He is **declaring** it. What does that teach us about who gets to define what is good?
- How might our lives look different if we allowed God’s Word to **inform us rather than the other way around**? What is a barrier to us living this way?
- Where are you most tempted to decide for yourself what is good rather than receive God’s declaration of what is good? What is an example?

GOD RESTS — GENESIS 2:2–3*“On the seventh day God rested.”*

- What does God do after completing His work of creation? What is blessed about that day? What else do you notice? (2:2–3)
- Why is God’s rest significant in a culture where production, achievement, and consumption can become measures of our value?
- Where do you feel the pressure to define yourself by what you produce? Why does a day of rest matter beyond just “relax” or “go to church?” What can it do for us?

DISCIPLESHIP NEXT STEPS (**leaders:** here is the application from Sunday after the sermon. As you lead you're your group through discussion, remember "knowing" more is only one step, "living in light of what we know" is the transformation of discipleship. Your role as a small group leader is to help others identify and take their next spiritual step. So, consider writing a group action or leading your group towards personalized next steps. During your discussion time, write down each person's step. Then, follow up with a text and ask them about it all next week.)

- **BELIEVE — What were you reminded about or learn about God today?**

ACTION: Purchase the **NIV Upside Down Kingdom Bible** and read Genesis this week.

- **BELONG — Discuss what you are reading during the week with someone.**

In small group, great! If you are in small group, have another conversation with someone outside of our set time.

- **BECOME — Transform your behavior because of who God is!**

Practice receiving your life as a gift from God. This means finding times to be grateful and compassionate. Personally reflect and be actively grateful & compassionate towards others who may not expect or deserve it.