

a beautiful design

WEEK 1

SEPTEMBER 6 - 13

IN THE BEGINNING

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you're using the study guide in your Home Group, be sure to work through the questions on your own before you meet. If your Home Group doesn't meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series. For further study, explore the Recommended Resources on our website.

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 1-2 (with specific attention to Genesis 1:26-2:3)

SUMMARY: God is the Creator of all things. His design for the universe is perfect and timeless. Because God designed the universe in good order, we can be sure that orienting our everchanging lives around God's unchanging design will result in our good and His glory. When we look to an everchanging world to discover who we are and what our purpose is, we receive a multitude of ideas and opinions. When we look to God's Word, we find a steady answer to these questions. God's design points toward a divine purpose for humanity: to reflect our Creator.

GETTING STARTED

What has changed most about the world around you since you were born?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Genesis 1:1-2 and Colossians 1:15-17. Who was involved in creation? What do you think it means that "in him all things hold together"?
2. Read Psalm 19:1-6. Why did God create? What does creation say about God? For what unique purpose was humanity created (Gen. 1:26-28)?
3. What other views does our culture take when looking at the creation of the world? How are these views different from God's beautiful design given in Genesis?
4. If the world is "everchanging," what is the benefit of orienting ourselves around God?
5. In what ways has orienting your life around God's good design been a blessing to you? What areas in your life feel out of line?
6. Based on the sermon this past week, how would you explain the difference between God's good design for the world and the constant change of the world we live in? Why has the world changed from God's good design? Why does God's design matter?
7. Do you struggle with accepting God's good design for the world? If so, what aspect of God's design do you struggle with the most?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME: Build intentional time into the rhythm of your household this week to sit with your kids and talk about Genesis 1:1. If you have young kids, consider memorizing it as a family. If your kids are older (or you still live at home), initiate a family discussion about the difference between what our culture deems as important and what God has told us is important.

MOMENTS: Capture and leverage moments in the course of everyday life to point out God's beautiful design in each other and in creation. Consider going for a walk around your neighborhood or head to a local park with your family and reflect on the handiwork of God.

8. Are there ways in which the everchanging world affects our interactions within Christian community? How does our culture shape the way our groups interact with each other and our neighbors?

NEXT STEPS

- Ask a co-worker or neighbor this week, "When you look back at your life, what has changed the most in the world around you?" Listen closely for an opportunity to point to God's beautiful design.
- Write down one area where you consistently look to the world for direction. Talk with another person in your Home Group about what would change if you began to look toward God's good design in that area.
- Commit to memorizing one of the following verses this week:
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
He is before all things and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17
- Ask the Lord to strengthen your Home Group as you seek to live out God's unchanging design in this everchanging world.
- Thank God for His creation. Consider His goodness in creating a world for our joy and His glory.
- Ask God to show mercy to those areas of our lives and the world around us that bear the scars of how sin has fractured God's good world.