

September 16/17,
2017



In the Beginning...

PREFACE:

This multi-year sermon series is the second time in Grace's history when we will track through whole story of God revealed in the Bible. Whether you are reading the Bible for the first time or the 100th time, we pray you will be transformed as you see how your story and the story of the Church weave into the grand narrative of God's story to heal the broken places of the world.

OPENING

- Open your time in silence for a few minutes. Prepare your hearts and minds to receive the Word of God.

READ GENESIS 1-2:1 by taking turns reading each paragraph out loud.

REREAD GENESIS 1:1-2

- What do we learn about God's identity and purpose from these two verses?

DISCUSS GENESIS 1:3-25

- What else do we learn about God's identity and purpose from the creation account?

DISCUSS GENESIS 1:26-2:1

- What do we learn about our *own* identity and purpose from our Creator?

MAKING IT REAL

- How is the creation story good news?
- What are the implications in our culture that all people are made in God's image?
- How does the creation story compare to how you were taught the world was made?
- What's controversial about the creation account in our modern age?
- What questions do you still wrestle with?

"Moses gave the Jews Genesis to separate God's facts from fictions in the ancient world. Genesis still separates the facts of God's world from the fictions in our world."

Tim Ayers

PRAY TOGETHER

Use your discussion to fuel your prayers. Likely hard questions were raised and left unanswered, or controversial discussion ensued with differing viewpoints. That's OK. It's part of the process. Take all of that to God. He knows you. He hears you. Remember, He created you and loves you!