Golden City *Church*



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Session 1

In the Beginning, a Garden

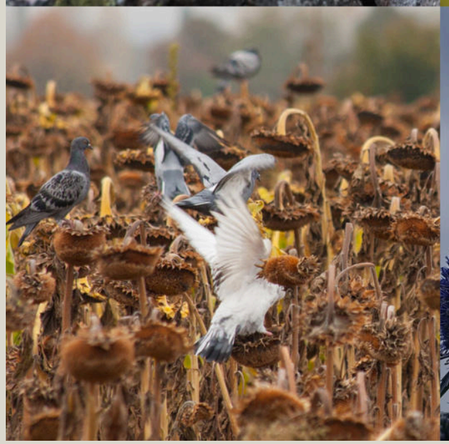
Bible Club *Fall 2026*

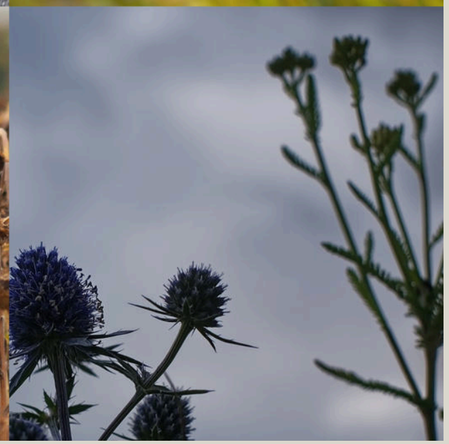
Last Session Review











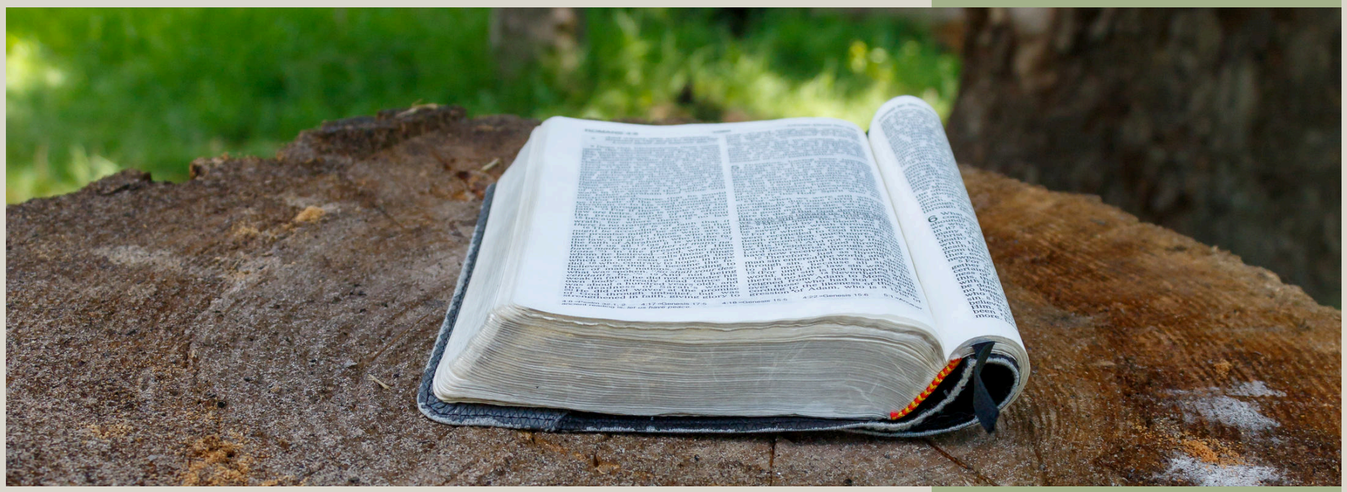
Last week: Session 0 — The Seed and the Soil

- The Parable of the Sower
- Program: The Four Relationships
- Framework: The Grace-Truth Matrix

Question: *How may a scientist, a philosopher, and a historian view the creation account differently?*

Let's read *Genesis 1:1-2:3*

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Framework: S. O. A. P.

S — Scripture

- What is the literary style of this passage? (narrative, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, gospel, epistle)
- What comes before and after it? (context)
- What key words, repetition, contrasts, or structure stand out?

O — Observation

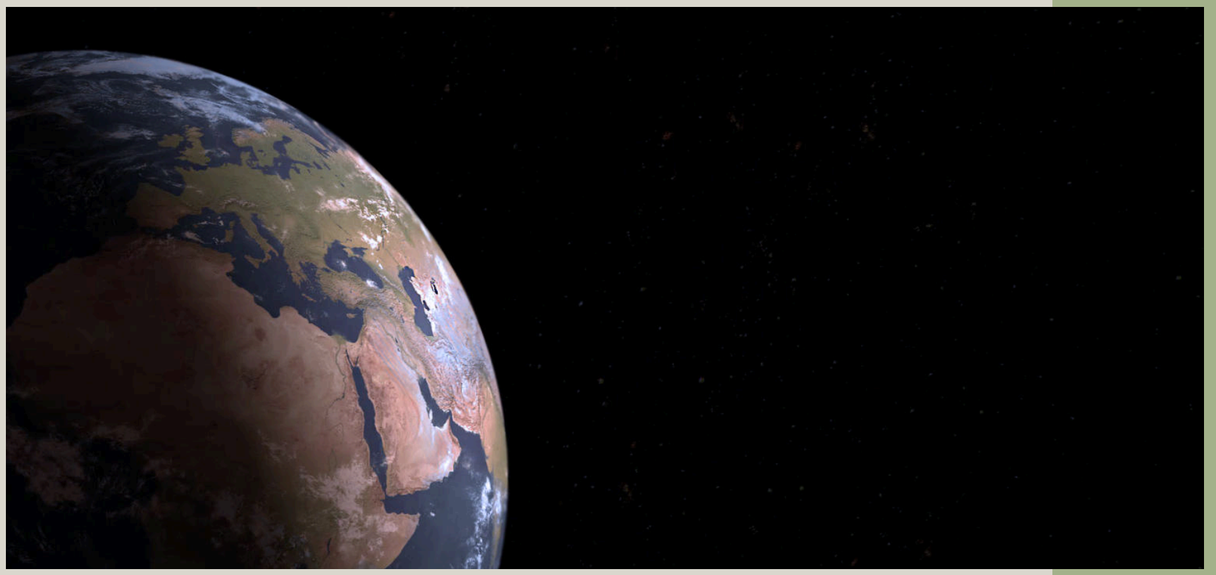
- Who is involved? What is happening? Where/when? Why?
- What does this reveal about God?
- What does it reveal about humanity?
- What does it reveal about God's relationship with His people?
- Where does this passage stand in the story of redemption?

A — Application

- How is God shaping my heart, desires, or character through this passage?
- What would obedience look like today?
- What daily rhythm could embody this truth? (time, money, speech, relationships, habits)

P — Prayer

- Praise: who God is / what God has done.
- Confession: where you resist, hide, or fall short.
- Ask: the Spirit's help to live by faith, grow in obedience, and cultivate hope in Christ.





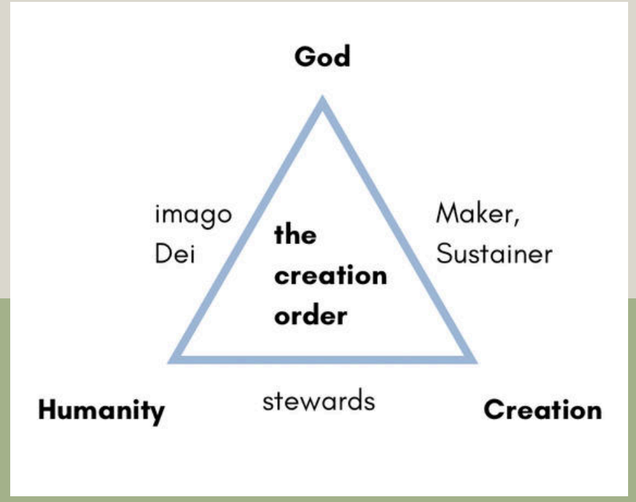
Observations & Questions

- **Repetition**: What phrases or patterns keep showing up?
- **Structure**: What is God doing on each “day,” and how does the pattern shift on day seven?
- If you’re unsure about details like the “days” of creation (24-hour vs. long ages), don’t panic. The goal is not to win a debate, but to pursue truth with humility, and to let Genesis reshape what you think reality is.
- **Emphasis**: Where does the narrative slow down? What feels like the “climax”?

Watch the Bible Project video:
https://bibleproject.com/videos/genesis-1/

- “In the beginning, God…”
- Creator-creature Distinction
- Order over chaos
- “All” and “every”
- The crown of creation — identity and vocation
- The seven-day pattern: ABC → A’B’C’ → D

Separating (Forming)	Realm Formed	Filling	Realm Filled
Day 1	Light separated from darkness	Day 4	Sun, moon, stars filled the heavenly realm
Day 2	Sky separated from the waters	Day 5	Birds and sea creatures filled the sky and the seas
Day 3	Dry land separated from the seas; vegetation appears	Day 6	Land animals filled the land; humanity created



Order & Creativity

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[Psalm 8:3-9]
3 When I observe your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you set in place,
4 what is a human being that you remember him,
a son of man that you look after him?
5 You made him little less than God,
and crowned him with glory and honor.
6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet:
7 all the sheep and oxen,
as well as the animals in the wild,
the birds of the sky,
8 and the fish of the sea
that pass through the currents of the seas.
9 LORD, our Lord,
how magnificent is your name throughout the earth!

[Proverbs 8:30-31]
I was a skilled craftsman beside him.
I was his delight every day,
always rejoicing before him.
I was rejoicing in his inhabited world,
delighting in the children of Adam.

[Psalm 104:24]
How countless are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

[Zephaniah 3:17]
The Lord your God is among you,
a warrior who saves.
He will rejoice over you with gladness.
He will be quiet in his love.
He will delight in you with singing.



God's Delight in Creation

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Inhabit the Story

↓



Genesis 1 is the opening movement of the Bible's big story:

1. **Creation**: God speaks order, beauty, and life into being.
2. **Calling**: Humanity is placed in the world as God's image—representing God's rule by loving stewardship.
3. **Presence**: The goal is not merely a functional world, but a world filled with God's glory.
4. **Hope**: If God brings order from chaos at the beginning, God can bring new creation out of ruin.

Reflection (How should we respond?)
Take a few minutes in silence, then share (as you're comfortable):

- Where do you need to start again with "In the beginning, God..."?
- What "created thing" is tempting to become ultimate for you right now?
- Where is God inviting you to practice trust in the midst of chaos?
- What is one concrete way you can practice image-bearing stewardship this week (home, work, relationships, body, time)?



Worship & Prayer

So Will I (100 Billion X) by Benjamin William Hastings



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"So Will I (100 Billion X)" words and music by Joel Houston, Benjamin Hastings, and Michael Fatkin
© 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing
CCLI Song # 7084123

[Verse 1]
God of creation
There at the start
Before the beginning of time
With no point of reference
You spoke to the dark
And fleshed out the wonder of light

[Chorus 1]
And as You speak
A hundred billion galaxies are born
In the vapour of Your breath the planets form
If the stars were made to worship so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You've made
Every burning star
A signal fire of grace
If creation sings Your praises so will I

[Verse 2]
God of Your promise
You don't speak in vain
No syllable empty or void
For once You have spoken
All nature and science
Follow the sound of Your voice

[Chorus 2]
And as You speak
A hundred billion creatures catch Your breath
Evolving in pursuit of what You said
If it all reveals Your nature so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You say
Every painted sky
A canvas of Your grace
If creation still obeys You so will I

[Bridge]
If the stars were made to worship so will I
If the mountains bow in reverence so will I
If the oceans roar Your greatness so will I
For if everything exists to lift You high so will I
If the wind goes where You send it so will I
If the rocks cry out in silence so will I
If the sum of all our praises still falls shy
Then we'll sing again a hundred billion times

[Verse 3]
God of salvation
You chased down my heart
Through all of my failure and pride
On a hill You created
The light of the world
Abandoned in darkness to die

[Chorus 3]
And as You speak
A hundred billion failures disappear
Where You lost Your life so I could find it here
If You left the grave behind You so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You've done
Every part designed in a work of art called love
If You gladly chose surrender so will I
I can see Your heart
Eight billion different ways
Every precious one
A child You died to save
If You gave Your life to love them so will I

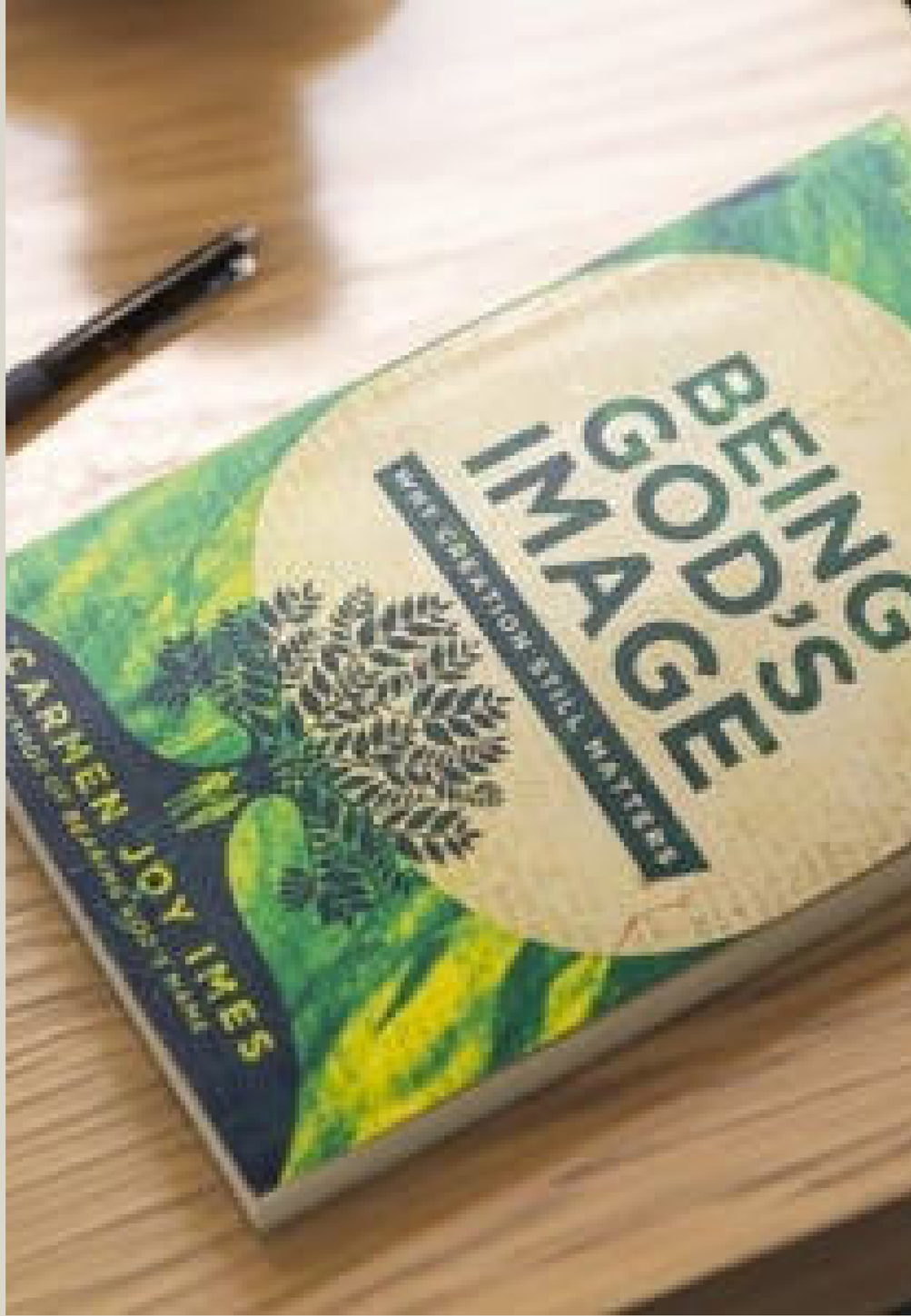
[Tag]
Like You would again a hundred billion times
But what measure could amount to Your desire
You're the One who never leaves the one behind

Homework & Book Club

1. Read Genesis 2 (slowly). Note every detail about:
    - Place (where?)
    - People (who?)
    - Purpose (why?)
2. Read Psalm 139:1–18.
3. Optional journaling:
    - Write 1-2 paragraphs beginning with: “Because God created the world, I can…”

Recommended reading:
Being God’s Image: Why Creation Still Matters by Carmen Joy Imes

Bridge forward:
Genesis 2 zooms in: from cosmos to soil, from the heavens to human hands. The question shifts from *Who is God?* to *What were humans made to do?*



Thank You.

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Next Week →

Session 2:
Made to Flourish