

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes
w/c 17th September 2023
The Bible Jesus Read – Genesis 1:1 – Creation

The Old Testament can often feel confusing and out of date but at heart it is a drama with people playing their part on the grand story of God's work in creation. The Old Testament is the scripture that Jesus read and taught. It is the scripture that all the New Testament writers relied upon. This series is based around the book by Christopher J Wright 'The Old Testament in Seven Sentences' if you would like to read a bit more background but you don't need a copy of the book for the Home Group studies.

Although each week of the sermon series is based on a single verse, it is intended as a way to discover some key themes of the overall Old Testament story. Each study will offer some longer sections to read and consider.

In this study, you may want to look at Genesis or you may prefer a more general discussion about the Old Testament, its origins, the challenges and joys of reading it. If there are unanswered questions then make a note to do some research and come back to it.

BIG IDEA: The story of the bible starts with God and places us in His work. We are placed in God's to reflects the God who made it. We are His image bearers, made in His likeness and so our activity in this world matters.

WAY IN: Is there a time when you have been lost or confused? How did it feel? How did you go about finding your way forward?

We need reference points, landmarks to help us find our way. It's easy to get lost in situations but when we see the big picture we make sense of the smaller details.

Context: The bible is a set of books, written across 1500 years by many authors, in 3 languages (OT mainly in Hebrew with small portions of Aramaic, NT in Greek). The Bible speaks of the work of God from beginning to end. The early chapters of Genesis set out many of the foundations of a Judeo-Christian view of the world.

DIG IN

READ: Genesis 1:1-5, 24 – 31

1. Genesis 1:1 says 'God created the heavens and the earth', what does this tell us about the difference between God and creation?
2. God created the creatures of the land (v24 – 25) and special distinction is made for humanity. What makes humans special or unique? How does this compare with the messages of our culture about the difference between humans and other living beings?
3. How does this narrative of creation inform our view of the world? i.e. where are we in creation? Who are we?

READ: Genesis 3:17 – 24

4. Everyone has a sense that things are not as they should be. What has caused this wrongness, and why is it such an all-encompassing reality?

5. In Romans 5, Paul refers to Adam as being the one through whom sin came into the world. What does he mean by this? How does this inform your understanding of what sin is, and the problem we humans face?
6. How have you seen sin effect individuals, groups, society or even generations?
7. What actions of grace does God do, even as His creation rebels against Him?

LIVE IT OUT

1. How could you build in time and activities where you appreciate and worship our Creator God?
2. How does knowing God's given us work to do help us with our day-to-day activity?
3. When you see the effects of sin in your life, how do you respond?
4. What are the glimpses of grace, God's provision for us, that you see in each day? Name them and give thanks to Him

PRAYER