



Asbury Church

THE
BIBLE
for
GROWN-UPS

NOVEMBER 10, 2019
SERMON NOTES
"IN THE BEGINNING"
GENESIS 1:1-5

I. Introduction/Review

- A. If you don't know the story of the _____, it's easy to discount the stories in the Bible.
- B. The story of the Bible begins with the _____ of Jesus.
- C. From the beginning, these four documents (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) were considered _____, reliable, sacred and inspired.

II. One God

- A. The biggest struggle for Gentiles attracted to Christianity was embracing the idea that there was only _____ God.
- B. _____ stands in startling contrast to other ancient creation stories.
- C. The author of the book of Genesis is making the point that God created the heavens and the earth, not the _____.

III. In His image

- A. In the Jewish text, the creation of humankind is the _____, not the afterthought of creation.
- B. Genesis reminds us that we are _____ of this world.
- C. The world view introduced in Genesis would be the foundation of what would later be called the _____ Rule.

Things I would like to remember about this message:

Asbury Daily Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

“In the beginning” can be a loaded phrase – one that forces us into debate and doubt. But many were missing the point of Genesis 1:1 – a point made to a world where the violence and injustice of the gods justified and legitimized the violence and injustice of human rulers. Genesis introduces a radically different, unparalleled, and untested worldview.

Monday: Genesis 1:1-5

What do you think about when you read Genesis 1:1? Have you or someone you know tried to explore faith by using “In the beginning” as a starting point of faith? What obstacles come with that approach?

Tuesday: Genesis 1:6-13

The author of Genesis is not trying to explain how God created the heavens and the earth. He is making the case that God (not the gods) created the universe. How does this distinction change the way someone can approach reading Genesis?

Wednesday: Genesis 1:14-23

Do you see anything in nature or life that supports the idea that God created the universe with purpose and intent? What would change if you embraced the idea that everyone is here on purpose or for a purpose?

Thursday: Genesis 1:24-27

Many civilizations had creation stories that supported the idea that the human race was an afterthought of the gods. Consequently, individuals had no rights, hope or intrinsic value. How did those beliefs shape the cultures of that time? Do you see evidence of that kind of view now?

Friday: Genesis 1:28-31

In the beginning, God decided every man, woman, and child, would be born with dignity because they were made in his image. If you took this perspective on the purpose of Genesis, what would change about:

- How you view the Bible.
 - Your faith or your willingness to explore faith.
 - How you view yourself.
 - How you see and treat others.
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MOVING FORWARD

You’re here on purpose for a purpose. You are not the result of a cosmic conflict between the gods. You were not created by the universe. God wanted image-bearers who could know him and one another. And, in the beginning, we were introduced to the God who saves, redeems, delivers, and never gives up on us. He gave us freedom to choose, and he honors our choices.

Answers to the sermon notes:

- IA) Bible, B) resurrection, C) valuable.
- IIA) one, B) Genesis, C) gods.
- IIIA) pinnacle, B) stewards, C) Golden.