

Small Group Guide GOD WHO CREATES

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

January 10, 2010

Genesis 1-3

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Encourage learners to describe a time when they began watching a television show or movie in the middle of the plot. Ask the following question: How did the lack of a background affect the way you understood the storyline or ending? How might a lack of information about the beginning of God's story affect our understand Scripture?

Explain that today we will look at essential background information for understanding Scripture.

Option 2

Invite learners to name several of the "big" stories of the Old Testament that are often taught to children. Ask: **Have you ever told any of these stories in the context of God's overarching story of redemption?**

Explain that today we will look at how God planned to redeem His people from the beginning.

Review the Message . . .

God is Creator of All Things

- **God is pre-existent and eternal.**
- **God is the designer of order and purpose.**
- **God is sovereign.**
- **God brought all things into existence.**
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Discussion

- Enlist one or more learners to read Genesis 1.
- Looking at Verse 1, who existed before the heavens and the earth?
- If God was the Creator and not part of the creation, He is not a created being. What does this truth indicate about His nature and His character?

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- Instruct learners to briefly list what God created during the six days of creation. What came into being without God's command? What does this indicate about His authority?
- How is God's orderly design of creation portrayed in this account of creation? (For example, verses 11, 20, and 30)
- How does God's complete control over creating the universe demonstrate His sovereignty?

Application . . .

- When we think about the creation story, are we normally more focused on the Creator or the creation? What does our answer indicate about our view of the purpose of creation?
- Do we tend to think of ourselves as the center of God's purpose for creation or do we think of God as the center? Why?
- How should we react to the truth that God brought everything into being, including us? [Leader Note: God exists completely independent of us; we are completely dependent on Him]
- How does our understanding of God's role as Creator affect how we live each day? How does it affect the way we view our purpose?
- How does God's sovereignty in creation reveal His sovereignty in our lives?
- What comfort and encouragement do we have in God's sovereignty?

God's Authority is Revealed as Creator

- **As Creator, God has the authority to create.**
 - He creates by His will.
 - He creates for His purpose.
- **As Creator, God has the authority to judge.**
 - Sin mars God's design.
- **As Creator, God has the authority to redeem.**

Discussion

- What phrases or ideas are repeated throughout the creation account of Genesis 1 each time God creates something new?
- How do the words spoken by God and the subsequent events that follow display the power of God's will to create?
- Enlist a learner to read Genesis 1:28-30. How does God's intentionality in creation demonstrate that His creation was not random but designed with purpose?
- In Genesis 1:31, how is God's creation described?
- Enlist two learners to read Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-7. How is God's authority acknowledged and rejected in these events?
- Read Genesis 3:14-23. How was God's perfect design marred by the sin of Adam and Eve?

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- Why did God have to bring judgment to Adam and Eve? How did He show compassion and judgment to them?
- Looking at Genesis 3:14-15, how does God give a picture of His continued authority in creation and His desire to redeem His people?
- How does this need for redemption and God's compassion toward His people set the stage for God's acts throughout history?

Application . . .

- How does it make us feel to think that God created us by His will?
- How does knowing that God creates with purpose affect how we view our lives?
- Although the sin of Adam and Eve tainted the perfect nature of God's creation, how can we best allow God's design to guide our worldview and even our daily decisions?
- How does North American culture try to convince us that we have no judge?
- How do we think and act as if we are our own judges?
- How does submission to God's authority to judge influence our beliefs about moral and ethical issues?
- How does our understanding of God's intent to redeem His people affect the way that we view all of Scripture?
- What does the Creation account in Scripture reveal to us about the character of God? How should that revelation affect the way we live everyday?
- Why is God's plan to redeem humanity the only one that has the power to work?