

Beginnings Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson One: Creation: The Beginning of Time – Genesis 1:1-1:25

Unless otherwise noted, all questions in this lesson and subsequent lessons refer to the underlined Scripture references listed at the beginning of each of the five sections within the lesson (often given as readings).

Introduction: Read Genesis 1, together with Job 26:7-14 and Psalm 104.

- 1) Briefly describe each of the six days of creation (Example: Day 1 = light).

- 2) How many times did God say that His creation/work is “good” in Genesis 1? What does this commentary reveal about His nature?

- 3) a) According to Psalm 33:6 and 9, Hebrews 11:3, and 2 Peter 3:5, how did God bring creation into existence?
 b) Which repeated phrase in Genesis 1 confirms this?
 c) The Bible claims to be God’s written word (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21). Considering what God’s spoken word accomplishes (Genesis 1), what expectations should you have about what His written word will do in your life through this study? Be as specific as possible.

Reread Genesis 1:1-2.

- 4) In Genesis 1:1, the Bible claims that _____ existed before the universe.
- 5) According to Genesis 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3, who, specifically, participated in the process of creation?
- 6) In verse 2, the words “the Spirit of God was hovering (or moving) over the waters” suggest anticipation and preparation to begin a work. Read Romans 15:16b, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, 1 Peter 1:2 and consider that the Spirit of God is currently hovering (or moving) over you. What is He possibly preparing you for? (While the verses depict a general aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work within believers, you may have some specific ideas, based on His current work in your life.)

Reread Genesis 1:3-19.

- 7) God's creation of light was literal. In many other places, the Bible uses the term "light" symbolically. What does light represent in the following passages: 2 Samuel 22:29; Ezra 9:8; Psalm 13:3, 36:9, 43:3, 119:105; Isaiah 2:5; Isaiah 60:1, 19-20 (see together with John 1:1-9 and 8:12, Ephesians 5:14, and Revelation 21:23); Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 4:4; and 1 John 1:5-7?
- 8) Which phrase in Genesis 1:11-12 (also repeated in verses 21, 24, and 25) explains that God's creation was orderly and had divinely established parameters?
- 9) a) What purposes are given for the creation of the heavenly bodies in verses 14-19?
- b) Write a prayer of thanksgiving for specific ways you have benefited from the existence of the sun, moon, and stars in the past twenty-four hours. Make an effort to thank the Lord for these specific gifts a number of times throughout the day. At the end of the day, record the impact of your mindfulness and thanksgiving.

Reread Genesis 1:20-25.

- 10) God blessed the living creatures in verse 22. What does it mean to "bless"? (You may consult a dictionary or speak from experience.) What was God's command to the living creatures?
- 11) Read Job 38:4, 39-41 and 39:1-30. From this passage and your own observation of nature, what is God's attitude toward the creatures He has made?
- 12) Read Matthew 6:25-33. With what worry or personal need will you trust God today?

From Genesis 1:1-25:

13) Find and list all of the verbs (action words) that describe God's activity in Genesis 1:1-25.

14) Which verses use the words "separated", "gathered", and "produced"? Can you relate these aspects of God's work in creation to His spiritual work within you?

15) What do you learn about God (who He is and what His character is like) from Genesis 1:1-25? Which of these "attributes" of God (true qualities of His person) speaks to a need in your life today?