

Week 2: CASKET EMPTY Handout

Creation

Overview: Creation covers the creation of the world as well as the fall of mankind. A host of themes are introduced in this short section of the Bible. Some say the Bible is “front-loaded.” That is, the beginning is loaded with tons of themes that are unpacked in later sections, even the whole Bible. Genesis 1 and 2 tell the creation story. Chapter 3 tells of the fall and chapter 4 helps us to see the impact of the fall with the awful story of Cain and Abel. The story continues through chapter 11.

Key Verse: Gen 1:1

Biblical books: Gen 1-11

Characters: Adam, Seth, Noah, Shem

Meditation Points:

The beauty and goodness of the created world and all its creatures (Gen 1-2)

* The sovereignty, power, and beauty of God as the creator (Gen 1-2)

The value of mankind (Gen 1:26-28)

* Your personal value

The fallenness of mankind and all that was lost (Gen 3-4)

Prayer Prompts:

Spend some time praising God for what He has created in specific ways

Thank God for how he has created you in His image and how He has used you

Ask God to use you more fully. Ask Him to help you mature, find healing, become equipped...

Pray through Psalm 8

Resources:

Video: Overview: Genesis Ch. 1-11 (RS) [The Bible Project]

Video: Image of God (THM) [The Bible Project]

Video: The Contemplative Tradition [Renovare - 2 of 7]

Response Questions: How has God impressed something from the material on you this week? Has a word been significant? A passage? A thought? A question? A prayer?

The Lord’s Prayer begins: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” How does the creation story help us “hallow His name?”

How does the creation story speak to your value as a human?

How does the fall of mankind explain our struggles? How have you felt it this week?

Week 2 - Optional Further Study:

Watch The Bible Project video: Overview: Genesis Ch. 1-11 (RS)

Watch The Bible Project video: Image of God (THM)

Watch Video: The Contemplative Tradition (Renovare - 2 of 7)

What catches your attention in these videos?

Texts:

Key passages: Gen 1-11, Heb 11:1-7; Psalm 8, 104. Creation: Gen 1-2, Heb 11:1-3. Fall of man: Gen 3. Cain & Abel: Gen 4 & Heb 11:4. Noah: Gen 6-9 & Heb 11:7.

Study Questions:

Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 & Heb 11:1-3

Take note of the poetic structure, the repetition of phrases and words.

What is the pinnacle of His creative efforts?

What impresses you about his creative work?

How does Heb 11:3 interact with this creation story?

What is the purpose of mankind?

List what was created on each day. Do you see patterns or connections?

What do you notice in v2?

How does God create according to v3, 6, 9, 11...?

How does God respond to the creation?

What is different about mankind when he/they are created? (1:26)

How should we respond to this difference?

What is the purpose of humans?

What does this mean to you specifically?

What do you think of God's rest in 2:1-3?

Read 2:4-25 (Think of this as a detailed look at day 6)

How many things are humans commanded not to do?

What is man's purpose according to v5, 15, 19-20? (Psalm 8)

What is "not good" in v18? Count how many times the phrase "it was good" was repeated in Chapter 1.

By the end of the sixth day, is anything "not good?" (Go back to 1:31)

What are some purposes or goals for marriage & community according to v18, 20, 24?

What do you think is meant by v25?

Read 3:1-24

How does the serpent deceive the woman? (v1-5)

How does v7 relate to 2:25?

What is the impact of the fall according to v7, v8 & 10?

How did the blaming progress in v12, 13?

Who did the woman blame?

Who did the man blame?

What is the impact of the fall according to v14-19?

What promise is hidden in v15? Who is this verse talking about?

Why did God banish them from the garden according to v22? Explain.

Does it seem that mankind's purpose (1:26-28) has changed in light of the fall? What has changed?

Read or Listen to Genesis Chapters 1-11 in one sitting. How do you see themes from the first 3 chapters revisited?

Lamech: Notice that Cain has a child named Lamech (Gen 4:17-24) and so did Seth (Abel's replacement) as seen in Gen 5:25-32. Notice the similarity of the names of the fathers of the two Lamech's. What are the two Lamech's known for? (Gen 4:23-24 vs Gen 5:28-29). What do you think these parallel stories are trying to teach us about what God wants human life to look like?

The Flood: Why did God flood the earth? (Gen 6:5-7) What does v8 tell us about Noah in relation to the bleak moment? Compare the statement before the flood in 6:5 to the statement after the flood in 8:21. What do we learn about mankind from these statements? How does the blessing and command of 9:1 relate back to Gen 1:28?

The Tower: Gen 11:1-9 tells the story of the tower of Babel. What's wrong with what mankind set out to do? What did God do in response? What would it take for mankind to do amazing things according to 11:6?

Read Heb 11:1-7

How does this passage interact with the creation story? What does the Lord impress on your heart having read the creation story and then this evaluation in Hebrews?

Bored? A Massively overwhelming assignment

If you've been bored so far here's an assignment that may be more engaging.

Write a one-page, double-spaced paper that addresses the purpose of humanity, rooted in the Creation story. It should answer the question, "What has God called you to do in this world and how might you do it?" Send it to Jamie if you would like some feedback.