



*"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." -- Genesis 12:3*

Date: January 5, 2025  
Message: GOD'S CITY  
Teacher: Patrick Edwards  
Passage: Genesis 1:1-2:25

The Big Idea: The Bible opens by definitively showing us the Plan for the whole world and who the Plan-Maker is. The opening chapters aren't interested in telling us how the world was made, but rather Who made it and why He did. Only when we know Him can we then know ourselves and what He wants to do in this world through us.

As we study God's Word, we keep in mind that we live out our faith, not just believe the right stuff about Jesus. The Pathway for Discipleship includes a compass with four points... there is an **upward** direction that involves worship of God. Then there's a **downward** direction of growth and equipping. There's an **inward** direction of spiritual and personal growth. Which leads to an **outward** direction of ministry and service. At King's Grant, we desire that all disciples of Jesus **Gather** for worship, **Grow** in faith and practice, **Give** for the advancement of the Kingdom, and **Go** into the world to share the Good News of what Jesus has done for the world.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 8 (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

1. What time of day are you most creative? (an early bird or a night owl?)
2. What makes beginning a new project, job, school, year, or relationship so exciting?
3. What does the creation story reveal about God's character?
4. What does the story of creation tell us about humankind?
5. How should the creation of mankind impact the way we see life?
6. Since we are made in the image of God, how does that fact affect the way we treat one another?
7. What can we learn about work and rest from this passage?
8. What should we remember the next time we feel worthless?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 8 (Genesis 2:4-25)

1. What is your visual image of the perfect garden?
2. How significant is the fact that God breathed into Adam the breath of life?

3. What does the fact that man was not meant to be alone tell you about the importance of relationships?
4. Why does God plant this tree of the knowledge of good and evil in this beautiful garden and tell them not to eat it?
5. What is the significance of creating the first two people, male and female? How does this challenge our current culture?

#### OBSERVATIONS FROM PATRICK'S MESSAGE

1. Our purposes in this study are not to become smarter, but to live better in God's world in preparation for the consummation of His City.
2. This is the whole point of Genesis chapter 1. God is God and you are not. God is God, and nothing else comes close to Him. (Read Colossians 1:16, John 1:3)
3. You do not exist of your own free will or volition. You do not answer to yourself or are truly free to do whatever you like. You are a creature of the sovereign God and have been created to function according to His good purposes.
4. The point is that being made in the image of God is a call on Adam and Eve to rule the world. But such a call does not allow for humanity to live and act in an arbitrary way. They may be granted dominion but they themselves are still under dominion.
5. They are created to know God, to enjoy God, to rule under God and for God, to do so in the worship and obedience of God, but to take this special place called Eden and expand it to the ends of the earth. As they are called in chapter one to fill the earth, we see in chapter two they are to fill the earth with the worship of God.
6. We must rediscover Eden. But not merely for the sake of recovering the way things were, but instead we must see first what this Temple-City of God once was so that we can chart the trajectory of all of creation and see the city of New Jerusalem to come.
7. You see, the key here is not to find our purposes in those of the first Adam, but in the One through whom and for whom and by whom the first Adam was created. In order for us to dwell today and forever more in the City of God we must find our identities in the Last Adam, Jesus Christ.
8. Everything that humanity was intended to be, everything they were intended to do, everything they were intended to enjoy has been accomplished and realized in Jesus Christ alone. Thus, if we are to find our true purpose in life it will only be in the Word made flesh, who lived as a perfect human, died to conquer that which is opposed to God, and rose victorious to make our re-creation possible. This is the new life that Jesus alone brings. Do you have that new life? Are you walking in it?

PRAYER FOCUS: Find your true purpose in Christ. What is your life verse to live out?

NEXT STEPS: Do you need to **gather** (a renewed commitment to worship), **grow** (get involved in a Bible study or small group), **give** (of your time, talents, and treasure), or **go** (find a place of service)? Do you need to join this church? Get baptized? Rededicate your life to Christ?