

The Story
Week 1: The Beginning of Life as We Know It
May 16th, 2021

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

Outside of the Bible, what is your favorite story? (Maybe a childhood story, a book, etc.) Why?

INTRODUCTION

God's Word, the Bible, provides a foundation for faith that strengthens us in our spiritual journeys, nurtures our relationships with God, and guides us through life as followers of Jesus. There is no greater resource beyond the person of God to secure and solidify our faith in Him.

This week we begin a new series that will help us dive into His story, our story, and your story, ***The Story!*** Our opening study takes us to **The Beginning of Life as We Know It**, so where else in scripture but the beginning, *Genesis 1:1-2:4*.

THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-2:4

Read the passage: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE:

- What do you notice in this text with new or fresh eyes?
- What do you struggle with?
- What surprises you?
- What encourages you?

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

- What does the narrative of creation tell you about God?
- What does it tell you about God's "glorious plan" for the world He created?
- What do you understand your place to be in God's creation?
- In what ways do you feel you live in sync, or out of sync, with God's plan?
- This week we launched a series designed to give us a high-level overview of the Bible. Is there some specific action you could take to help you grow in the discipline of DEVOTION - *"a daily, and lifelong, dedication to the goal of knowing Christ"*?

LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:

- **Share your thoughts with your group. You may want to begin a daily or weekly Bible reading or commit to personal time with God each day. Encourage each other and pray for one another as you continue to connect and grow in your relationship with Jesus.**

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.