

PROMISES KEPT BIBLE OVERVIEW, WEEK ONE (GENESIS 1 – 2)

OPENING QUESTION

If you had to sum up the message of the Bible in one sentence, what would you say?

VIDEO TALK

APPLY TIME...

1. How does humanity's place in creation...

- make us humble?

- make us valuable?

- give us purpose in life?

2. There are many issues in society today where knowing we are creatures, made in God's image, to rule his world, should shape our view. Pick a few now, and discuss what Gen 1 v 26-31 has to say about them.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR HEARTS AND LIVES

1. Are there any areas in your life where you need to be reminded that you're not God, not in overall charge?

2. Where do you get your sense of value from? The shifting opinions of others, or the changing foundation of your looks, career, or health? What would change in your emotions and outlook if you based your identity on being made and valued by God?

3. What would change in how you view yourself and your life if your main purpose each day was to know God, live under his rule, and work in his world as he directs you?

PROMISE KEPT

The implicit promise of Genesis 1 – 2 is that the creation will be "very good" (1 v 31). That is what God says this world will be like. BUT today, our world is only a poor reflection of the world as it was created. Can the world God promised be recovered, or has his plan gone wrong?

Read John 1:1-5, 9

1. What similarities are there between these verses and Genesis 1 v 1-5?

2. What do we learn about "the Word"?

- v 1:

- v 2:
- v 3:
- v 4:
- v 5:

3. Read verse 14. What is amazing about these words?

- God's word brought light to creation (Genesis 1 v 5)—here, the Word became flesh to bring "light", too. What is that "light" (John 1 v 4)?
- This Word was called Jesus (v 17)... How is God "creating" through Jesus coming to earth?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR HEARTS AND LIVES (7 mins)

God's children (John 1 v 12) are not only part of his original creation, but also part of his new creation, begun when the Word became flesh to bring the light of life to the world.

1. What difference does that make to your life?
2. Do you think about what can be enjoyed in this world too much, or too little?
3. Do you care for it too much, or too little?
4. Do you think of your future as part of God's re-creation too much, or too little?

PRAY (7 mins)

Praise God...

that he is the Creator, and for making you to enjoy life in his creation.
that he sent Jesus to bring life and begin recreating this imperfect world.

Confess to God...

ways you make too much, or too little, of his world.

Ask God...

to help you to be humble, to find your value in being made by God, and to live as he created you to each day (you might want to pray for specific ways in which you need his help in doing these things).

EXTRA BIBLE TIME

Genesis 2 focuses on the climax of God's creation: humanity. Read Genesis 2 v 18-25

1. What is "not good"?
2. What does God do about it (v 21-22)?
3. The man responds with a love song (v 23—you may not rate it much!). What relationship have they been made for (v 24)?
4. What kind of relationship do they enjoy in God's creation (v 25)?
5. What do these verses tell us about men and women?