

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER
SERIES: GOD IS THE IMAGE — I AM THE IMAGE BEARER

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

Acts 3:15; Hebrews 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:1-2

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

BIG IDEAS

- Before there was a beginning, there was God.
- God creates out of nothing and brings order where there is disorder.
- Everything in creation, including us, exists for God.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 1:1-25

KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- They were created in God’s image and likeness for the purpose of worship.
- Value, purpose, significance, and worth are found in and flow from God alone.



Every student should feel...

- Awe that God created them in His own image.
- Loved by their heavenly Father who knows them better than they know themselves and still pursues them.



Every student should strive to...

- Understand and embrace who God created them to be.
- Talk about gender and identity as a gift from the Lord for His purposes and His glory.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.



Every student should want...

- To have a deeper relationship with the God who made them in His image.
- To pursue a lifestyle of worship that centers on the true Savior and rejects false saviors.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:1-2

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

God has always existed, with no beginning and no end.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

- Prior to the heavens and earth existing, God was. He is infinite and eternal in nature. This means that He has no beginning and no end. He also has no boundary or limitation. He is not a created being, but the Creator of all things.
- Before He spoke space, matter, and time into existence, He existed fully and perfectly. He has always been perfect and complete and will always be so. He has always existed as a God of three persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He has never experienced any limits or boundaries because He is the beginning of all things.

God is the Creator of the heavens and earth.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

- The earth did not just happen, nor was it the result of some cataclysmic event in the universe. Life did not evolve on earth from matter and particles. Instead, the heavens and earth were created. God created time, space, and matter and He created the heavens and earth in them.
- When He created the heavens and the earth, the earth had no form and it was void of everything. This means that there was no life on the earth, no order, only darkness and chaos. The world began from God who created it according to His great design.

God created from nothing, speaking creation into existence by His powerful Word.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

- In the beginning, God spoke the heavens and earth into existence. He created them from nothing. He is mighty and powerful and it is by His mighty Word that creation began.
- God’s ability to create something from nothing reveals His position as the Creator of everything. He is the Author of all things because it is by His design that things exist as they are. He designed the heavens and earth to be what they are, and they exist for His purposes.

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

BIG IDEA #1: BEFORE THERE WAS A BEGINNING, THERE WAS GOD.¹

[THIS]

Our story begins with the creation of the heavens and the earth in the beginning. God's story is not like our story because He has no beginning like we do. He is an eternal God who has no beginning. He existed before the heavens and the earth, which means He is the first of all things. While the idea of something or someone having no beginning is difficult for our human minds to comprehend, God allows us to know and understand what we need to know and understand. What we know is that God was not created and has no beginning. This means He will always be and we never have to fear there not being a God. We can find great comfort and joy in this truth. God's eternal nature is one of the things that sets Him apart from the rest of the world. He is the only being to have no beginning, and without this truth, He would not be God. All questions about life and purpose are found in God because He is the beginning of all things.

[THEREFORE]

In what ways does God's eternal nature help you understand His sovereignty, or power over all things?

Psalm 135:6-7 speaks to God's control over all things. Whatever God desires, He does and is unhindered in it because He is the beginning of everything. Colossians 1:17 reminds us of God's power and control over all things because He is the Creator of everything and nothing exists apart from Him. Psalm 74:16-17 also serves as a reminder of God's sovereignty and rule because He is the beginning of everything.

[THIS]

God has always and will always exist just as He is. He is an unchanging God which means He has always been perfect, righteous, and holy and He will always be so. God does not shift or change, nor does He change His mind about His purpose and plan for His creation. In Genesis 1:1-3, we see the Trinitarian nature of God. This means that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always been. God has existed in three persons forever and He will continue to exist in three persons. That God has always been and does not change brings great comfort and joy to His people. He can be fully trusted and His plan and purpose for creation can be trusted.

[THEREFORE]

How does God's unchanging character shape our understanding of His faithfulness and produce worship in us?

Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that Christ is the same always. Because He is unchanging and has always existed just as He is, we can have hope in Him and His plan for creation. Sin did not cause God to change His mind or force Him to come up with a new plan. God has always been in control and His plans are always fulfilled. We can worship Him always for His unchanging nature.

How does God's eternal nature help you submit to Him in your daily life?

In Psalm 48:14, the psalmist says of God that He is forever and ever and will guide him until death. This God who gave so much hope to the people of the Old Testament is the same God today. This means we can hope in Him and submit to His plan daily because He is always going to be who He says He is. Isaiah 40:28 reminds us that God does not grow weary or tired; He does not change. This brings great hope and trust and empowers us to submit to His will daily because no matter how unfaithful we might be, He remains the same. We can submit to His will because our behavior doesn't change His faithfulness.

1. Psalm 90:2: *The Psalmist praises God for His eternal and infinite nature. He has always been and will always be.*

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

BIG IDEA #2: GOD CREATES OUT OF NOTHING AND BRINGS ORDER WHERE THERE IS DISORDER.²

[THIS]

Genesis 1:3-25 helps us understand that the heavens and earth did not exist before God made them. In the very beginning, God created space and matter because neither existed before He made them. He created the heavens from nothing, speaking them into being by His Word. He created the earth in its initial formless and darkened state void of any life. He did not need any help during the creation process. He had only to speak and His Word was obeyed. We see this power in Genesis 1:3-25 as God speaks and things come into being at His command. He commands light to separate from the dark and it obeys. He commands the sun to shine and sets it in its place. He creates the birds of the air, beasts on the land, and creatures in the sea. All things come from His mighty command and His all-powerful creativity.

[THEREFORE]

Read Genesis 1:1-2. How does the reality of creation from nothing foster awe and wonder of God?

In Psalm 95:4-5, the psalmist remarks in wonder and awe at God's creative powers. When we consider that God created the heavens and earth from nothing, we should be in awe of His power and creativity. Psalm 104:24-25 also give us a picture of the wonder and awe that God's creativity elicits in His people. When we recognize that the intricate and incredible world we live in was created from nothing by God, we should feel incredible awe at His handiwork.

[THIS]

Genesis 3 also shows us the disorder that our sin creates. Because sin entered the world, human lives are often chaotic and disordered. God brings order to our lives through His correction of us. As He disciplines and guides His children, He brings order to their lives. God's unchanging commands bring order to the world and human condition because they remain the same no matter the day or hour. As God works in His people through His Spirit to make them more like Jesus, He orders their days and directs their lives. God brings order to chaos through creation and through His interaction with His people in the world.

[THEREFORE]

Read Genesis 1:3-25. How can knowing that God gives order to chaos change the way we view chaos in our lives?

Psalm 46:1-3 is an example of what it looks like to trust God when life is seemingly falling apart. God has proven Himself faithful. Isaiah 26:3-4 remind us that God is steadfast and gives peace to His people when they set their minds on His faithfulness and trust in Him.

When your life feels chaotic, where do you look to find peace?

Often in our lives when we face trials or difficulties, we look to ourselves or someone else to help us through them instead of seeking God. Proverbs 18:10 tells us that God is a strong tower to those who trust in Him. Psalm 34:10 tells us that those who seek God's face lack no good thing. When we turn our minds and trust to God in our chaos, He is faithful to guide us through it.

2. Genesis 1:1-2: God created all things from nothing because nothing existed prior to God creating it.

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

BIG IDEA #3: EVERYTHING IN CREATION, INCLUDING US, EXISTS FOR GOD.³

[THIS]

God has always been sovereign over everything and Genesis 1:1-25 reveals this to us. Because God is the beginning of all things and the Creator of everything, creation exists for Him. God created, not out of a need for something, but because of His great purpose and plan. He spoke the heavens and earth into existence as part of His plan. God revealed Himself and His glory through creation. As we read the creation narrative, we see God's creativity at work and begin to understand that His creation has purpose and order that is beyond just making something. Because God does not need anything, creation doesn't exist to complete Him. It exists because of Him and for Him. He is the subject of creation because He created all things to bring Him glory.

[THEREFORE]

How does knowing that God has no need encourage you, and how can it help you live for His glory?

Colossians 1:16 tells us that everything was made through God and it all exists for Him. This tells us that God is the subject of creation. Acts 17:5 reminds us that God does not need anything. This means that He did not need to create us, but He chose to for His purpose. This also means that we are not the subject of God's creation. He did not create the heavens and earth for us, but for Himself.

Knowing that God is the subject of creation, what are some created things you value and how do you elevate them to a place they do not belong?

In Isaiah 44:9-10, we're told that those who worship created things instead of the Creator are fools. When we remember that creation exists for God, we will worship the Creator instead of created things. Romans 1:25 also serves as a warning to those who make the subject of creation themselves or creation itself.

[THIS]

Psalms 104:1 says the Lord is clothed with majesty and splendor. God is a majestic and holy God. He is like no other and He alone deserves all the glory, honor, and praise we can give. Though God is complete in Himself, He chose to create the world as a way to reveal His glory to mankind and to bring Himself glory through mankind's redemption. Because God is who He is—perfect and holy—all of creation exists for Him. All of creation declares God's glory and mankind exists to bring God glory. The sole purpose of creation is to make God's name known. We exist for Him and not for ourselves. Creation does not exist for man, though man is sustained and kept through creation's resources. Creation exists for God. It serves as a declaration of God to the world as it reveals His glorious creativity and dominion.

[THEREFORE]

Knowing that everything exists to bring God glory, how can you glorify God in your daily life?

In Hebrews 1:3, Jesus is described as being the radiance of God's glory. Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life to God and brought glory to God's name through His life and death. 1 Corinthians 10:31 tells us to do all things for the glory of God. 1 Peter 1:14-15 teaches us to not be conformed to this world, but to put off the things of this world and put on the things of God. When we walk in a manner worthy of Christ, we will bring God glory with our lives.

3. Colossians 1:16: All things were made through Christ and all things exist for Him.