

The Gospel Project



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 2: September 17–23, 2016

Day 1

September 19



Pray | Pray that reading the Bible will deepen your faith.

ORIGIN STORIES HAVE always filled an essential need for people. Regardless of where on earth you are from, or even your ethnic heritage, most likely your ancestors had origin stories (sometimes known as creation myths).

Consider also how they are used in everything from comic books, television shows, and movies, to rock bands, athletes, celebrities, and even in corporate bios. We have a need to know where we come from, what our purpose is, and even how it is all going to end.

Consider your journey through the Bible a review of the truest, greatest origin story ever told. We'll learn where we come from, why we do the things we do, what our purpose is, where our redemption comes from, and even how it all ends. Are you ready for the only origin story that can truly make sense of it all and even save your life along the way?



Read | Genesis 1:26–31



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

If anyone has ever told you that you look just like your _____ (mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, or cousin), then you could say in a way that you are made in their image rather literally. Once this connection is made, people see the person you remind them of every time they see you. If you are a believer and share that fact, then everyone who sees you sees God through your words, actions, and choices, and their opinion of him is formed or reinforced by their observations of you. Would the God in whose image you are made be pleased with the way you are using your life?

God took nothing and made everything from it. God gave humanity the earth, and everything in it, to do exactly what he does: create things using the minds and bodies he has given us with the resources he has provided us. What dangers can come if you add sin into the picture, with a directive that has the words *subdue* and *dominion* in it? How do we avoid those dangers?

If the God who created it all said it was very good, then why do we as his created beings want to change and redefine the way things work (marriage, family, sin, and so forth)?

Day 2

September 20



Pray / Thank God for wanting to be intimately involved in your life.

STRADIVARIUS—YOU MAY not even need Google to know this name is affixed to extremely expensive violins. The genuine ones made by Antonio Stradivari sell for millions of dollars each. Another violin's label reads "Roy A. Kirchner, Inver Grove Heights, MN, No. 50, 1985." A handwritten signature verifies that he's the maker of that particular violin. "Handmade" means that a master craftsman is willing to put his name on a product that perfectly meets exacting standards.

Rejoice! The Psalms refer to God's knitting you together in your mother's womb and to the fact that you were known to him even before that event even happened. Today's passage tells us that God did not merely speak people into existence like the rest of creation, but that he formed them (with his own hands) and then breathed the very breath of life into them. Rejoice! You are handmade by the God of the universe!



Read / Genesis 2:4–9



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

God, *the God*, the very one who created everything, including you, wants a personal relationship with you. He sent his son to die so that you might be forgiven. Let this sink in a moment, and then ask yourself what have you, are you, or will you do in response to his relentless pursuit of you?

Learning to play the violin involves many things, not the least of which is a lot of learning and practicing. It may have meant being subjected to the Suzuki, or some other, method of teaching. In order to be made in the image of that teaching method, much time is spent studying under someone who teaches a very methodical, precise, proven way of learning to play the violin. If you are a believer in Christ, are you adequately training yourself by growing your relationship with God through prayer, Bible reading, fellowship with other believers, and seeking to be disciplined by or discipling others?

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, how might you seek what you need to decide if you even want a relationship with God? (Hint: There are some clues in the previous question.)

Day 3

September 21



Pray / Thank God that he made you for relationships.

YOU HAVE PROBABLY experienced many times in your life the reality that often two people are better at doing things together than when they choose to go it alone.

Maybe you are even aware this is actually how God designed us to function. From the very creation, God designed people to seek not only a relationship with him but also with others. There is no better example than that of an infant who is wholly dependent on others to survive. Ponder for a moment the infant Jesus being born and being wholly dependent upon his human parents. Jesus' earthly parents, like all of us, are descended from the very first people God created and placed in the Garden of Eden. Just like them, oftentimes we choose a lie from someone we don't know over trusting the God whom we should. Only a relationship with God can save us from ourselves; relationships with others either can push us toward or away from him. Choose relationships wisely.



Read / Genesis 2:16–25



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Relationships have lots of moving pieces that allow them to function. One of these pieces is trust. When we are building or experiencing mutual trust, our relationships are healthy and growing. And when trust is betrayed, the relationship is damaged and may even be destroyed. Relationships with God and others are broken and strained whenever trust has been diminished. Do you trust God absolutely, in all things, or only in certain things?

Consider the aspect of relationships involving obedience regarding the boundaries and rules in which the relationship operates. Can your relationships with God or others function when boundaries or rules have been broken? If this has occurred (or is occurring) in your relationships, what are you going to do about that?

For the first time God says something is not good (for man to be alone) and then he does something about it. In another departure from his prior acts of creation, he takes part of man and creates woman from that part. In today's world of shifting interpretations and outright denials of truth, what are some reasons it is so important to believe what the Bible teaches us? (The prior two questions might help.)

Day 4
September 22



Pray / Ask God to help you discover his plans for your life.

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT that you just got hired for a new job. Other than the time, date, and location where you are supposed to be, you know nothing about what will be expected of you. You arrive in the right place, on the right day, at the right time. After a few unsuccessful attempts to distract the person at the front desk from whatever important task he appears to be occupied with, he agrees, grudgingly, to show you to your cubicle. Then he abandons you. No one is visible anywhere near your cubicle, and nobody stops to say hi. There are no instructions or passwords to log on to the computer. No one has given you an office tour or explained your job duties to you. Without knowing what is expected or what your purpose, function, and job duties are, it would be absolutely maddening.

Fortunately, Adam personally was told what his job duties were by the God of the universe. Through the Bible, you have the same advantages Adam had of knowing God's plan for you, your job, and your life.



Read / Genesis 2:15



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

No doubt all of us have, at one time, fallen into the trap of debating which jobs are better: nonreligious secular jobs versus jobs like those of pastors, missionaries, Bible translators, or others doing the obvious work of the kingdom.

This short verse you read today conveys a lot. It says God “put him . . .” If God “put” Adam exactly where he wanted him to be, what does that tell you about either where you are right now or where you feel God is calling you to be?

When the words *Garden of Eden* are mentioned, they are often interchanged by some people with the word *paradise*. Read both questions below:

- When you think *paradise*, do you think retirement, vacation, recreation, or some other pleasurable activity? How does this differ from Adam in the Garden?
- There are two things Adam is to do while in the Garden: he is to (1) work it and (2) keep it. He’s been given a place and some tasks to do while he is there. Does knowing what’s expected of you make your life easier? Good news: the Bible has God’s plan readily available, whenever you need it.

Day 5

September 23



Pray / Pray that God will help you enjoy taking time to rest.

FAMILIES HAVE CERTAIN things that become traditions and become well-known, expected routines. In some households, it is going out for dinner, watching a Sunday afternoon ball game, or taking a Sunday afternoon nap that is a sacred event. It is expected, it is needed, and if it is not taken, then bad things are going to happen!

Regardless of the chaos going on in individual lives or the length of various to-do lists and obligations, it is something they try very hard to make sure happens every Sunday afternoon. The specific start and end times, or even the length of the restful activity, are not the important thing. Rather, it is instead the regular act of taking time and choosing to not be doing what they do all the rest of the time that makes rest beneficial for them.



Read / Genesis 2:1–3



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Did God rest on the seventh day because he needed to or because he knows that you need to?

God has made us, mind, body, and soul designed in perfection, to be a reflection of his own image. Are you someone who knows your limits and backs off as needed, or do you push on until something breaks? What might God be telling you from this passage?

Some people believe that God created the world but has been letting things run unattended ever since. What are some personal experiences you have had that refute this erroneous picture of God?

Portions of this study were adapted from The Gospel Project Chronological: The Story Begins, Vol. 1, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.

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