



Week of February 20 Where It All Came From¹

Overview:

Did you ever wonder...Why are we here? How did all of this come to be? What are the origins of our universe, our story, and our purpose? In the first eleven chapters of Genesis, we see a cosmic story unfolding—an epic narrative of God shaping a good and meaningful world, what went wrong, and how God is redeeming the mess and restoring us to something good. Over the next twelve weeks, we will explore new ways to study this narrative and learn how to apply those tools to all of Scripture.

Group Objectives:

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how your worldview affects your reading of the Bible and learn more about God through the story of creation.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We encounter the Father daily.* God the Father speaks to us through the Bible, and we commune with him through prayer.

Conversation Starters:

- What is your favorite part of the Bible to study? Why? Do you have a favorite verse?
- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Bible study? Why is that so?

Read and Reflect: Bible Study Discussion

*Good Bible study requires good interpretation. Good interpretation begins with understanding the worldview of the original audience. Genesis was not written to 21st century believers. Trying to make it fit into our scientific understanding asks the text to do something it was never intended to do. While not written **to** us, God, in his infinite wisdom, did write Genesis **for** 21st century believers. The core message has not changed. Understanding the ancient context of Genesis helps us see the truths God communicated millennia ago so we can apply them to our lives today.*

Opening our minds to new possibilities can be a painful process. Give grace to those in your group who struggle. This is a journey, and we are all in different places along the path. You will not have all the answers. That is okay; God can handle your questions. To help you in the process, some additional resources—including books, videos, and podcasts—can be found at cccomaha.org/origins. If you need additional help, please reach out to a member of the Adult Ministries team.

¹ This week's lesson was written by Rachel Vaughn and Jackie O'Dell; edited by Dawn Gentry.

Encourage your group to have the “Diagram of Ancient Cosmology” available for reference throughout the conversation. It can be found in the back of the Origins notebook or at www.cccomaha.org/origins

- **Read Genesis 1:1-31**
 - Given what we know of the Ancient Near-East worldview, what do you see the author emphasizing about creation? How did the worldview affect his choice in words or phrasing?
 - What does the text communicate about God and the purpose (if any) of creation?
 - What intrigues you about these verses? What questions do they raise?
 - What about God and the creation story is the most surprising or challenging to you?

- **Read Colossians 1:15-20**
 - How does Paul describe Jesus’ role in creation?
 - What do you think Paul means in v.15 when he says, “the firstborn over all creation”?
 - How does reading Paul’s interpretation of Genesis 1 alter or enhance your own?

Summarize and Respond:

- Using the *Diagram of Ancient Cosmology* as a guide, how would you describe our Modern-Western cosmology? If it helps, draw a diagram, and contrast the two.
- Using Genesis 1 as an example, how do you think our worldview might affect how we interpret scripture?
- How can we differentiate between truth and interpretation?
- Do you feel comfortable bringing your doubts and questions to God? Why or why not? What might help you grow in this area?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Pray for our hearts to be open to what God is revealing to us about himself through creation.

For further study:

- Bible Project Videos
 - What is the Bible: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/what-is-bible/>
 - Genesis 1-11: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/torah-genesis-1/>
 - The Tree of Life: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/tree-of-life/>