

All about Jesus

Small group questions

In the beginning – Genesis

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact

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1. How have you considered the Old Testament? Love it? All too hard? Too depressing/confronting?
2. Why has Mark claimed we should be reading it and considering it as a significant source of learning about the significance of the Lord Jesus? (See for example Luke 24:27 and 44.)

Mark explored with us, four movements in the book of Genesis:

THE MOVEMENT FROM DELIGHT TO GRIEF

3. Read Genesis 1:31, then 6:5-6. What do you make of such a dramatic change from delight to grief? Read Genesis 3:1-24 and reflect together on the impact of sin.
4. Read Ephesians 4:30 in context and consider God's grief at our sin today.
5. Mark reflected on the fact that there is only one way for grief to move back to delight and it is the work of Jesus in his death and resurrection and in the new creation. Discuss.

THE MOVEMENT FROM JUDGEMENT TO MERCY

6. Mark said that each time we see God's judgement, we also see his mercy. How is that seen in
 - a. Adam and Eve's nakedness?
 - b. Their banishment from the garden?
 - c. The judgement of the flood?
 - d. God's final judgment of humankind?
7. What is the correlation from being 'in the ark' to being 'in Christ'? What does it mean to be 'in Christ'?

THE MOVEMENT FROM CHAOS TO ORDER

From the chaos of human rebellion, comes the order post flood. From the chaos of the tower of Babel, comes God's choosing of one man from whom will come a significant nation – the nation of Israel. God will bring final and complete order when Jesus returns in the new creation!

8. Discuss how God brings order into the lives of individuals when they put their trust in Jesus.
9. Why *did* God focus his plans on one man? Read Genesis 12:1-3. How is v3 fulfilled in the coming of the Lord Jesus and proclamation of the Gospel to Gentiles?
10. How is Joseph a Saviour figure?

THE MOVEMENT CANAAN TO EGYPT

Even the plot to do away with Joseph was in God's hands. He told his brothers in Genesis 50:19-20 that what the brothers intended for evil, God used for good! So God's people now in Egypt – is all within the plans of God.

11. From delight to grief, judgement to mercy and chaos to order – we can see God at work. How has this helped your understanding of the book of Genesis and the role of the Old Testament in deepening our understanding of the significance of Jesus?

God's grief at our rebellion and his mercy in the face of judgment, led him to send his Son for our sake, so that anyone who believes in him may have eternal life! That grief and mercy ultimately leads to the restoration of all order in the new creation. Praise God for mercy!