

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

Let There Be Light

Genesis: The Story Begins

Discussion Guide
Week #1

Let There Be Light Genesis: The Story Begins

John 1:1-5 (TNIV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Genesis 1:1-8, 26-31 (TNIV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created human beings in his own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Facilitator's Guide

Facilitator's Tips

Small Group Leaders are Spiritual Leaders of a group of people focused on being transformed by Christ. Mechanically, they serve as hosts and facilitators of a group discussion around scripture. Spiritually, they partner with the work of God's spirit to influence hearts and minds in the context of community. They go first in applying the scriptures to their lives and press into discipleship. They facilitate good friendships, initiate prayer, and share in the facilitation of scripture studies.

- **Pray.** Small Group leaders not only lead prayer during the group time, but also pray for the members of their Small Group.
- **Play.** Small Group leaders think creatively about building friendships and community- perhaps through social events outside of the regular Small Group time or through serving together.
- **Plan.** Small Group leaders prepare well for a great discussion and think through the development of the trust of the group. Also, they delegate appropriately to other members of the group to facilitate the scripture study.
- **Promote.** Small Group leaders intentionally invite people in their relational world who might benefit from participating in a Small Group. Also, they invite the members of the Small Group to bring their gifts to the table and create space for others to lead in their particular fashion.
- **Participate.** Small Group leaders are the ones to model vulnerability and discipleship for the group. This doesn't mean they need to be perfect; it means that they must be serious about addressing the challenges of the gospel in their lives and invite others in.

Thank you for your leadership!

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START IT

- What characteristics do you share with your parents?
- If you have children, in what ways do you see yourself in them?
- Share your thoughts about studying the book of Genesis.

STUDY IT

- Read John 1:1-5. What metaphors does the author use to describe Jesus?
- What do you understand about Jesus from this poetic description?
- Read Genesis 1:1-8, 26-31.
- In Bruce's sermon he says: *"Let me suggest that the first chapter of Genesis was written by a poet not a scientist or historian. What is the difference between the writings of a poet and a historian?"* How do you respond to his question?
- What was the earth like before God's creation, described in this passage?
- How does the author describe God's creative process?
- In his sermon, Bruce said: *"The poet breaks the familiar rhythm to make an important point. It is the moment when god creates people."* What is the author trying to communicate about humanity?
- What does it mean to be 'created in the image of God'?

LIVE IT

- What parts of you do you think reflect God's image?
- What might you do to more intentionally reflect God in your life?
- What are you hoping God does in your life through this season?

PRAY IT

- That you might more clearly see that parts of you that reflect who God is- his nature and his character.
- That people in our church might discover who God is through this Genesis series.