



LIFE FROM CHAOS: GENESIS

STUDY 1: LIFE'S AUTHOR

Genesis 1:1-2:3



Key Idea

Genesis 1 can help us a lot of big questions, especially questions about what our place is in this world and what we can look forward to.



Listen

This study is written to be used together with the sermon preached at Trinity Church which you can find on our church website.

www.trinitybay.church/sermon-archive/



Talk About

1. If you were there for Sunday's sermon, we were asked what question we would ask God if we were given the opportunity. What question would you most like to know the answer to?

2. As we begin studying the early chapters of Genesis, take a moment to share with the group how familiar you are with this part of the bible. It's likely some of us will have studied it many times before, where as others might not have looked into these chapters much, or at all.

If you are at all familiar with the early chapters of Genesis, one thing you'll know is that this part of the bible can bring up lots of questions and debates. I (Matt) think it's sort of true that 'no question is a bad question', but it's also true that with many questions there's a danger of letting less important things distract us from more important things.

For this series I'm encouraging groups to keep a "park it" list. Don't be afraid to discuss questions as they come up, but it may be that you decided a question needs to be "parked" so that it doesn't distract from what's more important. You might get a chance to come back to these questions later, and you're welcome to feed your questions back to me too. I'll be trying to collect people's questions through the series and have a go at answering them at various points.

3. What are your first impressions of the passage?

4. What is the world like in verse 2?

5. Verse 3 begins the “days of creation”. What sort of things are repeated as the narrative progresses through the days?

6. Note down some of the details of each day using the table below. The first one is done for you:

Day	What's named?	What's called good?
Day 1 (v 3-4)	Day, Night	The light
Day 2 (v 6-8)		
Day 3 (v 9-13)		
Day 4 (v 14-18)		
Day 5 (v20-23)		
Day 6 (v24-31)		
Day 7 (2v1-3)		

A Little Bit Extra

7. What's different about day 6? What's different about day 7?

8. Read this statement:

"Genesis 1 describes humanity as the peak of God's creation and rest as the goal of God's creation"

What features of the passage do you think would lead people to come to this conclusion? Do you think it's a fair statement?

A Visual Commentary?

Want a bit of help getting your head around Genesis 1? *The Bible Project* does a great 'visual commentary' of the chapter, and I reckon it's really helpful.

It's a 7 minute video which gives you a good picture of the text that we're reading and helps you go a bit deeper too.

It's free and can be viewed at bibleproject.com/explore/video/genesis-1/

You might even like to watch it with your group?

Read Hebrews 4:1-2

9. These verses contain an encouragement and a warning. An encouragement that God promises we may enter his rest and a warning not to follow the example of the Israelites in the desert who failed to enter God's rest (in this example the promise land) because of a lack of faith. How does this add significance to what we've read in Genesis about God's rest?

10. Think back to question 1 and the big questions you would ask if given the chance. What sorts of big questions do you think Genesis is trying to answer?

Action

11. How does the promise of entering God's rest change how you think and feel about your current circumstances?

12. If humans are the peak of God's creation, what does this say about how we should treat all people? Do you think Christians tend to do a good job of this?

13. Is there something you could be doing to better enjoy or care for God's special creation?

14. How would you respond to a friend who tells you they can't take the bible seriously because it's story of how the world was created makes no sense in light of modern science?

