



GLORY!

In every school, there are trophy cases, medals, photographs, and other paraphernalia to say, “Look at what we’ve accomplished.” From academics to athletics, these noble reminders can be summed up in a single word—“Glory.”

While a *school* may have a lot to show, *God’s* display case is a bit bigger. Israel’s great poet-king, King David, wrote, “*The heavens declare the glory of God*” (Psalm 19:1). Earth is a 1-in-700-quintillion kind of planet (literally the current estimate of other planets). None match Earth’s life-sustaining capacity. With odds like that, it becomes hard to argue that our peculiar planet is the product of random chance or a cosmic accident.

Many “How” questions exist regarding Creation, but the question we should be asking is “Who?” Many scientifically-minded Christians have done a lot of work to answer “how” questions, but, “What does Creation teach us about the Creator?”

GENESIS 1–3 (SELECTED)

^{1:26} Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”...

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”... ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:15} The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each Week of our study covers snapshots of the biblical story like video clips stitched together for a trailer to a movie—there’s so much more story to tell than what we can cover. That’s what the “Additional Resources” section is all about. Here, we can provide more helps and resources for information related to our study. For example, scan the QR-code for Part 1 of an overview on *Genesis*.



DISCUSSION

What’s your experience with the Bible so far—have you grown up around it, or is this pretty new for you?

1. What was unique about God’s creation of humankind? (1:26)

2. Where did God put the man and what commands did God give? (2:15-17)

3. What was the woman’s conclusion regarding the fruit after her conversation with the serpent? (3:6)

4. Why do you think God’s assessment of Day 6 (“very good”) was different from the other days (“good”) (1:31)?

5. In what ways did each violate God’s word in this encounter?

- The serpent (1, 4-5)

- Eve (2-3, 6)

6. In what ways does sin still tempt people to “be like God”? Why is that so problematic?

As we begin the study, you may have questions along the way about what you read or how to follow God. Your coach may not have all the answers, but they’re here for you!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



ATHLETE STUDY

STUDY NOTES

“THIS IS A FOOTBALL”

At the start of training camp 1961, Green Bay Packers coach, Vince Lombardi, held up a football and uttered the famous words, “Gentlemen, this is a football.” This wasn’t peewee football and these weren’t children. These were professional football players—rough men playing a brutal game. But, Lombardi’s strategy was simple, start at the beginning.

As we begin our *Run Through the Old Testament*, we’re starting *in the beginning*. Well, sort of. You see, “*In the beginning...*” is Genesis 1:1. Our study will repeatedly have to skip over some pretty important stuff to focus on the *story* of the Bible. So, we’re pushing fast-forward to Day 6 of 7. Why? Because while all the other days of Creation were “good” days. Day 6 was “**Very Good**.”

So, what made this day so very good?

GOD’S GLORY SHINES THROUGH CREATIVITY

Despite the awesomeness of everything God had done Days 1–5, nothing in all of Creation compares to God’s Day 6 project. God spoke land animals into being. However, animal life wasn’t enough. So, **God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”**

Here we see the uniqueness of **Day 6**. God did a special work. All of humanity—**male and female**—everyone, everywhere display his image. From the all-star to the outcast, all have his image. All people are valuable, worthy of dignity and respect. Seeing God’s image in classmates, teammates, opponents, and yes, even the refs, should remind us of several things: God exists, he cares, he is creative, and he is really powerful (see Romans 1:20).

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” In other words, when God made Adam and Eve, they were king and queen and instructed to make more kings and queens to care for God’s Creation.

They had jobs, purpose, satisfaction, and they could do *anything* they wanted—except one thing. **And the LORD God commanded, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”** So, everything was very good... for a while.

NUMBER ONE, CREATION’S GLORY NOW UNDONE

Genesis 3 introduces a new character to the story: **Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.** As if the talking snake wasn’t concerning enough, **He said to the woman, “Did God actually say...?”**

Notice the question. Satan twisted the very thing that brought life into existence—God’s words. Not only that, Satan then assaulted God’s character, **“You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.”** In other words, “God’s not trustworthy. He’s holding something back from you. You can have what you want by taking it yourself.”

All of a sudden, God’s grading scale got turned upside down. Only one thing in all Creation was deemed “not good,” by God, but **when the woman saw that the tree was good for food... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

Sin entered Creation. Shame, insecurity, and pain came into the world for the first time and humanity has been dealing with the consequences ever since. However, God didn’t end the story there. Genesis 3 continued. Sin had consequences—but, there was hope. As God spoke to the serpent, he said, **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel”** (Genesis 3:15).

Although death entered the world because of sin, God had a rescue plan. God promised a child that would crush the snake’s head. Although Creation would never be the same because of sin, the promised child, the Snake-crusher, would one day come to deliver a final blow to Satan.

As we *Run Through the Bible*, a fair question to ask is, “Is this the snake-crusher?” Spoiler alert, we’re in for a lot of disappointing “no’s.” Adam and Eve had children, Cain and Abel. When Cain murdered his brother clearly, they weren’t the Snake-crusher. And, although there are many heroes in the Old Testament, *Genesis to Malachi*, we will not meet the Snake-Crusher this semester. Well, at least not in our *study*.

As we end our semester, you’ll probably put a tree in your house that points to the heavens. You’ll give presents in honor of the Greatest Gift—a birthday celebration of a baby born 2,000+ years ago in a stable. Christmas isn’t about twinkly lights, presents, hot cocoa, and certainly not about the red-suited heavyweight. It celebrates the arrival of the Snake-crusher.