

The BIG PICTURE
Week 1: The Beginning
September 11th, 2022

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite the Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

*****If your group is a new group, or maybe has taken an extended break, or has new members, it might be a good time to review the group guidelines to ensure healthy group interaction. Below are the bullet points. There is a complete explanation of these at the end of this lesson for review!**

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

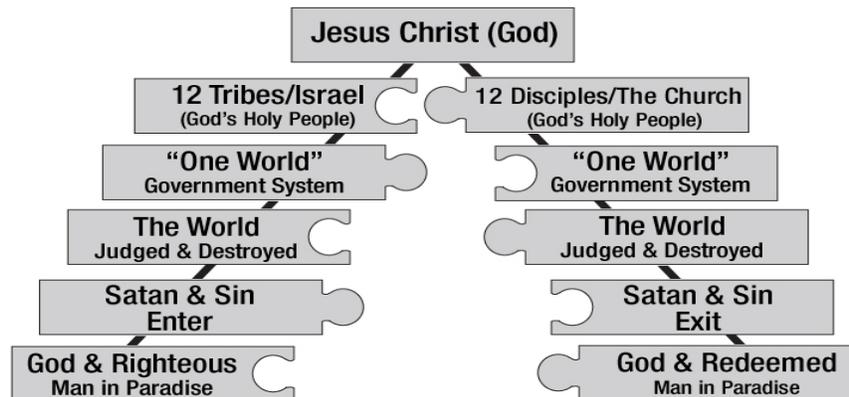
Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

If your group is new, has new individuals in it, or you have taken a break over the summer then please... (Introduce yourselves; give a highlight from your summer.)

INTRODUCTION

This week starts our new series **The Big Picture**. We are going to step back and look at the big picture of God's Story...the Bible over the next six weeks. Pastor Heather started with a summary of the whole story in one big picture demonstrated below. This first week will focus on the first four steps in a message entitled **The Beginning**.

One Story Diagram



THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis (chapters 1-11)

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- When you think of the Bible, what words or thoughts come to mind for you?
- The Bible is one "Big Story." Is that a fairly new concept for you, one you have known, thought that but not to the extent Pastor Heather shared, etc.)

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

- Truth #1- God created a perfect world. (Step 1-God's Righteous Man in Paradise

- How do you experience God in creation? Where do you see perfection in God's creation?
- (Read Genesis 1:26-27 as a group.) What stands out to you?
- (Step 2-Satan and Sin Enter) Truth #2- We brought sin into God's perfect world.
 - (Read Genesis 3:1-13 as a group.) Adam and Eve bought into the Lie. Looking at your life, describe the lie you bought into.
 - The Greek word for SIN is hamartia. It means, "missing the mark." Satan doesn't have to appear evil. Where in life can/does Satan get you to miss the mark? Taking your focus off of Jesus?
 - Truth #3- Sin leads to death. Sin isn't just a bad choice, it more like a disease that leaks out and kills. How have you witnessed or experienced the consequences of this truth?
- The Sin problem leads to steps 3&4 (The World Judged and Destroyed) & (One World Government system)
 - Why did God choose to save Noah?
 - (Read Genesis 11:4 as a group) What was the response of the people even after a "let's start over" moment?

HOMEWORK:

- Begin to memorize the books of the Bible.
- Read Genesis 1-11

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer as a group. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.

Group Guidelines

Confidentiality: What is said in group stays in group.

Listen: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

Pause: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

Silence: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

No Cross Talk: Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations. No phones/tablets/social media distractions.

No Fixing: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, point to Jesus. Don't try to provide the "magic answer." Don't try to solve or fix each other.

No Rescuing: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

Sharing: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

Be Self-Aware: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

"I" Statements: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them," "the church," "us," or "we."

Conflict: When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we address them Biblically. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard:

- If someone sins against you: Matthew 18:15-20