

Grounds of Faith Café **“Genesis” (Subtitled: Is there a snake in your Garden too?)** Further subtitled: **Lessons from the Garden!** Generation X to Z seeking Connection: (D 104-105): An interactive Scriptural study that explores God’s Redemptive action from the beginning of time in a casual café style setting. We will pray, read scripture, and jointly explore provided studies in groups of four or five. Learn about God’s design for His Creation, His intent for man’s participation, Satan’s deception, man’s disruptive actions and God’s plan to redeem it all. You will find strengthened connections and new Christian friendships in the **Grounds of Faith Café** as we study God’s good news for us. Please bring a Bible, a welcoming heart, an open mind, and a receptive spirit.



Facilitators: Lee Smith and others

Introduction: “Genesis” (“In the Beginning”) is a narrative description of the story of God. It begins to reveal who God is (His Character), what God does (including creation), and sets the stage for creation’s response to God (including human disobedience) which necessitates Divine Redemption. Chapters 1-11 provide the stories of creation, human origins, the “fall” of humanity, and the ensuing progress of evil – all against the backdrop of God’s enduring patience and love.

Explanatory overview: As you read 1:1 – 2:3, note the primary focus (Theo-centric or God-centered), the tone (regal or royally majestic), and the scope (cosmic or universal). Also note the number of times the author states: “God said” and the type of activities “God did.” Pay particular attention to the phrase in verse 1:2 that describes the condition of the earth in its first stage of creation (without form and void).

In your reading, watch God create order from chaos following the outline of 1:2:

FORM	CONTENT
Day 1: (1:1-5) Light (day) separated from darkness (night)	Day 4: (1:14-19). Lights (sun, moon, stars)
Day 2: (1:6-8) Sky (separating waters above from waters below)	Day 5 (1:20-23). Fish/birds (Sky/sea animals)
Day 3: (1:9-13) Land & Plants	Day 6: (1:24-31) Land animals & humans

Day 7: (2:1-3) SABBATH: God “rests”

Read: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 completely through. Given the thoughts above and your reading, now describe your thoughts regarding the character and activity of God. A premise throughout Scripture is: How one views/images God defines one’s self-image and how we choose to live. Do you think this is true? How does our image of God affect our lives? Specifically:

- **What image is given of God and the Holy Spirit of God? (see again 1:1-2, 26-27). Read Colossians 1:16-17 for Paul’s description of Jesus. What is Jesus’ role in Creation?**
- **By what means does God “create” and what is the result?**
- **God blesses His creation and describes what He has created as “good” (1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25), and “very good” (1:31). One interpretation of this “good” is that creation is in perfect harmony with God’s Word and Will. In what ways do you see this aspect in your reading?**
- **What unique characteristic is given to mankind and what role is ascribed to man as a consequence? Note: 1:26-30 particularly.**
- **Key question: Given all above, what do you think comprises “meaningful life” for mankind – life that maintains the full dignity and worth intended by God the Creator?**