

# THE WHOLE STORY

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From Genesis to Revelation

## ***Introduction:***

How do you know the purpose of a cell phone? What about a computer or a car if you never had any experience with them? Sometimes, it is easy to discern the purpose of an object. It wouldn't take long to figure out that a hammer is made for hitting things. But other things, like cell phones or computers or clocks, would be difficult - if not impossible - to figure out. The more complicated something is, the more instruction we would require to figure out its purpose.

### **This Week's Main Focus:**

**God created man in his image; therefore our identity is linked directly to him.**

This week, all Summit small groups begin studying alongside *The Whole Story* sermon series and Bible reading plan. What better way to start our study than with the chapters that introduce the two main characters in Scripture: God and Humanity. The first few chapters of Genesis show us God before, during, and after Creation. We also get a first hand look at what our ancestors experienced before sin entered the world.. Genesis 1 and 2 show us what it means to be truly human as God intended, before sin tainted our entire existence.

The glimpse of humanity we see in Genesis 1 and 2 in the Garden of Eden should have a profound impact on the way we view our spouses, our neighbors, all people and ourselves. What you see in Genesis 1:26-2:25 is how life should have been, without sin and death. Right from the start God gave Adam a vocation: *to have dominion over creation and work the ground*. Work existed before the Fall, which means even though we try to avoid work at times, it will always be an important part of who we are and part of how we worship. God also instituted rest, to keep our working lives in balance. Furthermore, God did not merely make man to work and rest but to live in relationship with others; God thought it was "not good" that Adam was alone, without another person. The God who is a Trinity made man to live in community, just as God lives perpetually in community. Let that encourage you as you meet and discuss with your small group this week.

## ***Sermon Response Question:***

1) Part of this weekend's sermon looks at the effect that the Word of God has on creation. Specifically the Word a) brings order from chaos and b) will one-day redeem what sin has destroyed. Have your group share a time or season in their life when the Word of God made a significant impact on how they lived or made decisions.

**Bible Study Questions:**     Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:25

2) This is a question that we will ask of many Biblical passages, because every book of the Bible was inspired by God and he is the main character: what do these chapters in Scripture teach us about God?

3) This passage introduces us to our ancestors, Adam and Eve. What does this passage teach us about the particular purposes God had in mind when he created humanity?

4) Based on what we have seen about God and his purpose in creating man, how do we bear the image of God? What does this mean for how we should live?

5) Why did God say it wasn't good for man to be alone? Why did God make woman instead of another man?

**Group Reflection Questions:**

6) Genesis 1 and 2 teach us about the importance of community to our human existence. How are the particular purposes of God's design for man expressed more fully in and through your small group? How can you help one another fulfill God's design for rest, work, worship, etc.?

7) One of the main reasons for *The Whole Story* sermon series and reading plan is to show from all of Scripture what the whole point of the Scriptures is. How do Genesis 1 and 2 relate to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

**Prayer:**

- Break into groups of 2-3 for prayer.
- Have each group pray through Psalm 119:1-8

*Example:     One person will read verse one. [Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!] Then that person can ask God to help the group walk in the law of the Lord because we desire to live a blameless life and experience God's blessing. Then, then next person will read verse two and so on and so forth.*