



HILLSIDE STUDENTS


Creation

CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play **SPUD!** This is a fun game to help students learn each other's names while playing. You'll need a large ball and open space. Players form a circle, and one player is "It." "It" throws the ball in the air and calls someone's name while everyone runs away. The named person becomes "New It," grabs the ball, and shouts "STOP." They pick a "Target" and take four steps (S-P-U-D) toward them, then try to hit the "Target" with the ball (no headshots!). The "Target" can dodge with their feet planted or catch the ball. If hit, the "Target" becomes "It"; if they dodge or catch it, they are safe. Play continues until the last two players compete in a final showdown.

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Genesis is a book that covers thousands of years and contains many stories and characters. Most importantly, Genesis, and all the Bible, is a book that tells us about the character of God. This week, we're going to talk about how God reveals Himself to us through the creation story and what this means for His people - both now and in the future.

 Pre-Video Question: Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- Are hot dogs sandwiches or tacos?
- If you were a professional wrestler, what would your stage name be?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

- What characteristics of God do you see in Genesis 1? (Re-read Genesis 1 if needed!)
- **Read Revelation 21:3-4.** What did it look like for God to dwell with his creation in the beginning? What does it look like now? And what will it look like in the future?
- **Read John 1:1-5 & Colossians 1:16.** How does it feel to know that Jesus (who created EVERYTHING) wants to have a relationship with you?
- What does it look like to have a relationship with Jesus?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.** What does it mean that Jesus makes us a "new creation"? Where have you seen this be true in your life or the lives of other believers?
- What other questions do you still have about the Creation story?
- **Read John 21:25.** How does this passage help you accept that we aren't able to know everything?

READ + DISCUSS

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Creation

Genesis starts off with a narrative about the creation story that is written to give us a picture of who God is. In this first chapter, God willingly reveals Himself to us. We learn about a God who was in the beginning, who spoke and brought forth all things, and who chose to dwell with His people at the very center of it all.

The gospel of John picks up this narrative with Jesus, who in the beginning was God and was with God. The New Testament tells us the good news of *God with Us* - Jesus dwelling with His people - and reminds us that He holds the power of creation still: those in Christ have been made new creations! And the promise of Revelation is that although everything is not quite right now, one day, the Lord will return to make a new heaven and new earth, and John's vision in chapter 21 will be our reality. But until then, we live as new creations in Christ, looking forward with hope to the ultimate coming of the kingdom.

Leaders, the creation narrative can bring up topics or questions that you may not know how to answer - and that is okay! We get to "hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience" (1 Timothy 3:9 ESV).

Read Revelation 21:3-4 ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."* ⁴ *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

Read John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was with God in the beginning.* ³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* ⁴ *In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.* ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Read Colossians 1:16 *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

Read John 21:25 *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

Genesis Reading Plan

Week 2 | Genesis 2:1-25

Day 1 - Genesis 2:1-3

Day 2 - Genesis 2:4-7

Day 3 - 2 Corinthians 3:18

Day 4 - Genesis 2:8-17

Day 5 - Genesis 2:18-25

Day 6 - 2 Corinthians 5:20

Day 7 - Catch Up/ Memorize/ Nothing