



## **Us. The Story of God and People | Notetaking: 3...2....1 | Session #1**

*This format is to help you to take notes during this session's teaching. After the teaching, consider allowing everyone to share their responses to the following:*

**THREE** ideas that stood out from the teaching:

**TWO** new things I learned from this teaching:

**ONE** important question I have form this session:

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### Group Discussion Guidelines:

We want this to be a safe place to learn and share, so here are a few ground rules to make this journey a positive experience for everyone.

1. Commit to confidentiality.
2. Please do not use your cellphone during this time.
3. Refrain from giving unsolicited advice; it can feel like criticism.
4. Use "I" statements rather than "you" statements.
5. It's important to participate but please do not dominate.  
Please leave room for everyone to speak.

**“Stories form our identity,  
inform our morality,  
and transform our reality.”**

- Imagine you were an ancient Israelite boy/girl that left Egypt through the Red Sea and were learning about your *true history* first time through these stories. After hearing Genesis 1-2 for the first time, what would you conclude about:
  - Who you are in the world?
  - Who you are to God?
  - The purpose of all nature/creation?
  - The purpose of the Garden of Eden?
  - Their purpose in God’s creation?
  - How God relates to creation?
- What are the benefits of stories informing our morality instead of a list of dos and don’ts? What are the drawbacks to this method?

**“The way we view the world  
is the way we live in the world  
and that’s how the  
world changes”**

- How does your vision line up with God’s ideal of Genesis 1-2  
If you were to become more fully bought into the story of Genesis 1-2 as God’s mission and God’s ideal for creation, what would need to change about how you currently view or think about the world?

**PRAYER: Invite the Holy Spirit to come and change your vision to His.**

“Lord, I need a new vision, help me to see things differently...things like...”

**Daily Bible Reading:**

*This reading plan will help you engage with the scripture's narrative by  
reading a portion of every book of the Bible in 40 days!*

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Genesis 15:1-6; Exodus 19:1-6	Leviticus 16:20-34	Numbers 14:1-35	Deuteronomy 7:1-11	Joshua 24:1-28	Judges 21:24-25; Ruth 1:1 + 4:13-22	1 Samuel 8:1-21;

*Engaging in this section will help you to study the Bible on your own and get the most out of our time together on Wednesday Nights. Set aside some time over the week to read the above passage in your own Bible and follow the instructions below.*

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## I. Prayer

**ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY.**

## II. Observation

**WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

1. Write 10 or more observations about the passage:
  - **Who** are the main people?
  - **Who** is speaking? **Who** is the audience?
  
  - **What** is occurring?
  - **When** is this happening?
  
  - **Where** is the passage taking place?
  - **How** are people responding?
2. Identify **key words** and phrases.
3. Look for **grammatical connections**: repetition, comparisons, contrasts, a cause and effect (e.g., words like therefore, because, so that, etc.)?
4. Note **verb tense**.
5. Look for **conjunctions** such as *since* and, *therefore*. Why are those words in the sentence?
6. What relevant things do you know or wonder about the **cultural context** of the passage?

***To know the context of your passage, you may need to read the pages or paragraphs that precede it.*** Find some background information here:

*Biblestudytools.com | Overbiewbible.com | bibleproject.com | Logos.com*

### III. Interpretation

#### WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Develop some **questions** based on the text. Ask what the significance of your main observations and why they happened.

*EXAMPLE:*

- a. *What do these verses reveal about the nature of God?*
- b. *In what ways do you see God's creation as good?*
- c. *When God created man, what was God's conclusion about humans?*
- d. *In what manner do you see humankind as created in the image of God?*
- e. *How do you see yourself as one of God's very good creations?*

2. **Answer** the questions from the text and the context.
3. Imagine the **perspective** of the people in the scene.  
How would they understand what's being said/done?
4. Try to **summarize** the passage in one sentence.  
What is the **main point** the author is communicating to the audience?
5. What is revealed about God? About us? About how God relates to us?
6. What is revealed about God's Kingdom; the way God rules or cares for creation?  
(Characteristics, value system, etc.)

### IV. Application

#### WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN FOR US/ME?

1. How do you **respond** to what the passage is saying?  
Does it challenge how you see the world?
2. Is there a central **truth** that you need to put into practice or align with?
3. What are the implications for you or your **community**?
4. Pray that God will help you believe and align.  
Leave room to experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit.