

Daily Devotions



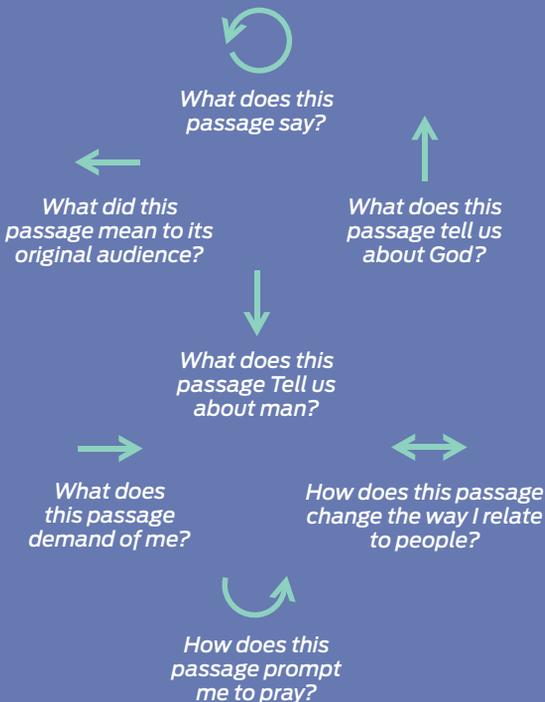
Day 1

Genesis 1:26-31

When we read the creation account in Genesis 1-2, we tend to focus on what it teaches us about God and humanity. And we should. Those are critical doctrines to the grand narrative of Scripture that follows this account as well as to our daily living. However, we cannot miss what this passage teaches us about creation itself too.

While God's creation is certainly majestic and it reveals much about the Creator (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:20), we know that we are not to worship creation itself (Rom. 1:21-25). But neither should we go to the other extreme and treat creation callously.

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



How should Christians view and treat the earth?

What are some ways you can better care for God's creation?

Genesis 2:1-15

There is an interesting detail about creation in Genesis 2:5: “When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.” Notice the cause and effect. Shrubs and plants had not grown and sprouted because God had not made it rain and there was no man to work the ground. Both were necessary as part of God’s plan for creation.

Here in this cause and effect we find God’s intended purpose for humans to rule over creation. The roles God gave us were not an afterthought. He did not create the world then create people only then to figure out how we would fit within His design. From the very beginning, God’s intention was for people to work in concert with Him ruling over creation.

How can you reflect God in the way you work as a student, family member, athlete, band member, friend, and so on?

Genesis 2:16-25

The end of Genesis 2 records the first marriage ceremony with God the Father giving the bride to the waiting groom.

In verses 24-25, we read something that further explains God’s design of marriage. In marriage a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife to become one flesh. This does not mean that a married couple severs all ties with their parents, but it does point to the primacy of the new relationship. While the parents have been the primary relationship of human love, support, encouragement, and help to this point, that all shifts to each spouse. God’s intention is for the marriage relationship to be one of deep intimacy and unity. Marriage like this is for our good and for God’s glory as it pictures the relationship between Christ and the church.

Even though marriage may be a distant reality for you, what are some things you can begin to pray for your future spouse?

Psalms

8:1-8

The majesty of creation is all around us—in what we can see and what we cannot see. From the thundering power of a waterfall or the terrifying brilliance of a lightening strike to the intricate design of the smallest of flowers or the gentleness of a butterfly’s flight through the air, God has given us ample reason to stand in awe of His creation and more importantly of Him.

**What aspects of creation amaze you?
Humble you?**

As we consider our role in bearing God’s image as rulers over creation, may we echo David’s conclusion to this psalm: “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth” (Ps. 8:1)!

Hebrews

1:1-4

We cannot read the overarching story of Scripture without seeing God’s ongoing desire for us to know Him. Every step we take away from Him is followed by Him taking multiple steps toward us as He relentlessly chases us down to restore us back to Him. Prophet after prophet was sent to warn the people of their sin and call on them to repent. Time and time again. No matter how rebellious the people were—how blatantly they sinned against God through idolatry—God continued to reach out to them.

How does God’s persistence in not giving up on us motivate us to share Jesus with those who need Him?