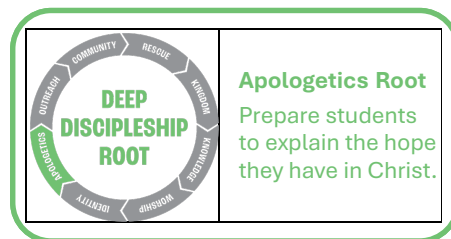


MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ discern God at work in the world around them (John 5:17).

SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 1; JOHN 1



BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

According to long-standing tradition, Moses is the author of Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch—the first five books of the Old Testament. “The English title ‘Genesis’ comes from the Greek translation of the Pentateuch and means ‘origin,’ a very apt title because Genesis is all about origins—of the world, of the human race, of sin, and of the Jewish people. The Hebrew title is translated “In the Beginning,” using the first phrase in the book.”¹ This first chapter demonstrates at least two huge character traits of God. First, he is eternal—he was before the beginning. Second, he is the Creator of all things.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/1178960224>

FACILITATOR NOTE: We’ve given you a lot of teaching material. Don’t feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.

BELONG

PRAYER

1–2 minutes

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.

OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

OPENING QUESTIONS

3–5 minutes

- How was the week? What’s the best thing that’s happened? Anything major going on?
- What is something you’ve made yourself that you’re proud of?



BELIEVE

EXPLORE GOD’S WORD

3–5 minutes

Today, we’re going to take a look at how everything began. In Genesis Chapter 1, we see God demonstrate his power and authority as he simply spoke creation into existence. The process by which God went about forming each part of creation shows us that the Lord has a plan and design for his creation, which was good. Everything God made is good, pointing to the truth that he is good. We can trust him and the work he lays out for us because he is good and his work is good.

Discussion Questions

7–10 minutes

- Why is it important that God is eternal?

It is one of the truths that proves he is God. If nothing existed before God and he is the source of all creation, then there is nothing in the universe greater than God. He is the one and only God.

- How does creation point to God?

Psalm 19 / Romans 1

- What is something you don't understand about the creation process?

Answers will vary. Make sure your students know it's okay to have questions and not fully understand everything in the Bible. If we could know everything there is to know about God, he wouldn't be God.

- Why do you think it's important that God used a process to create everything?

This demonstrates that God has a plan for what he does. There is a design and order to his work. He's not simply figuring it out as he goes, nor is it chaotic. This also means there is a design for the life he has given us.

- Do you feel like God is actively involved in your life? Why or why not?

Answers will vary. Come prepared to give some examples from your life to help start the conversation.

- What makes creation "good"?

- God created good things for a good purpose. How does that connect to him creating you?



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Application Transition: Because we exist at the will of God's work, which was good, we should strive to live by his will, which is good. God's work is good, and following in his ways can lead us to good works.

BECOME

(READ) EPHESIANS 2:10

What are some good works you think God has called you to do?

Answers will vary, but may include setting a godly example with our words and actions (1 Timothy 4:12), sharing the Gospel with a friend or teammate, serving within the church or on a mission trip, being a friend to students at school who could really use one, etc.

All of creation points to the attributes of God (Romans 1:19–20). What can you do this week to point out one of God's many awesome attributes to someone else?



MAKE LIFE
APPLICATION

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2–3 minutes

Disciples of Christ discern God at work in the world around them (John 5:17).

Use the Mark of a Disciple to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

Application needs to be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



HOLD STUDENTS
ACCOUNTABLE

FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.