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Valley Church

January 5 & 6, 2019
Week 1 – Let There Be Light (Gen. 1-2)

INTRODUCTION: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Genesis 1:1)

GOD’S GRACE IN THE BEGINNING...

1. Creation is a _____ of God’s _____ (Gen. 1:1-2, 26, 29-30)

“...and God said that it was good.” (1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25)

2. Grace is never _____ enough – it is always _____ than
enough (Gen. 2:18; 1:28; 2:16-17)

“I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole
earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be
yours for food.” (1:29)

3. God’s expressions of grace were _____ while His requirements
were _____ (2:16-17)

“And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree
in the garden; (17) but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of
good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’” (2:16-17)

FIVE FOUNDATIONS INTRODUCED IN GENESIS 1 & 2...

- > The truth that there is _____ God
- > The truth that God is a God of _____
- > The reality of _____ Government
- > The need for human _____
- > The framework for _____ and family

APPLICATION: His Story is spiritually discerned, and cannot be fully understood apart
from the illumination of the Holy Spirit in our lives...

See 1 Corinthians 2:10, 1 Corinthians 2:14

** Portions of today’s teaching were inspired by pastor Andy Stanley’s book “The
Grace of God”*

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. As you look forward to the New Year at Valley, what do you hope to gain specifically from our journey through His Story? (Be as honest and specific as possible...)
2. In the weekend message, God's story of creation was presented as the first example of His amazing grace (His unmerited kindness, love and favor). How does faith in God's creation of life impact the way we view the everyday existence of humankind...both in joy and in sorrow? Discuss.

Ponderings:

3. As we saw in the weekend message, Genesis begins with a story about the beginning. Read Psalm 19:1-6 as a group and discuss the following...

This passage describes God's creation as speaking a common "language" to humanity. In what way(s) has God spoken to you through His creation? What exactly is the "glory" of God? In what sense does creation "declare" that glory?

Christians agree that God created the heavens and the earth, but there are various views about the way He went about it. What theories have you heard regarding the length of time God may have taken to perform the Genesis account of creation?

4. Scanning back over Genesis 1-2, identify the specific way(s) in which Moses introduces the following subjects:
 - a. That fact that there is only one God
 - b. The fact that God is gracious
 - c. The fact that we were designed to live in community – not isolation
 - d. The fact that God assigns various aspects of governing to humans
 - e. The fact that God designed and defined his intentions for marriage
5. Given the divided cultural climate in which we live, consider how Genesis should inform our view about each subject...

Promptings:

6. Over the next several days, commit to worshiping God for one aspect of His creation each day. For example...DAY 1 – worship Him for creating light. DAY 2 – worship Him for creating land & water. DAY 3 – worship Him for creating food. DAY 4 – worship Him for creating animals. DAY 5 – worship Him for creating humans. DAY 6 – worship Him for creating you!

