

Book of the Week: Small Group Guide

Week 1: Genesis

June 7, 2026

Overview: This guide accompanies the sermon introducing the "Book of the Week" series, beginning with Genesis. The sermon explores Genesis as the book of beginnings—of the world, humanity, rebellion, and God's redemptive plan through one family line.

Icebreaker Question: What was your earliest memory or experience with the Bible? Was it positive, confusing, intimidating, or something else?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Bible's Purpose:** The Bible is not primarily for information, but for transformation—to change our lives incrementally and significantly.
 2. **Genesis Structure:** Genesis covers four major events (Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel) and four key people (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph).
 3. **Core Message:** "God made it. We broke it. God fixes it."
 4. **Our Identity:** We are more flawed than we ever realized AND more loved than we could ever know.
 5. **The Blessing Principle:** God blessed Abraham so that through him all nations would be blessed—a pattern that continues through us today.
 6. **The Problem of Evil:** Evil results from human rebellion, but God can bring good from it (Genesis 50:20).
-

Discussion Questions

Understanding Genesis

1. The pastor described Genesis as "historical narrative prose" rather than myth. Why does this distinction matter for how we read and apply Genesis?
2. Genesis 1:26-27 says humans are created "in the image of God." What does this mean practically for how we view ourselves and others?
3. In Genesis 3:15, God promises that one will "crush the serpent's head." How does this early promise connect to Jesus and give us hope today?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon stated we are "more flawed than we realized and more loved than we could ever know." Which part of this statement do you struggle to believe about yourself? Why?
5. Have you ever wrestled with questions about the Bible's trustworthiness or relevance? How did you work through those questions?
6. The pastor shared his 50-year journey of daily Bible reading. What obstacles keep you from consistent Bible engagement? What might help you overcome them?

The Problem of Evil

7. Read Genesis 50:20 together. Joseph said, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." How does this perspective help us frame suffering and evil in our own lives?
8. What's the difference between responding to hardship with "anger, accusation, and blame" versus responding with Joseph's perspective? Can you share an example from your life?
9. The sermon clarified that evil is the consequence of human rebellion, not God's fault. How does this understanding affect the way you pray or talk to God about difficult circumstances?

Living It Out

10. Genesis 12:1-3 establishes that God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. Where might God be calling you to share His blessing with others right now?
 11. What is one specific way this study of Genesis could transform (not just inform) your life this week?
-

Closing Prayer

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank God for His Word and its power to transform us
- Ask God to help you see both your brokenness and His love for you
- Pray for eyes to see how God can bring good from the evil and suffering in your lives
- Commit to being a blessing to others this week