



May 20-21, 2023

## Foundations For Flourishing - Week 1 “A God-Shaped Worldview”

### GATHER

- Has there ever been a time where you were making a mistake but didn't realize it? (Got lost, using a tool/device the wrong way, etc until you eventually discovered the problem.) What were the circumstances? Did something/someone help you recognize the error? What consequences were there if you didn't realize it til it was too late?  
[This connects to the idea of arriving at the best outcomes in the right way.](#)
- If you were at a weekend service, share your takeaways from the message you heard. What was something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?

### GROW

This weekend's message was launched out of Genesis 1:1 and interacted with some other key texts (see below). Talk through the topic more thoroughly as a group using the outline below.

*Feel free to select a suggested question or two in each section to guide your conversation.*

- **Understand Their Story**

First read Genesis 1:1 - Genesis 2:3.

- The original audience (Israel) would have received these words when they were exposed to a variety of alternative worldviews. What are some specific ways these verses would have shaped their perspective in regards to:
  - A higher power/the existence of the “divine”?  
[Before the world existed there was God \(Gen. 1:1\). There is only 1 God \(Gen. 1:1\).](#)
  - The origin of the universe and the earth? What specific details do you see?  
[God was the one who created everything \(Gen. 1:1\). Everything was spoken into existence by him - notice the phrase “and God said” used multiple times. God calls his creation “good” multiple times.](#)
  - The nature of humanity? What's unique about people in comparison to everything else in these verses?  
[Made in God's image \(1:26\), given dominion over creation by God \(1:26, 1:29-30\), made male and female \(1:27\), blessed by God \(1:28\). People are the most prized and treasured by God in comparison to all else.](#)
  - In what ways do you think your answers above would have been different from the other cultures and religions Israel co-existed with? How do you know?

- **Connect To His Story**

- Look up John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-17.
  - Who is John talking about? How do you know?  
He's talking about the "Word" and the Word is Jesus. We know this because he tells us in John 1:14.
  - What information does John give us that contributes to our understanding of Genesis 1? Jesus was there *in the beginning* (John 1:1-2)! Jesus was involved in the act of creation (John 1:3)! In fact, if Jesus wasn't involved, nothing would have happened in Genesis 1 (John 1:3).
  - Compare John 1:1-3 with Colossians 1:15-17.
    - What words or phrases are repeated? What does that tell us?  
"All things" is used 4x. This emphasizes that every dimension of reality finds its origin in God.
    - What do these passages tell us about Jesus?  
They are key places that point to the divinity of Jesus. He wasn't a mere historical figure or a man that may have existed at one point. He was always there! And he himself is God.
  - Why do these biblical claims matter? What difference do these make in our understanding of the key questions about things like human origins, life's meaning, morality, or human destiny?  
Life has meaning. But ultimate meaning cannot be detached from the one - God - who was before all things and made all things for his purposes. All things were made "for him" (Col. 1:15). This gives him the right to determine purpose and set the parameters of right and wrong according to his designs and plans. All things are held together by him (Col 1:17). This means that he is in control of the past, present, and future of the cosmos.

## GO

- **Apply To Our Story**

We all want to flourish and prosper. Building our lives on God and his word is the best way to get there. *Feel free to select a section or two to use in your group time.*

- Northview's statement of faith articulates our core beliefs. This might be helpful to consult as you think through these next questions. <https://northview.org/statement-of-faith/>
- What things have been most helpful in deepening / reinforcing a biblical worldview in your life?
- What things do you feel are most hostile with the Christian worldview today?
  - How do you recognize these things? (What places do you get your information from? What criteria do you use to determine how these events, trends, ideas, etc compare with Christianity?)
  - How do you typically react or respond?
- Are there times when you've not held a biblical worldview? Or struggled to?
  - When? Why?
  - If applicable: What pulled you back to a biblical worldview? Or, what's the barrier to coming back to it now?

Pray!

- All of our activity is unto God's glory our mission is to help every person become a "deeply rooted follower of Jesus". Who are those who don't currently follow Jesus - or are wrestling with the subjects we've looked at this week - that you could pray for by name?  
You could pray as Jesus taught, using the themes of "The Lord's Prayer" in Matthew 6:9-13 as a guide.