

Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by Pastor John Fortune. April 12'26: "Tanakh: Creation and Blessing" April 19'26

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer. **Optional:** take communion together!

Icebreaker Question:

- Where is your absolute favourite place on earth that you have visited and why?

Follow-up from last week:

- Did anyone read any OT passages last week? How did it go?

READ GENESIS 1, 2, or 3 as a group. THEN FOCUS ON THAT CHAPTERS' QUESTIONS BELOW AND SECTION #5:

- What details stand out to you in this narrative?

1. THE STORY WE LIVE IN (Genesis 1) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

- What are some common "stories" people believe about life today (e.g., random chance, self-made identity, etc.)?
- How does the biblical story of a **good Creator** challenge or reshape those views?
- What stood out to you about God's character in Genesis 1?

Key Insight: We don't just live in a world—we live in a **story**. Genesis tells us we are created on purpose, with purpose, by a good God.

Application: Where in your life do you tend to forget that you are part of God's story?

2. IMAGE BEARERS with PURPOSE (Genesis 1:26–31) "God created mankind in his own image..."

- What does it mean, practically, that every person is made in God's image?
- How should this shape the way we view:
 - ourselves?
 - others (including difficult people)?
- What does it look like to "rule" or steward creation in a God-honoring way today?

Key Insight: Your identity is not earned—it is **given**. Every person has dignity, value, and purpose.

Application: Where do you struggle to believe you have value or purpose? Who in your life is hard to see as an image bearer right now?

3. "It Is NOT GOOD for Man to Be Alone" (Genesis 2:18)

- Why do you think loneliness and isolation are so common today?
- What's the difference between **healthy solitude** and **harmful isolation**?

- Where do you see isolation leading to struggle or temptation (personally or culturally)?

Key Insight: We are created for **relationship with God and others**. Isolation often becomes a breeding ground for sin or discouragement.

Application: Where are you tempted to isolate right now? What is one step you can take toward deeper, real relationship this week?

4. THE FALL: When We Reject God (Genesis 3) “Did God really say...?”

- What pattern do you see in how temptation unfolds in Genesis 3?
- Where do you see those same patterns today (doubt, distortion, desire for control)?
- What were the immediate relational effects of sin?

Key Insight: Sin leads to:

- **Separation from God**
- **Hiding and shame**
- **Broken relationships**

Application: Where do you tend to “hide” instead of bringing things into the light? What would it look like to bring that into community?

5. GOD’S GRACE & the Promise of BLESSING (Genesis 3:21; 12:1–3) “The Lord God made garments... and clothed them.”

- What does it reveal about God that He covers Adam and Eve after their sin?
- How does God’s promise to Abraham reconnect to His original plan of blessing?
- How does Jesus ultimately fulfill this promise?

Key Insight: Even after the fall, God moves **toward** humanity:

- Covering shame
- Promising blessing
- Ultimately sending Jesus

Application: Where do you need to receive God’s grace instead of hiding in shame? How can you be a blessing to someone else this week?

LIFE APPLICATION: This week, intentionally move toward relationship:

- Reach out to someone you’ve been distant from
- Invite someone for coffee or a meal
- Share honestly with a trusted friend

Closing Prayer:

- God would root your identity as image bearers
- He would heal areas of isolation
- He would form deep, life-giving relationships in your group and church

