

### In The Beginning God

January 8, 2012

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

#### With your Bible or Youversion.com read Genesis 1:1-28

God's story begins with a beautiful telling of His work in creation.

- Genesis 1 shows that everything began with God creating and ordering. How is this different than other explanations you have heard of how the world began? How might knowing that life has purpose and direction affect your daily decisions?

#### Read Exodus 3:13-14

God speaks to Moses, who is in the desert tending sheep, from a bush that is on fire but not burning. God wants Moses to return to Egypt and deliver the Israelites.

- When Moses asks God who should he tell them has sent him, how does God respond?
- What might be the significance of this name of God? How does it fit with the picture of God we get in Genesis 1?

#### Read Genesis 1:31 and Psalm 139:13-16

The Bible is also the story of God who creates.

- Do you tend to take the creation for granted or is it easy for you to thank and praise God for the awesome wonder that surrounds us? Why?
- We often focus on our inadequacies as far as our bodies are concerned. Do you every thank God for making you?
- How does the Psalmist describe the wonder of God's creation of his body?

#### Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 40:5

At times we think that planning is not godly yet in Genesis 1 and the above passages we see God as a planner.

- Do you believe that God has plans for your life? Why or why not?
- Can you identify any experiences in your life which you would say are the plans of God?
- When you refuse to cooperate or somehow miss an opportunity for good that God has for you, do believe that everything is lost? How do you think God responds?

#### Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Matthew 22:20-21

We were created in God's image. Yet, sin marred, broke that image. But God didn't leave us in our brokenness.

- Have you given your life, which was originally created in God's image, to God? If not why not?
- If you have what evidence is there in your life that God is changing you into his very image.
- If you haven't is there anywhere in your life that you can see God at work to bring you to himself?

#### Read Psalm 8:3-8

- Do you realize that you are accountable to God for the your care of his creation? What are some responsible ways that you exercise your "rulership" over creation.

#### My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Give my life to the one who made me in His image.
- Seek to live in a way that always honors God's creation of the world, others and myself.
- Give thanks to God for who He is.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Genesis 1:1

#### Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Use the days of creation in Genesis 1 as a prayer guide to give thanks for each part of God's creation. When you get to day six make sure you take time to thank God for his creation of you.
- Give thanks that God has entrusted this creation to you. Ask for wisdom as you care for all that God has entrusted to you.
- Ask God to open your heart, mind and soul as you continue discovering His Story during the weeks ahead.