

the **BIG**
PICTURE
of the **OLD**
TESTAMENT



Freshchurch
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Flying Over the Old Testament

Are you someone who enjoys taking the window seat in a plane? If you do, maybe it's because you like to see the world from up above. From above you begin to see how rivers, mountains and roads are connected to each other. From above, you start to get perspective. This growth group series is like that. Over the next 8 weeks we'll be taking a scenic flight over the spectacular and varied landscape of the Old Testament. As we take this journey, we're not going to take the time to land and study everything in detail, but hopefully by the end of it you will have some perspective on what the Old Testament is all about.

What's It's All About?

If you've ever tried reading the Old Testament, there's a good chance you've found yourself getting confused and frustrated. And you start wondering what have all these ancient places, laws, events and people got to do with me anyway?! At best we might think the point of the stories is something like, *Daniel was brave in the lion's den—therefore I should be brave.* Or, *Moses trusted in God - therefore I should trust in God.* In other words, the Old Testament gets reduced to a series of disconnected moral stories.

But it's important to realise that in fact the Old Testament has one central story all leading to one central person. When Paul was talking about the Old Testament to his good friend Timothy, he said – **how from infancy, you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** [2 Timothy 3:15]. In other words the Old Testament is about pointing us to salvation and how that's possible through trusting in Jesus. That's the story of the Old Testament!

So strap yourself in for this exciting flight. Keep your eyes peeled for how the different people, places and events are all part of the one big story about Jesus. And believe it or not, the best place to begin in our journey, is at the beginning....



STAGE 1

CREATION: GENESIS 1-2



PERSONAL PREPARATION DAY 1: CREATION & KNOWING GOD

In Romans 1:20 we are told that the creation testifies to certain things about God. What can we tell about God from creation?

What areas of creation help you personally appreciate the greatness of God?

Do you think there are things that creation cannot tell you about God?

Interestingly – Psalm 19 is a psalm that speaks of how creation reveals the glory of God, but then moves quickly to speak of the goodness of God's law. In effect, the law 'trumps' creation for showing the way to God. But for Christians today, we don't just have the law, we have Christ himself. Give thanks for creation, and especially give thanks for Jesus who perfectly reveals God to us and provides salvation.



PERSONAL PREPARATION DAY 2: CREATION & GOD'S WORD

In Genesis 1:1-30, notice the number of times the phrases 'And God said.....And it was so' are mentioned. What does this say about how God created the universe?

What does that say about God?

Read John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5. What is the theme running through these verses? What have we learnt about the word of God? What should our response be to the word of God?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - CREATION, GENESIS 1-2



Stage 1 Big Idea: God made the world and rules over the world as King. He created people to be in perfect relationship with him. God made them in his image and they were appointed to be rulers over his creation.

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3

1. Notice the following pattern in each day of creation:

And God said: Let there be...
God called...
And it was so..
And God saw that it was good..
And there was evening and there was morning the first/second/...day

What do you think this pattern tells us about God and the world?

Read Genesis 2:4-25

2. What do we learn here about God's creation?

3. Notice the order of relationships that God establishes:

GOD
worshipped by...
MAN
his help-mate/companion is...
WOMAN
they rule over...
ANIMALS

What does this tell us about God's plan for the world?

4. Genesis describes God as a powerful and loving Creator. Look up the following passages and consider how this truth should shape our lives?

Psalm 104
Luke 12:22-34



5. What was Jesus Christ’s role in creation? What do the following passages say about how this should affect the way we respond to Christ?

John 1:1-3
Colossians 1:15-16

A helpful way of describing the big picture of Creation is:

‘God’s People in God’s Place under God’s Rule’.

We’ll come back to this phrase many times in this series. For now, answer these questions:

	What have we learnt about God’s People	What have we learnt about God’s Place	What have we learnt about God’s Rule
Creation, Genesis 1 & 2			

What can we pray about arising from this study?

