

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: The Beginning of Humanity

Reading: Genesis 2:4-2:25

Date: 19th January 2025 (AM)

Introduction

Genesis is a book of beginnings. In these first chapters of the Bible we see the foundations laid for how we understand some of the fundamental questions in life. We also see Christ at work, from the beginning of the universe.

Bible Study

[Leaders, no questions suite every small group. Please adapt them to your own group]

Read Genesis 2:4-2:25

1. Why are our relationships so important? How do they reflect God's nature? What patterns do we see in Genesis 2 which explain human-God and human-human relationships?
2. Eden is portrayed as a Royal Garden and the source of all life in the region. How might this picture have encouraged God's wilderness people, and us today?
3. Pick a couple of the 'building blocks' – made in God's image, we are creatures, we are given life, made male & female, made for work & rest. What's good about these blocks? In what ways do we / our culture resist these blocks? How are these blocks knocked out of line post-Genesis 3?
4. What parallels do you see between Eden and the Temple? What does this tell us about God's purposes for humanity?

Further background: <https://derekzishmawy.com/2012/12/07/9-reasons-the-garden-of-eden-was-a-temple/>

5. Adam and Eve are pictured as a marriage. How does this section of Genesis 2 help us to see the gospel? Where do we see the themes of 'marriage', 'union' and 'no shame' being brought together?

Prayer

- *Loneliness... please take some time to pray around this issue, for those in our church family and wider community who may struggle with this issue. Ask for wisdom to know how we as individuals and a church can respond.*