



## In the beginning God.... Leaders Guide Week 2

(Times are approximate) – start time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Welcome

- Welcome the group and any new people who might have joined your group.
- Make any announcements the group needs to hear.

(+<n> min)

### Opening prayer

- Opening with a prayer for understanding and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal new insights to the passage you are about to study together. Ask that the shy will be moved to share and those who might be too eager to share will allow others to speak.

(+<n> min)

### Opening Comments

- Dr. James Montgomery Boice says, "Creation is one form of God's self-revelation and therefore a means by which we may come to know Him. But, as Calvin points out in the introduction to his commentary on Genesis, our eyes are not "sufficiently clear-sighted to discern what the fabric of heaven and earth represents," and therefore we need the Scriptures to view creation rightly."<sup>1</sup>
- He goes on, "There are three main teachings. First, God Himself – the true, sovereign, wise, and personal God – stands behind creation. Second, the work of this true, sovereign, wise, and personal God was an orderly work. Third, the creation was and is good, because it is the work of the God who is not only true, sovereign, wise, and personal but also morally perfect. Each of these points has implication for the way we are to relate both to God and His creation."
- That being read, hopefully you will share what you have learned through this week's study lesson and will learn by hearing what the others in the group have learned.

(+<n> min)

**Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~<n> min) – Week's aim: The Power of God's Word**

**Day 1: Overview – Read Genesis 1:3-25**

**1. Identify repeated words and/or phrases. List them along with the verses.**

- "And God said let there/the..."
- "And God saw that it was good."
- "And there was evening and morning..."
- "God created/made..."
- A few comments about the words *created* and *made* as used by God in these verses.
- In these verses, "*created*", the Hebrew word "*bara*", is one of three words which refer to God's creative activity.
- Another similar word used in Scripture "*asah*."
- "*Bara*" and "*asah*" mean essentially the same thing, to do or make, except, that in proper context, "*bara*" means to make from something that never existed, hence to *create*.
- "*Asah*" means only to make from what was preexistent.

- We see this word used in **Genesis 1:25** – “And God made [asah] the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God said that it was good.”
- When God created [bara] the heavens and the earth, He also created [bara] the elements, which did not previously exist in physical form, and from which everything else can be made [asah], thus God “made” [asah] the animals from what had previously been “created” [bara].
- Hopefully this explanation will help you understand the difference between the two words used in Genesis, create and made.

(+<n> min)

### 2. What was the order of Creation?

- First a note on the term “day” - Christians have long disagreed on the length of the creative days.
- Here are the three most-proposed answers:
- (1) 24-Hour Day View — this view has received the widest acceptance and is the simplest. The days of Genesis 1 are 24 hours in length, and signs of layering found in the earth’s crust are the result of the Flood of Genesis 6–9;
- (2) Day-Age View — this is a second view commonly held since the mid-19th century. This view understands the days of Genesis 1 as epochs of great length, typically millions of years. Advocates of this view point out correctly that the word *yom* can and does sometimes mean a long period of time;
- (3) Literal Days With Intervening Ages — this third view is a combination of the first two. Here the days of Genesis were 24 hours in length; however, while the creative process took place in these brief spurts, God waited for thousands or millions of years between the days.
- Note this is a disputable issue so be careful about digging in when discussing it with other Christians.
- In the order of creation, God began by bringing light into existence (1:3-5), which is an expression of His own character (1 John 1:5).
- The second day saw the separation of the skies (1:6) from the waters.
- The third day brought the boundaries of earthly seas from dry land and it produced vegetation.
- On the fourth day, God placed the sun, moon, and stars into the sky (1:16-17) for signs to mark seasons, days, and years.
- It is very important to remember that “time” is given by God for human’s purposes.
- He is eternal, the Alpha and Omega, therefore, He extends beyond both end points of time, He is not constrained by the realm of time.
- On the fifth day, the water was filled with vast varieties of sea creatures and the sky with every kind of bird (1:20-23)
- In the beginning of the sixth day, He says the land is to produce living creatures according to their kind. God made the wild animals, livestock, and all other creatures (1:24-25)

(+<n> min)

### 3. What was the method of Creation that God used?

- The method God used to create was His Word – “God said”
- This should demonstrate to any reader the power of God’s Word.
- To think that He can just “speak” things into existence!

(+<n> min)

### 4. What do the previous questions say to you regarding the power of God’s Word?

- This is a personal question and should be interesting to hear some insights your group members have regarding the power of God's Word.

(+<n> min)

### 5. How does Scripture describe God's Word in the following passages?

- Psalm 19:7-8, 119:11, 142, 152; Colossians 1:25-27; 2 Peter 1:21
- Some examples of words which may be used to describe God's Word:
- **Psalms 19:7-8** – *"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes"* – **Perfect, trustworthy, radiant**
- **Psalms 119:11, 142, 152** – *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you; Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true; Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever." – **hide in heart, true, eternal***
- **Colossians 1:25-27** – *"I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." – **mystery, riches, mystery disclosed***
- **2 Peter 1:21** – *"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"* – **inspired, carried by the Holy Spirit**

(+<n> min)

**Application 1: Write down something new that you have learned today about the power of God's Word. How will you apply that knowledge to your life?**

(+<n> min)

**Day 2: God creates light by His Word. – Read Genesis 1:3-8**

**1. In this first day of creation, what do the words "And God said" mean to you after reading Psalms 33:6,9; Psalms 148:5; Hebrews 11:3a; and 2 Corinthians 4:6?**

**Psalms 33:6,9** – *"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth" and "For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm"*

**Psalms 148:5** – *"Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created"*

- We see by the Psalms references that the writers of Psalms understood the power and authority of God's Word.

**Hebrews 11:3a** – *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. "*

- The author of Hebrews is recognizing Jesus Christ as having the same likeness of God and that He sustains all things by His powerful word!

**2 Corinthians 4:6** – *"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. "*

- What does this verse tell you about the "light" God spoke into existence?
- It seems this original light wasn't a light that we can associate with without knowing and believing in His Son Jesus Christ.
- It doesn't seem to be a physical light like a light bulb produces but more of a spiritual light that has unique characteristics.

(+<n> min)

### 2. What is not present at the time God creates light?

- There is no sun, moon, or stars yet, they aren't created until day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19)!
- Modern cosmological theories agree there are gaseous masses in space capable of producing light.
- There are also modern astrophysicists who have declared light existed for immense periods of time before the sun, moon, or stars.
- Today we have heard of the aurora borealis and the light of phosphorescence, etc.
- It's interesting to see that science is slowly affirming what Moses wrote so long ago by the inspiration of God!
- It's also interesting to note that some scientist are open to the viewpoint that the earth was formed before the sun.

(+<n> min)

### 3. What did the light God created do?

- It separated the darkness.
- Whatever were the means that God used, God's light, which streamed onto the dark, formless chaos (Genesis 1:2), was beautiful.
- If we mix white paint with black we generally get some form of gray.
- God created light and it was mixed with the darkness so chances are there was but a gloomy twilight.
- Therefore, God clearly separated the light from the darkness.
- He named the "light" day and the darkness "night."
- Here is a very encouraging thought: when believers are recreated to live in the glorious light of God and the Lamb, there will be no darkness of any kind (Revelation 21:23-25).
- **Revelation 21:23-25** – *"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there."*

(+<n> min)

### 4. Why do you think God used the sequence of defining a day as "there was evening, and there was morning – the first day"?

- Answers will vary on this
- In the Genesis account of creation, "evening" always precedes morning.
- God creating light brought an end to the previous reign of darkness.
- It also brought about the first night/day sequence.
- Since the sun, moon, and stars have not been created yet (4<sup>th</sup> day), it is not necessary to think of a literal 24 hour day at this early point in God's creation process.
- This phrase may be used to indicate a "day of God" rather than a day we identify with relating to the sun and moon.
- This means that at this time in creation, the beginning of each new act of God is called "evening" and ends with "morning."

### 5 What do you learn about God's Word from the following passages?

- Psalm 119:105; Jeremiah 5:14, 23:29; Ephesians 6:17

**Psalms 119:105** – *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. "* – **It is a lamp, a light**

**Jeremiah 5:14** – *“Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty says: “Because the people have spoken these words, I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes.” – It is a fire*

**Jeremiah 23:29** – *““Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?” – A is a hammer*

**Ephesians 6:17** – *“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” – It is the Christian’s sword*

(+ <n> min)

**Application 2: What experiences have you had of God’s light coming into darkness (see John 8:12)?**

(+<n> min)

**Day 3: God arranges the earth’s divisions and creates vegetation by His Word. – Read Genesis 1:9-13**

**1. How would you describe the earth’s condition prior to the time of verse 9 (see Psalm 24:1-2; 136:3-6; Exodus 20:4)? What did God do in verse 9?**

- This third day is the completion of the work the Lord began on day two.
- At this time, the waters covering the earth beneath the expanse are drained off and God places restrictions on the seas, rivers, and lakes.
- He brings land into existence – geologically we do not know what would have taken place as God caused these things to happen.
- So at the time of creation thus far, the earth is seen with waters held above the heavens and beneath the earth.

**Psalm 24:1-2** – *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters “*

**Psalm 136:3-6** – *“Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever“*

**Exodus 20:4** – *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below “*

**2. What boundaries did God set in verses 9-10?**

- God set the boundaries for the waters of which they were not to pass. The following verses give wonderful summaries of God’s creative work the first part of day three. See Psalms 95:5, 104:6-13; Jeremiah 5:22.

**Psalm 95:5** gives a wonderful summary of God’s creative work on this third day, *“The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”*

**Psalm 104:6-13** – *“You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth. He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work.”*

(+<n> min)

**3. What did God cause to be created in the latter part of day three (see Genesis 1:11-12)? How did plants come into existence? Explain.**

- From God's creative process, plants seem to be the lowest level of organic life.
- Notice God did not "speak" plants into existence, He says, "Let the earth sprout..."
- It was from earth's soil that plant life came into existence by God's command.
- Since the sun, moon, and stars have not been created yet, and we know plants need some forms of light, how do we deal with such questions.
- Experiments have proven a large section of the spectrum of sunlight is completely ineffective in plant's process of assimilation.
- Plants need mainly light of red, orange, and yellow rays.
- Some botanists believe that the assimilation process could be affected by light containing only these rays and the sun's light-giving role for plant life replaced that of a more general, glow in space.
- If so, we have been given such a source of light in Genesis 1:3-4.

(+<n> min)

#### 4. The phrase "their (various) kind(s)" is mentioned three times. What do you think that phrase means?

- First, a caution that these phrases should not be pressed too far!
- It is unwise to use these phrases as one would for scientific conclusions and "fixing species boundaries."
- One reason for this is that the very same word for "kind" is used in Leviticus 11:14-15, 19, 22, 29, where it obviously means "in all their varieties."
- However, regarding both plant and animal life, we know there is close resemblance, wide diversification, and infinite variety within the species.
- However, there are sharp structural boundaries which God has set in place to determine species classes and families.
- There is no existing record of complex forms evolving from simple forms in spite of all efforts to prove the contrary since the day of Darwin's hypothesis of mechanical evolution.
- Christians should be able to support what they believe with logical arguments just as the unbeliever does.
- So you might want to investigate this a little more on your own.
- A recommended book for with a Christian perspective is Dr. James Montgomery Boice's, "Genesis volume 1 – Creation and Fall – Genesis 1-11," publisher Baker Book House Co., 2002, ISBN 0-8010-1161-2.

(+<n> min)

#### 5. How do the following passages demonstrate the power of God's Word?

- Psalm 107:20, 119:130; John 20:31; Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:18

**Psalms 107:20** – "He sent forth his word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave "

- His Word has the power to heal and rescue from the grave.

**Psalms 119:130** – "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple "

- His Word gives light and understanding to the simple.

**John 20:30-31** – "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

- His Word is the way to life through His Son Jesus Christ.

**Romans 10:17** – "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ "

- His Word produces spiritual fruit and saves souls.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17** – “and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work “

- His Word is used to make one wise.

**James 1:18** – “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created“

- His Word is used to regenerate lives.
- We have seen that only the creative power of God could cause the earth to bring forth fruit.
- Fallen humanity cannot of itself produce spiritual fruit.
- This is what Jesus meant when He said, “If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5).

**Application 3: Is your present life empty, monotonous, and/or barren of fruitfulness and eternal blessing to other lives? Will you today come to Christ through the study of your Bible so that you, too, become “rooted and built up in Him (Col. 2:6-7)?” Will you today ask God to reveal His Word to you so you too may become more fruitful for Him?**

(+<n> min)

**Day 4: God creates celestial bodies, sun, and moon by His Word. – Read Genesis 1:14-19 (Day 4)**

**1. God didn’t go into a lot detail about how He created these celestial bodies. What does that tell you about Him? What do you suppose He wants us to learn about Him?**

- Simply put, God must intend for us to *know* that He created the universe with all its heavenly bodies and we are to appreciate the power and authority of His word!
- It seems God was doing all this for the place where He would create the objects of His love – humans.
- We should not underestimate the significance of our little planet because not only would He create human beings, but it would be the place where His own Son Jesus Christ would live and walk.
- Thought processes of Greek’s verses Hebrew’s is very interesting.
- For example: A semi truck and trailer pull into a parking lot. We Greek’s by nature tend to look at the size of it, color, how many wheels, what is written on the side, maybe check out the tractor and driver. The Hebrew however, would typically ask, “What’s in it?”
- It seems that’s what God is expecting of us today. Not to debate how He did it but to truly praise and glorify Him that He did.

(+<n> min)

**2. List the functions of the sun, moon, and stars described in verses 14-18: How did God view His work?**

- They were signs to be used for identifying seasons, days, and years (14).
- They were to give light on the earth (15).
- The sun was the greater light and was to *govern* the day (16).
- The lesser light (moon) was to *govern* the night (16).
- He placed them in the *expanse* to give light on the earth, to *govern* the day and night, and to separate light from darkness.
- Genesis 1:18b says, “God saw that it was good.”

(+<n> min)

**3. God has been in the business of exhibiting signs for eons. These heavenly bodies are for the purpose of signs. Identify the signs that will be present in the following passages:**

- Matthew 2:2; Luke 21:25-28; Joel 2:30-31; Revelation 8:12

**Matthew 2:2** – “and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” – A star was the sign that led the wise men to Bethlehem!

**Luke 21:25-28** – ““There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup> Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” – When Christ returns, nature will be a sign.

**Joel 2:30-31** – “I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. “ – Signs will be prevalent at the second coming of Christ!

**Revelation 8:12** – “The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. “ – signs will indicate divine judgments.

(+<n> min)

**4. What do you learn from these verses 14-19 about the way God works? Is He detailed? Does He have a plan? Is He organized? How many attributes can you name to describe God?**

- He is detailed, has a plan, is organized, and has the power and authority in His Word to make it all happen!
- Here are a few – He is: **Accessible, Bold, Creator, Divine, Eternal, Faithful, Gracious, Holy, Immutable, Joy, King of kings and Lord of lords, Love, Master, Never ending, Omnipotent, Peace, Righteous, Savior, Truth, Unsearchable, Victorious, Wise**

(+<n> min)

**5. Using the following passages, how would you describe a proper attitude believers should have for God’s Word?**

- Psalm 119:161; Isaiah 66:5; Jeremiah 23:28; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15

**Psalms 119:161** – “Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your word “

- From this passage, it seems we should stand in awe of His Word.

**Isaiah 66:5** – “Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word. “Your brothers who hate you, and exclude you because of my name, have said, ‘Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy!’ Yet they will be put to shame.”

- The writer of Psalms 119 is saying we should tremble at His Word.

**Jeremiah 23:28** – “Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD.”

- We are to speak faithfully His Word.

**Acts 17:11** – “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true “

- We are to examine His Word. That means more than just reading it but taking time to meditate on it and try to understand everything it is saying to you through the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Many people read the Bible daily but “reading” the Bible is quite different from “studying” it.

**2 Timothy 2:15** – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth”

- As believers, we are to handle God’s Word correctly.
- We are to maintain context as best we know how and are led by the Holy Spirit.
- God cautions us from adding to or subtracting from His Word. Some examples are:
- **Deuteronomy 12:32** – “See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.”
- **Proverbs 30:6** – “Do not add to His words, or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar”
- **Revelation 22:18-19** – “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

(+<n> min)

**Application 4:** God has provided *spiritual light* through His Holy Word. The question for us is, “Are you choosing to live by this light or have you chosen to neglect it and walk instead in darkness? Whichever place you are, will you ask Him to help you walk in His light throughout this day?”

(+<n> min)

**Day 5: God creates sea creatures, birds, and life on the land, all by His Word. – Read Genesis 1:20-25**

**1. What does God’s Word bring forth on the fifth day (Genesis 1:20-19)? What new action does this day’s creation bring?**

- He creates sea creatures and birds to fly.
- This brings forth a new action - “movement” – until now, nothing was moving on the earth.
- Vegetation was stationary and there was no other living thing until now.
- So a key thought here is that of movement of sentient life compared to plant life.
- We see a repetition of the words “*living creatures*” (20, 21) – repeated words/phrases are always important to note when studying Scripture.

(+<n> min)

**2. Would you say God create just a few or an abundance of these creatures? What do you learn about God and His creation from this?**

- He created an abundance of creatures
- Verse 20 – “*waters teem with swarms (NAS)*”
- Verse 21 – “*waters swarmed after their kind*”
- Note that verse 20 does not mean that there was a development of life out of the water except for the birds.
- On the contrary, it describes a *sudden filling* of the seas.
- This was absolutely done by God’s powerful and authoritative word!

(+<n> min)

**3. What was God’s first blessing and what were to be the results?**

- The blessing was that sea creatures were to multiply and fill the waters and the birds to multiply on the earth.
- We see the blessing in verse 22 – “*And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”*”

- These were *fruitful* blessings – the key words were “*fruitful*,” “*multiply*,” and “*fill*”
- God divinely enables these new living creatures the empowerment whereby they themselves are able to pass on the life they have received to others.
- God blesses all His creatures from the first fish swarms in the sea to the people He has chosen to be His own inheritance who have been redeemed by Christ.
- **Ephesians 1:3** – “*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ*”

(+<n> min)

#### **4. The beginning of the sixth day (see verses 24-25). Identify the threefold classification which God creates next and the word associated with each classification (it is repeated 5 times):**

- First, the threefold classification is:
- Livestock
- Creatures that move along the ground (reptiles, insects, etc.)
- Wild animals
- The word repeated 5 times is “*kind*”
- Again, this word is significant for indicating God’s selection of structural boundaries for separation of classes and families.

#### **5. What do you learn about applying God’s Word to your life from the following passages?**

- Psalm 119:9, 133; 1 Peter 1:23, 2:2

**Psalms 119:9, 22** – “*How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.*”

- God’s Word is to be our guide for living pure lives.

**Psalms 119:133** – “*Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me*”

- God’s Word is to be our daily guide.
- An illustration for this verse might be: If you were to drive to a place you had never been before, wouldn’t you look at some maps?
- Now days, you might just put the destination in your GPS and trust in it.
- That’s no different than what the Psalmist is saying here.
- God’s Word is our spiritual map, GPS, direction finder, etc.
- We need His Word for our spiritual life just as we need physical guides to drive to an unknown destination.

**1 Peter 1:23** – “*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God*”

- Remember our memory verses from Romans?
- They seem so appropriate here, **Romans 1:16-17**, “*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*”
- God’s Word is POWER to SAVE!
- It is the source of new life!

**1 Peter 2:2** – “*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation*”

- God’s Word is the source of spiritual nourishment.
- Here is an interesting thought.

- If we ate physical food only as often as we study God's Word for spiritual nourishment, how long would we last?
- Probably not very long.
- And yet, our physical bodies will die some day but our spirits will live for eternity!
- Interesting contrast don't you think?

**(+<n> min)**

**Application 5: Try to identify at least three new ideas, thought, and/or insights you have received this week by studying these five plus days of creation.**

**(+<n> min)**

### **Closing Comments**

- So we come to the close of this study lesson. We are in the first part of the 6<sup>th</sup> day.
- William Barclay says about these last verses, "He (God) did the work; He made them all after their kind, not only of divers shapes, but of divers natures, manners, food, and fashions-some to be tame about the house, others to be wild in the fields-some living upon grass and herbs, others upon flesh-some harmless, and others ravenous-some bold, and others timorous-some for man's service, and not his sustenance, as the horse-others for his sustenance, and not his service, as the sheep-others for both, as the ox-and some for neither, as the wild beasts. In all this appears the manifold wisdom of the Creator."<sup>2</sup>

**(+2 min)**

### **Closing Prayer**

- Pray for the group members to continue making time for daily study. Petition the Lord to adjust their schedules for time to do this important study. Pray for the needs of the group.

**(+1 min)**

---

<sup>1</sup> Dr. James Boice, "Genesis Volume 1 Creation and Fall Genesis 1-11," Baker Books, 1998, ISBN0-8010-1161-2, pg. 81

<sup>2</sup> William Barclay (unabridged) software from "Bible Explorer The Complete Bible Reference Library," Epiphany Software