

ACT ONE INTRODUCTION

This week's reading provides the opening of the true story of the whole world. The story begins with the Creator God who, from nothing, creates all that exists by His powerful word. God crowns His good Creation with humans who bear His image. Tragically, Act 1 displays how the first people, Adam and Eve, chose to pursue their own way introducing sin into the world. Yet, despite the magnification of sin and its consequences with each generation, the first buds of God's redemption break through the darkness pointing to the Redeemer to come.

Week 1 spans the entirety of Act 1 of the story presented in the Bible. Here all the elements of the story emerge even just in seed form. Look for the Hero and pay attention to the villain. The story which begins here continues on. It is the story we participate in today.

KEY SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

– John 1:1-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This week's reading provides the architecture for the Christian worldview. What do these readings teach about humans? Marriage? Children? Gender? Creation? Work?

What do these chapters teach about God? What attributes of God stand out? Can you identify the places where the Trinity is revealed? What is Creation designed for? What do you think is God's purpose in creating and sustaining the universe? (Note especially Psalms 8 and 104)

At every step God declares His work “good.” At what point does God see Creation as “very good”? Why? God’s design for humanity is to accelerate the goodness of Creation. What might that mean for your life in God’s world?

How did God’s good world go so wrong? What is sin and how did it come into the world? What consequences from sin do you see in this week’s reading?

How can you see the tension between God’s good world and the corruption of sin today and in your own life? Where has sin brought separation and shame in your relationship with God and others? Adam and Eve made their own covering to hide their sin and shame. What are some ways you have tried to cover your own sin and shame apart from God?

What is the promise of Genesis 3:15? How does God deal with Adam and Eve’s sin and shame (see Gen. 3:21)? What greater covering does He provide for your sin and shame?

What parallels can you identify between Adam and Noah? How is God’s covenant with Noah still significant for us today? In what ways does Noah foreshadow Christ Jesus?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” -James 1:22

Who needs to hear what you’ve learned this week? What is your plan to share it with them?