

GENESIS: THE CREATION OF HUMANITY

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?
Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?
Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday September 12th - (*Gen 2:5*) Read *Job 38:28, Psalms 65:9-10, Jeremiah 10:13*. What is the purpose of “man” according to Genesis 2:5? According to today’s readings, where is the focus of prosperity that comes from the land? To whom does the land belong? Is our religious instruction reflected in how we treat the environment?

Tuesday, September 13th - (*Gen. 2:7*) Read *Genesis 3:23, 4:2; Psalms 103:14; Jeremiah 18:6, 1 Corinthians 15:47*. The Hebrew for “man” comes directly from the Hebrew for “land.” We looked yesterday at where the rain and nurturing for the creation comes, what is the role of humanity? When we celebrate someone who has died, we often recite, “Ashes to ashes, earth to earth, dust to dust.” We also say at the beginning of Lent, “From dust you have come, to dust you shall return.” Does our salvation in Christ prevent us from being real about our origins as well as our destiny? Does a focus on Heaven rob us from being good stewards of the dust we have come from?

Wednesday, September 14th - (*Gen 2:17*) *Deuteronomy 30:15, 19; Jeremiah 42:16; Ezekiel 3:18, Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:15*. How do you see the moment Adam and Eve ate of the fruit? Was this good and the birth of free will? Was this bad and disobedience and the beginning of sin? Can we still choose the better or are we cursed to always be punished by virtue of being human? Where does your Christian faith enter this notion of blessings and curses?

Thursday, September 15th - (*Gen 3:5*) *Genesis 1:26, 14:18, 19; Psalms 7:8; Isaiah 14:14; Ezekiel 28:2*. There are many passages that remind humanity what they really are. How should we balance our origin (dust) and our destiny (adopted by grace into God’s family through Jesus Christ?)

Friday, September 16th - (*Genesis 3:6*) *1 John 2:16; Numbers 30:7-8; Jeremiah 44:15, 19, 24*. Some of today’s readings have been selected to demonstrate how women have been blamed for calamity and the wayward path of society since Eve ate the apple. It is no surprise that these selections have been used to oppress women and maintain masculine control of society. How has Bible been used in your experience to push women into secondary roles? Have you experienced this personally? Have you ever used the Bible to push someone into a less significant role or identity? How does this stack up to the reminder that in Christ we are all new creations, and in essence, all equal?

Saturday, September 17th - (*Gen 3:8*) *Job 13:16; Isaiah 28:15; Jeremiah 16:17, 23:24; Revelation 6:15-16*. Today’s readings focus on God being all-knowing or at least “all-observant.” Do we often live as though God is watching us? Would God be pleased with most of our choices? Or do we sometimes wish a building would fall on us and hide us too?! This notion of how to view mistakes is very pre-Christian. For the Christian, we make just as many mistakes, but we don’t boldly make more because we know we can’t help it, or pretend we have made none. We own our choices and we seek and receive forgiveness through the grace of God through Jesus Christ. I think it is much better to say to God, “Please forgive me in Jesus’ name” than, “I hope this building falls on me.”

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Charlie Walters, Joan Jacobs, Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough’s daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark