

The Mission of God

God has a mission – and calls us to join in!

Week 2: God creates: a good world



Review:

Last week was an overview of God's big Bible story, summed up in the parable of the Prodigal Son. This week we begin to explore the Mission of God and our place in God's story. We see that God made the world and makes us responsible for it. It is both beautiful, and fallen, therefore, fragile. Genesis 1 and John 1 – both give accounts of 'the beginning'. John tells us about Jesus' role at the beginning of time – the mystery of God as Trinity is evident from the very beginning. As we look at Genesis 1 we learn about God from the good world he created: he is **powerful**, he is **purposeful** and he is **personal**. We also learn about our own role in God's story and our part bringing glory to God and enjoying his creation.



Discuss:

1. The Mission of God series explores the Bible as an epic drama. There's intimacy, beauty and adventure. What are your favourite stories or epic films and how do they begin?
2. Look at John 1:1-18, written for both Hebrew and Greek audiences as well as for us. In the Hebrew scriptures the Word was the agent of creation (Psalm 33:6), the source of God's message to his people through the prophets (Hosea 1:1) and God's law (Psalm 119:11). To the Greeks the Word was connected with reason. What does John mean by 'the Word'?
3. What are the repeated words and phrases in Genesis 1? What do they tell us about how God made the world?
4. What does it mean to be made in God's image?
5. Read Romans 1:20. What kind of God does nature reveal?



Pray: Use Psalm 33 or Psalm 104 as inspiration to praise God for the world he has made. Pray about the responsibility God has given us. Ask God to guide us individually, as a church and as a country. Pray for those in authority and for the people you know whose daily work has an impact on the way the world's resources are used, and for schools as they teach the next generation.