

The Torah

Community Groups

Discussion Guide
Week 1 – January 3
Worldview | Genesis 1-3

Introduction

We're in week one of a 9 week series we've titled The Torah. In Jewish tradition, "Torah" is the name of these first five books of the Bible. It's a Hebrew word that means 'teachings' or 'instructions'. The title of Sunday's sermon is "Worldview." A worldview is the way someone thinks about the world. It's a comprehensive conception or image of the universe and of humanity's relation to it. It's a collection of beliefs about life.

Sunday's sermon unpacked the biblical worldview as given in the first three chapters of Genesis.

Questions for Study

1. If you were to summarize the worldview the typical person in America has about life, what would you say it is? Include in this – their view of God and their view of people (mankind). Write it down.
2. Take some time to reflect on your own worldview and then write it down.
3. Why is it so important to know our own worldview? Describe the impact it has on how we live our lives?
4. Write down all the varied ideas of God that have existed from ancient times into our 21st century.
5. After reading the first three chapters of Genesis, what would you say is the worldview they give us of God? Another way of asking this question... How do they answer the question – Who is God?
6. What application can you make for your own life with this view on who God is?
7. In Sunday's sermon Steve gave this guideline for reading the Bible: "The Bible is not written to us, but for us." What did he mean in saying this and why is it very helpful for reading a chapter like Genesis 1?
8. Do you think there's a prevailing worldview about mankind in our world today? If yes, what would you say it is and how is it impacting our world?
9. In Sunday's sermon Steve quoted from Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Scientifically, I see no reason for attributing to a man a significance different in kind from that which belongs to a baboon or a grain of sand." How do you think someone seeing themselves this way influences their behavior?
10. What is the worldview we're giving of mankind in the first two chapters of Genesis?
11. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? (Genesis 1:26,27)
12. What are the two implications for us being created in God's image? First, for how you see yourself. Second, for the way you treat people?
13. What's the biblical worldview on what's gone wrong with our world?