

## Genesis—Series Overview

### *Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope*

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

#### APPLYING GOD'S WORD

*Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:*

**Rejoice!** God is Creator, Redeemer, and King. He has captured us and made us a part of His glorious victory train. Sing His praises! Celebrate and declare His greatness! We are no longer enslaved as His enemies, but now know Him as Father and Lord.

**Use Your gifts to make beauty!** God has gifted you to do some things well. Use those gifts to benefit of some others at FCCW and in our neighborhood. Consider how to encourage someone you know to use their gifts. Pick up the phone. Send an email. Have someone over. Encourage them to love and good works.

**Pray!** Ask the Lord to work in us in these ways. Ask others to pray for you in these ways, too.

## Ezra-Nehemiah—Series Overview

### *A Community Restored for Worship*

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah was written to encourage God's people returning after exile to believe the covenant promises and restore the temple in Jerusalem. God's people were being restored in the place of promise as a worshipping community. The restoration of purpose was far greater than their real estate. The place always has to do with what God promised would happen there.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional  
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren  
January 13th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 1 – 3

### **The Gospel According to Creation**

1. God Made All Creation to Carry His Glory.
2. All Creation Was Irreperably Broken in Our Rebellion.
3. Christ's Work Has Conquered Death's Grip on All Creation.
4. All Creation Will Be Remade to Perfectly Glorify Christ.

The beauty and wonder of Creation everywhere declares God's praise. When we understand how radically broken Creation is because of our rebellion, we begin to see how hopeless our redemption really is. Except for Christ. He changes everything. The One who spoke everything that exists into existence is also the One who conquered sin and death and will bring the New Heavens and Earth when He comes again for His beloved.

Evening Service:

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 18

### **Celebrating God's Law in Community**

1. True Worship Is Grounded in God's Word.
2. Celebration Arises From Understanding the Whole Gospel.
3. Feasting Is a Community Event.

When the gospel is properly understood according to God's Word it transforms us from a broken weeping collection of individuals to a celebrating community of Christ. We must not neglect our rejoicing together. We must encourage one another to allow His joy to be our strength.

## Taking Gathered Worship Home

All of Creation declares the praise of our God. You are invited to come away with Him, to spend time listening to His Word, sharing your heart's concerns with Him. Come away and delight in our King!

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

### Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 1-3; Romans 8:13-25** DISCUSS How does Creation suffer as a result of our rebellion? What is Creation's hope? PRAY for God to empower us to give Christ glory in Creation around us. Ask Him to enable us to live by faith in Christ in our environment.

### Sunday PM

READ today's passage: **Nehemiah 8:1-18**. What is the role of community in celebration and feasting? Why is it necessary? PRAISE God for His good law. REPENT of ways we disobey and disrespect it.

### Monday

READ **Genesis 1:1-2:3; Psalm 19:1-14**. DISCUSS, How does Creation declare God's glory? How is that changed after the Fall? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to show them His glory in Christ. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

### Tuesday

READ **Genesis 2:4-25; Ephesians 1:3-4**. What does it mean for God to choose us to be holy and blameless? MEDITATE on this—God has given us the righteousness of Christ! PRAY, "Father God, we praise You as the God of all Creation! Jesus, thank You for Your victory. Holy Spirit, enable us to live out these truths."

### Wednesday

Read **Genesis 3:1-21; Colossians 1:13-20**. How is God redeeming us? MEDITATE on the astonishing privilege God gives to be His image-bearers. REJOICE if you have been adopted through Christ's sacrifice. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for the fullness of Your love for us. We praise You for doing what only You could do in making us Your people. Help us proclaim and live out the reality of Your grace together."

### Thursday

READ **Genesis 1:1-2:3; Mark 4:39-41**. The same Christ who made all Creation still has total authority over it. REJOICE in Christ's good authority over Creation. PRAY, "Jesus, You are our only true Head, the Leader and King of Your Church. We want to love and serve You joyfully together. You have captured us and adopted us into Your family. Holy Spirit, enliven our hearts with fervent love for Christ and one another. Lead us in maturity. Amen."

### Friday

READ **Genesis 1-3; Romans 8:18-25**. How are we anticipating Christ's return and the redemption of all Creation? Use the gifts God has given you to make things of beauty and show forth His glory. REJOICE for Christ has died 'once for all' obtaining for us eternal life! PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Genesis 1-3**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.