

THE JOURNEY

Basic Discipleship

01 REVEALED

STEP ONE

CREATION



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are so glad you're here! As you step into this journey of discipleship, know that you are entering a path designed to deepen your relationship with God and build a firm biblical foundation. This material is meant to guide you, no matter where you are on your faith journey. The tools and lessons you'll find here are adaptable to many settings—whether you're meeting one-on-one, gathering with a small group, or sharing in a larger community. It can be simplified to nurture the hearts of youth and children or enriched to challenge and inspire mature believers to grow even further.

Discipleship is a journey, not a race.

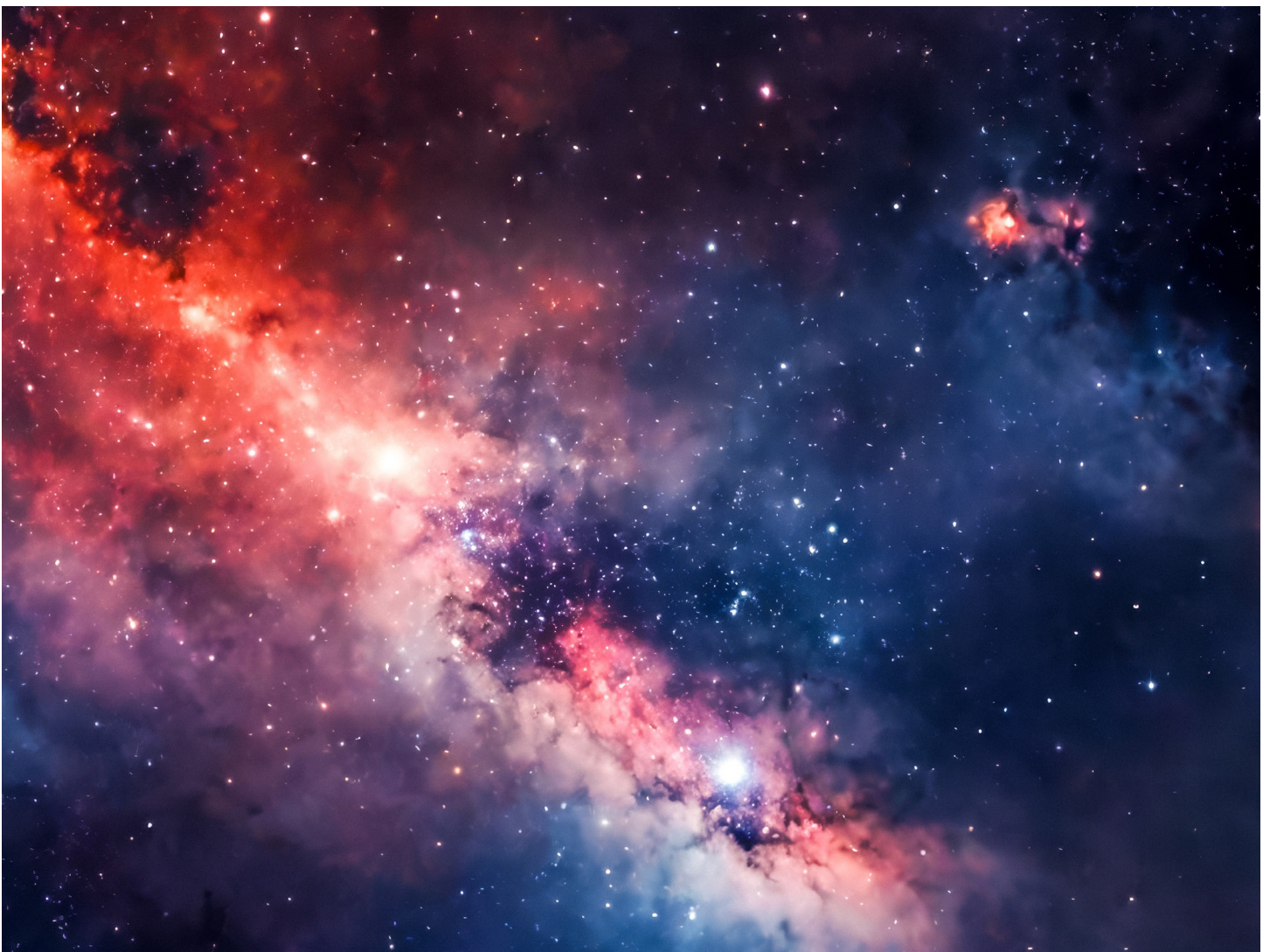
Our prayer is that this journey will help you engage with Scripture, build meaningful relationships, and discover how God is working in and through your life. Let's take this next step together with faith and intentionality as we grow closer to Him. Trust the process of growth and transformation that occurs over time as you walk with God.



01 CREATION

I. OUT OF NOTHING

God's creation is said to be *ex nihilo* ("out of nothing"), because God did not use any raw materials or anything pre-existing to create everything. The Bible says, "In the beginning God created..." which, in the original Hebrew, implies that before His creation there was nothing but God, and He brought something entirely new into existence. God made it all, and there is nothing that exists that He didn't make. This includes the entirety of the physical universe and all of the spiritual realm.



GENESIS 1:1 | *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

COLOSSIANS 1:16 | *“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

NEHEMIAH 9:6

PSALM 33:6, 9

JOHN 1:3

ROMANS 4:17

HEBREWS 11:3

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What's at stake in believing (or not) that God is the source of everything that exists?
2. What does God's ability to create out of nothing tell you about His power and creativity?

II. HIS FREE CHOICE

It's important to understand that God didn't need to create anything. There were no outside forces (something or someone else) causing Him to make this choice. Nor was there anything lacking within Him, such as love or community, which already existed in abundance within the Trinity. God's choice to create flows from who He is: completely free, fully sufficient, and overflowing with purpose.

PSALM 115:3 | *“Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.”*

ACTS 17:24–25 | *“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything...”*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

GENESIS 1:1

JOB 38:4

ISAIAH 40:13–14

JOHN 17:5

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. How does this truth challenge the ideas that we exist either by accident or out of some need that God had?
2. How does knowing that God lacked nothing help you trust His intentions for creating you?

III. WHY CREATE?

Everything in God's creation is ultimately for His glory. His creation reflects His glory back to Him, from the intricate depths of the quantum realm to the breathtaking vastness of galaxies stretching across the universe. God also receives glory from His image bearers (human beings). As we enjoy God and appreciate His many blessings, especially the gift of fellowship with Him, we freely give glory and thanks to our Creator.

REVELATION 4:11 | *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

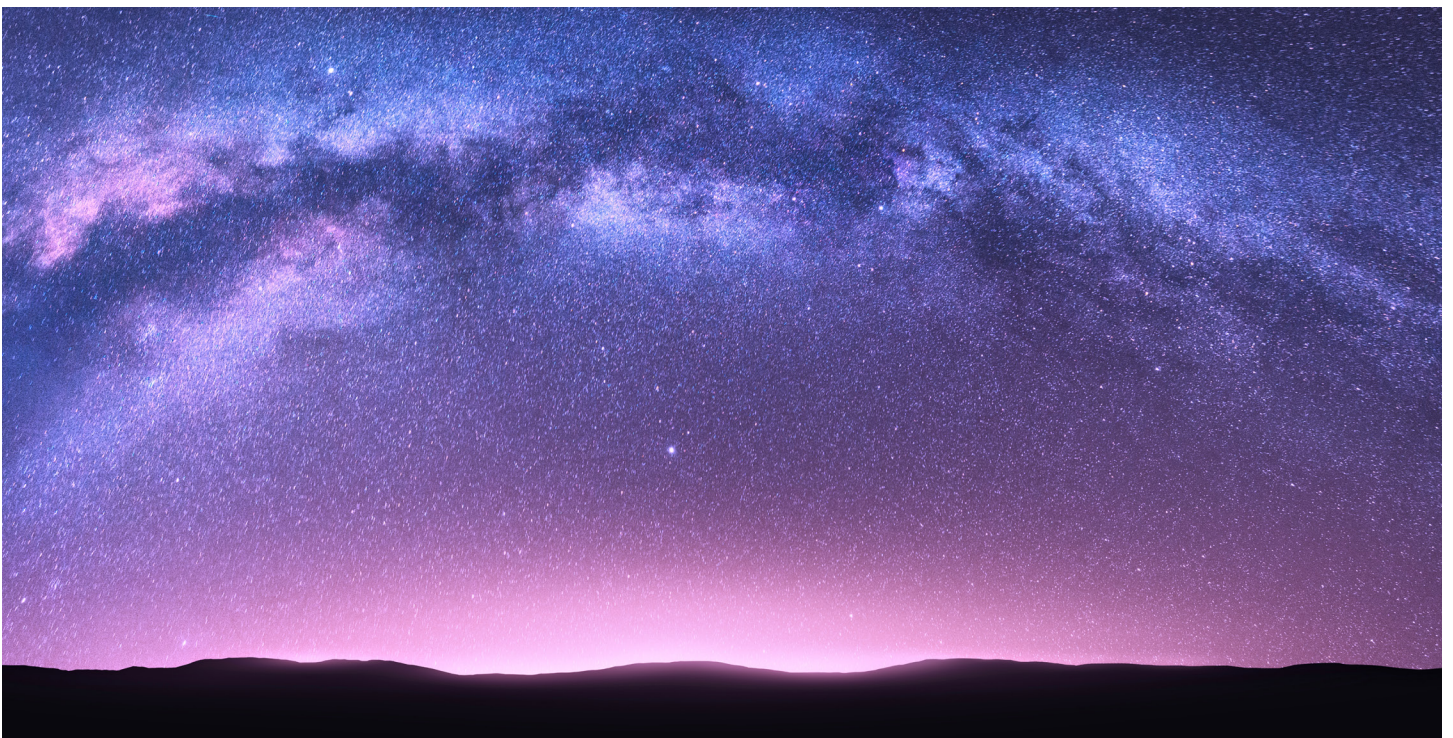
EPHESIANS 1:12 | *"in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory."*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

PSALM 19:1
ISAIAH 43:7
ISAIAH 48:11
ROMANS 1:20-21

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Have you ever had a moment while studying or enjoying creation that you felt overwhelmed and moved to give glory back to God? If so, when and where?
2. How does knowing that God created you for His glory affect your sense of purpose?



IV. ALL GOOD

When God finished creating, He declared His creation very good—and it truly was. At that time, there was no sin or death, and therefore no separation in the relationship between God and man. During this era, every part of the physical universe was good, including man and woman.

One of the implications of this “original goodness” of God’s creation is that physical matter is not inherently evil, as many Greek philosophers believed and as some present-day religions still teach. On the other hand, nature, humanity, and anything in the spiritual realm (apart from God) are not divine. Many naturalistic or pantheistic systems have claimed that things in creation are to be worshiped, but we are to worship only the Creator.

GENESIS 1:31 | *“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”*

ROMANS 1:25 | *“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

GENESIS 2:25; 3:8

I TIMOTHY 4:4

PSALM 95:6

REVELATION 4:11

PROVERBS 3:19

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean that God called His creation “very good”?
2. Why do you think people have often been inclined to worship things in creation, rather than the Creator?



V. CREATED TOGETHER

It's easy to overlook the fact that God the Father wasn't the only one involved in creation. The Bible teaches that each person of the Trinity was eternally pre-existent and that each had a role in the creation. The Holy Spirit's role has been especially overlooked, even though He brought order and life. Notice how the words 'breath' or 'spirit' appear in the verses below.

Author Mark Moore¹ offers an imperfect but helpful analogy: God the Father is like an architect—the Creator of all materials and the master planner; the Holy Spirit is like an engineer—bringing order and life; and Jesus is like a builder—doing the heavy lifting of creation according to the Father's design and the Spirit's coordination.

GENESIS 1:2 | *“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”*

COLOSSIANS 1:15-16 | *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

GENESIS 1:1; 2:7

PSALM 104:30

JOHN 1:1-3

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why is it important to recognize the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all involved in creation?
2. How might this influence the way you approach teamwork and shared goals?

1. Moore, Mark. *Core 52: A 10-Minute Daily Guide to What Matters Most in the Bible*. B&H Publishing Group, 2019.

VI. RIGHTFUL RULE

Through the act of creation, God reveals the limitless scope of His power and creativity. Because He created all things (both spiritual and physical) everything rightfully belongs to Him. As Creator, God gives His creation meaning and purpose. He alone defines what is right and wrong. Because He transcends His creation and is omniscient, He is the absolute source of truth.

The only proper response to the sheer glory of God as Creator is worship. It's the worship from the creatures (the ones created) returning praise and honor to the Creator who made it all. He is fully worthy of our praise, trust, and devotion.

PSALM 95:6 | *"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"*

ISAIAH 45:11 | *"...I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right."*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

PSALM 14:1

REVELATION 4:11

PSALM 33:6-9

REVELATION 14:7

JOHN 17:17

ROMANS 1:20-25

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why is it important that God (as Creator) defines what is true and right?
2. In what part of God's creation do you see Him most clearly reflected and why?





VII. HELD TOGETHER

God holds everything in creation together, sustaining it from moment to moment. God is not a distant Creator who merely set things in motion and left it on auto-pilot. Instead, He dynamically sustains His own creation, and without Him, everything would cease to exist.

God is proactively involved in ordering and guiding His creation toward His desired resolution. His providence extends to every creature, from the sparrow to the human soul, demonstrating His care and goodness in both great and small things. He is the one who gives us all things, including the very breath in our lungs.

COLOSSIANS 1:17 | *“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

ACTS 17:25 | *“And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.”*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

MATTHEW 5:45
MATTHEW 10:29
ACTS 17:28
HEBREWS 1:3

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean that God sustains all things? What would happen if He didn't?
2. What's the difference between believing in a Creator and trusting in a Sustainer?

VIII. BODY AND SPIRIT

Every human being has a body and a spirit, both of which were created by God. Unlike animals (who have bodies but no spirits), or angels (who are purely spiritual beings without physical bodies), humans are uniquely created with both.

Our bodies are made up of physical matter, are created male or female, and were not originally intended by God to die. Our spirit is not made up of physical matter and cannot be seen or measured in the physical world.

In the Bible, the body is sometimes called 'flesh,' and the spirit is often referred to as 'heart,' or 'soul.' Some believers have interpreted 'soul' and 'spirit' in the Bible to be the same thing, and others have seen them as different. Regardless, God intended our body and spirit to naturally and seamlessly coexist as part of who we are.

GENESIS 2:7 | *"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."*

ECCLESIASTES 12:7 | *"and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."*

Additional Scripture References

JOB 32:8

ZECHARIAH 12:1

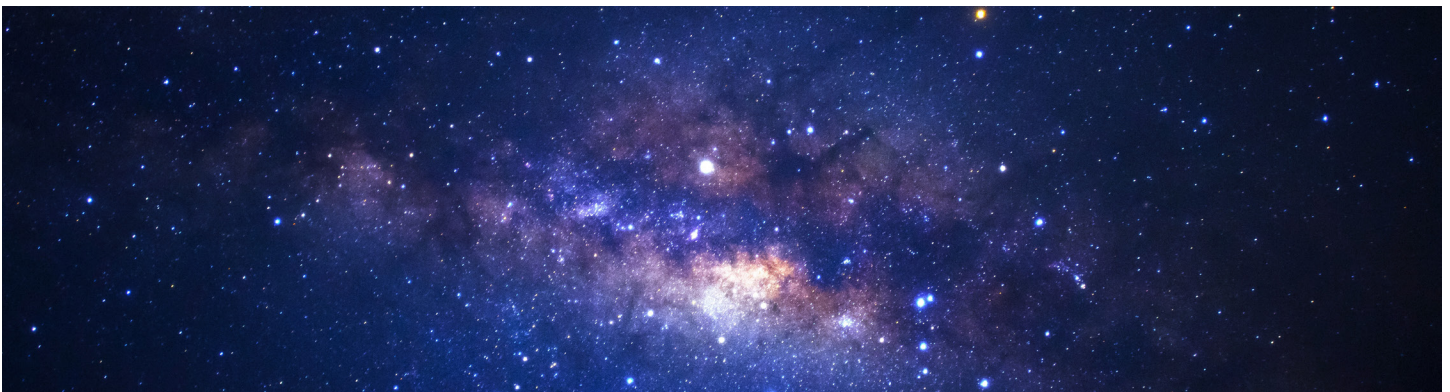
1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-4

JAMES 2:26

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why does it matter that humans are both body and spirit?
2. How does knowing that both your body and spirit were made by God change how you view yourself or others?



IX. IMAGE BEARERS

Our spirit, created in God's image, is the part of us that allows us to have person-hood and a relationship with Him that differs from the rest of creation. This immaterial part of us reflects God most closely—since God Himself is Spirit. However, our spirit is neither a part of God nor made of the same substance as He is.

Being made in God's image sets us apart from animals and allows us dignity, value, and purpose. This is why the Bible treats the murder of humans much more seriously than the killing of animals: it is an attack on someone who bears God's image. Unlike animals, we are capable of abstract thought, long-term planning, creative expression, and moral reasoning. We use logic, wisdom, and discernment.

Even more profoundly, however, we are created for relationship with the living God Himself. This relationship is meant to be a bond of love, worship, and joyful submission.

GENESIS 1:26-27 | *“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”*

GENESIS 5:1 | *“This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.”*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

GENESIS 9:6

PSALM 8:4-5

JOHN 4:24

ROMANS 8:16

JAMES 3:9

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean that humans are made in God’s image?
2. How does this truth affect the way we treat others and value human life?



X. RULE AND STEWARD

God created humans in His image as the apex of His creative work. In love and generosity, He shares His creation with us and places it under our care.

Part of God's created order is for human beings to rule (or have dominion) over the world and all living things in it. Humans rule the earth as God rules over us, with authority and stewardship. This means that the earth is not our mother, animals are not our equals, and humans have been called by God to this position of leadership.

But with this great authority comes great responsibility. We are still accountable to God, who owns everything, and we are called to act as stewards of His creation. This dual mandate of rule and stewardship leads us to responsibly use animals, plants, and resources in a way that ultimately glorifies God.

GENESIS 1:28 | *"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

GENESIS 2:19-20 | *"Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name."*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

GENESIS 1:26, 29

PSALM 8:4-6

GENESIS 2:16

PSALM 24:1

DEUTERONOMY 10:14

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why is it important to understand both ruling and stewardship as part of our role in creation? What happens when either one gets out of balance?
2. Why is it important to remember that everything we "own" actually belongs to God? What happens when we start to live like this isn't true?

NOTE: In The Journey, the terms "soul" and "spirit" are used interchangeably. We acknowledge there is robust, Bible-believing debate on this topic. Some view these two as identical; many hold an intermediate position with the two as similar but not identical (with humanity still maintaining a dichotomous (2-part) rather than a trichotomous (3-part) nature); and still others regard them as distinctly different.

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