

Back to the Beginning: Genesis Session 6 Summary and Study Guide

This session of our *Back to the Beginning* Bible study series wraps up our exploration of the creation account in Genesis 1–2, emphasizing the seven-day structure, God's rest on Day 7, and the call to praise Him through His works. We'll connect these truths to personal application and New Testament fulfillment. Follow along with your Bible, the action sheet, and notes to see how creation reveals God's sovereignty and invites us into worship.

Lesson Objectives

- Understand how to personalize God's promises in Scripture.
- Explore Psalm 33's depiction of God's creative power and sovereignty.
- Review the seven-day creation structure, highlighting forming and filling.
- Examine Day 7: God's rest, blessing, and sanctification of the Sabbath.
- Reflect on the significance of creation being "very good" and humanity's role.
- Connect creation to praise in Psalm 148 and New Testament rest in Christ.

Part 1: Personalizing God's Promises

As we study Genesis, remember to make God's Word personal. We often read promises like "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5) or "My God shall supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19) as general truths. But apply them directly: God will never leave *me*; He supplies *my* needs. This transforms facts into living realities, as commended in 1 Thessalonians 2:13—receiving the Word not as human teaching but as God's truth for us.

Reflection Questions

- How does personalizing promises change your daily experience of God's Word?
- Which promise from Scripture can you claim personally today?

Part 2: Psalm 33 – God's Sovereignty in Creation

Turn to Psalm 33:4–15. This passage celebrates God's righteous work: "For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth." He loves justice; the earth is full of His goodness. By His word, the heavens were made; He gathers seas and establishes creation. Let everyone fear Him, for He spoke, and it was done. God frustrates nations' plans but His counsel stands forever. He sees all humanity, fashions hearts, and considers works. Despite problems, view the world as filled with God's goodness—beauty in mountains, seas, and forests even after the fall.

Reflection Questions

- How does Psalm 33 encourage you amid the chaos of the world?
- What evidence of God's goodness do you see in creation today?

Part 3: Review of Creation's Structure

Genesis 1 shows God bringing order from formless void:

Days 1–3: Forming Realms

- Day 1: Light separated from darkness.
- Day 2: Waters separated by expanse (*raqia*).
- Day 3: Waters from land; vegetation after its kind.

Days 4–6: Filling Realms

Day 4: Sun, moon, stars for signs, seasons (*moed*—appointed times), days, years.
Day 5: Sea creatures and birds after their kind; blessed to multiply
Day 6: Land animals after their kind; humanity in God's image, blessed with dominion.

Notice the symmetry in the above chart. Day 1 is related to Day 4, Day 2 to Day 5, etc.

This symmetry reveals God's poetic design—realms first, inhabitants second. "After their kind" emphasizes stable reproduction.

Reflection Questions

- How does the forming/filling pattern demonstrate God's intentionality?
- What does "after their kind" teach about creation's order?

Part 4: Day 6 – Creation of Mankind

God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over...all the earth.

- Image (Hebrew: *tselem*) A statue, replica, or figure, idol. Humans are God's "living idols" (not pagan ones). God forbids graven images (Exodus 20:4) because He already made the perfect images of himself.
- Likeness (Hebrew: *demuth*) A modeled shape or form – created after God's character
- God made mankind male and female – together they are in God's image and likeness
- Connection to Christ – Adam was the firstborn over all creation but sinned, a flawed image. Jesus is the perfect image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).
- Every human being bears God's image even if unsaved.

Our mandate is to be fruitful and multiply and subdue

- Have children; spread God's people everywhere. This mandate still stands today – cover the earth with families worshiping God.
- Subdue it (Hebrew: *kabash* – "Put the kabash on it"). Bring it under control, establish order. There was work needed even before weeds in order to bring order.
- Have dominion – Rules as kings under **The King** (God). We're His sub-rulers, managers in His kingdom.

Part 5: Day 7 – The Sabbath Rest

In Genesis 2:1–3, heavens and earth are completed. God rested (*shabath*) on Day 7 from His work, blessed it, and sanctified it as holy. No "evening and morning"—eternal rest. God doesn't tire; He ceases in order to enjoy perfection. There was nothing more to do because everything was as good as it can possibly be.

Sabbath (*shabbat*) models work/rest rhythm: six days labor, one day cease. It's *shalom*—complete well-being. God invites us into this rest, foreshadowing eternal Sabbath in Christ (Hebrews 4:9–10).

Reflection Questions

- Why is Day 7 set apart without an end?
- How can you practice Sabbath rest in your life?

Part 6: God's Actions and Creation's Completion

God's verbs: speaks (commands reality), creates/makes, sees (declares good), separates (orders chaos), names (establishes identity), blesses (empowers fruitfulness). Pattern: Command, fulfillment ("it was so"), evaluation ("good"), day closure.

At end, God declares *tov me'od*—very good: functionally perfect, harmonious, reflecting His character. Humanity crowns it as image-bearers with stewardship.

Reflection Questions

- What do God's actions reveal about His sovereignty?
- How does being God's image shape your daily responsibilities?
- What does Christ as second Adam mean for your identity?

Part 7: Creation's Call to Praise – Psalm 148

Read Psalm 148: All creation praises God—angels, sun/moon/stars, seas, weather, mountains, animals, people. He commanded; they exist. Stormy winds fulfill His word (recall Jesus calming storm—disciples recognized divinity).

Even fallen creation's beauty drives praise. As image-bearers, join this chorus.

Reflection Questions

- How does Psalm 148 inspire you to praise through creation?
- What "stormy wind" in your life fulfills God's word?

Study Exercises

- Chart forming (Days 1–3) and filling (Days 4–6), with Day 7's rest.
- List God's verbs in Genesis 1–2; note patterns.
- Compare Genesis 2:1–3 with Hebrews 4:9–10 and Matthew 11:28.
- Journal: Personalize a creation promise (e.g., earth's goodness).
- Word study: *Shabbath, qadash, tselem*.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Genesis 1–2 displays God's ordered masterpiece, completed in Sabbath rest, calling us to praise and steward as image-bearers. Christ restores this through eternal rest. For next week (Genesis 3—the fall):

- Review Genesis 1–2; complete exercises.
- Reflect: How does "very good" contrast upcoming sin?
- Prepare questions on the fall's impact.

Let's pray: *Lord, thank You for Your Word revealing creation's beauty and Your sovereignty. Help us personalize truths, enter Your rest, and praise as image-bearers. Guide our study. In Jesus' name, Amen.*