



Lesson:

This week, we started a new series about relationships.

We started at “the beginning” when God created the heavens and the Earth. We talked about what it might have looked like to suddenly go from absolutely nothing to the entire universe with everything in it that will ever be in it in just a matter of moments.

We said that while scientists may have a theory of what it may have looked like when it happened, they have no explanation of who or what actually caused it to happen or even why. The Bible not only tells us what happened, it also tells us very clearly exactly who caused it to happen in Genesis 1:1. God created the heavens and the Earth.

We then thought about WHY. Does the Bible answer the question of WHY did God create us? Of course it does.

It is clear that right from the very beginning, in Genesis 2:18, that God did not intend for us to be alone. As a matter of fact, all through the Bible we read story after story about God wanting a relationship with us and him wanting us to seek a relationship with him. In Matthew 22:37-40, when Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is he answers for us to have a relationship with God and with each other. It seems that everything about God is about love and relationships. Even God himself is a relationship of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells us that God IS love and God IS about relationships. God has always wanted only to have a personal relationship with us and for us to seek a relationship with him. We could say, In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth for fellowship.

So, the Bible tells us how the universe was created and by who and even why but what does this personal relationship with God look like? For the answer, we again look to the Bible. We looked at Adam and Eve and said that God obviously created them to be exactly the way he wanted them to be. We read that God visited with them, walked with them and talked with them much like we would walk and talk with a best friend. God had the relationship with them that he created them to have, up until sin entered the world. Sin separates us from God and from having the relationship we were created to have.

God tried over and over to have us restore the relationship but every time we failed because we don’t have the ability to completely free ourselves from the sin that separates us. Finally, he sent us his son, Jesus to live with us on Earth, to have a relationship with us and to show us how to have a relationship with God. But, most importantly, Jesus took all of our sins, paid the price and died for us on the cross so that through our faith we again have the opportunity to have a personal relationship with God.

We said we have the **opportunity** but we still have free will so having a relationship with God is still up to us. We need to not only accept Jesus as our Lord & Savior and believe that he died for our sins, we need to actually live our lives like we are in a relationship with God, to experience God’s amazing love for us and to share it with others. What does your life look like living in God’s grace?

In the upcoming weeks, we will continue to discuss how we can live in a relationship with God and also in relationship with others.

Bible Verse: Genesis 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Bible Verse: Genesis 2:18

18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Bible Verse: Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”[b] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Bible Verse: Genesis 3:8-10

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Bible Verse: Romans 10:9

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.