

Lesson #1 – Sunday, August 2, 2026

BIG IDEA: This is God's world; we are just living in it.

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Today we begin a new series called Route 52: A Year Through the Bible. For the next 52 weeks, we will work our way through the entire story of the Bible.
- ⇒ Has there ever been a time when you began watching a television show or movie in the middle of the plot? Ask the following question:
 - How did the lack of a background affect the way you understood the storyline or ending?
 - Example: For those familiar with the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, how much different would the story be if you stopped watching after the first movie because Gandalf died? (Spoiler: He comes back to life in the second movie.)
- ⇒ In the same way, how might a lack of information about the beginning of God's story affect one's understanding of Scripture?
- ⇒ In this first lesson, we will be looking at some essential background information for understanding the Scripture as a whole.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: God is **Creator** of All Things (Genesis 1:1)

- ⇒ This is the foundational truth of the first verse of the Bible. Everything else stems from this truth.
- ⇒ Most people are familiar with the first verse of the Bible, and most give lip service to God as the Creator, but most never slow down long enough to consider the implications of what it says.
- ⇒ Ask: What truths about God and the world can we deduct from this important verse? *See what the class can come up with before moving into the Bible study...*

BIBLE STUDY:

1. First, we learn that God is **pre-existent** and eternal.
 - a. Looking at Genesis 1:1, who existed before the heavens and the earth?
 - b. What does this verse indicate about the "beginning" of God?
 1. Read Psalm 90:2, Psalm 102:25-27; Revelation 1:8
 2. The Bible clearly teaches that God is eternal – a truth that is difficult (maybe impossible) to understand. But the Bible is clear.
2. Second, God **created** all things.
 - a. Every worldview/religion has an explanation for how the world came into existence.
 - b. While we can never go back and be an eyewitness to the events of creation, we can look at the evidence around us and determine which competing ideas actually square with reality. The Biblical explanation checks every box.
 - c. Read John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11
 - d. Consider: What does this truth indicate about God's authority? How ought this truth shape our attitude toward God?
3. Third, God is **sovereign**.
 - a. The sovereignty of God is the biblical teaching that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission.

- b. Here's a simple way to understand it: If God created it all, He is the Sovereign Lord over all. This is His world and we are just living in it. The practical implications are tremendous.
- 4. Since God is the eternal, sovereign Creator, all **authority** belongs to Him.
 - a. As Creator, God has the authority to judge and to redeem.
 - b. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-7. How is God's authority acknowledged and rejected in these events?
 - c. Review Genesis 3:14-23. How was God's perfect design marred by the sin of Adam and Eve? Why did God have to bring judgment to Adam and Eve? How did He show compassion and judgment to them?
 - d. Looking at Genesis 3:14-15, how does God give a picture of His continued authority in creation and His desire to redeem His people? *Even though man rebelled God was still in control.*
 - e. How does this need for redemption and God's compassion toward His people set the stage for God's acts throughout history? *The rest of the Old Testament and the Gospels tell the story of God's plan of redemption.*

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Do you see how important the first pages of the Bible are? The Bible is full of stories with all kinds of circumstances, but we cannot forget that God is in control. What is true in the pages of Scripture is true in your life, as well.
- ⇒ Do we tend to think of ourselves as the center of God's purpose for creation or do we think of God as the center? Why?
- ⇒ How does our understanding of God's role as Creator affect how we live each day?
- ⇒ How does God's sovereignty in creation reveal His sovereignty in our lives? What comfort and encouragement do we have in God's sovereignty?
- ⇒ How does submission to God's authority to judge influence our beliefs about moral and ethical issues?

LIFE CONNECTION:

- ⇒ Do you ever think about your own part in God's story? We read the accounts in the Bible, and we see how God was working all along. How easily we forget that we serve the same God we have learned about in Genesis 1:1! He is still in control, He is still sovereign, and we are still accountable to Him!
- ⇒ What do you need to change this week to align your life more closely to the reality that this is God's World and we are accountable to Him?