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In the Beginning : Genesis 1-3

12 Week Study Guide

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During the Week

- Watch or listen to the three IN THE BEGINNING episodes for the week
- Read the assigned scripture passages
- Complete the journal questions
- Memorize the weekly verse
- Try the recommended practice for the week

When You Meet

- Open in prayer
- Recite the memory verse for each other
- The facilitator for that week leads the discussion using the journal prompts
- Share how the weekly practice went
- Close by praying for one another

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In the Beginning : Genesis 1-3

12 Week Study Guide

Welcome to the Become New Study Guide: IN THE BEGINNING.

This guide is designed to help you engage John Ortberg's teaching as you grow spiritually, reflect on Scripture, and explore key themes in spiritual formation.

Each week, you'll watch or listen to three episodes, work through journal questions, and practice memorizing Scripture. **You can use this guide in one of two ways:** participants may engage **all episodes on their own** and use gathering time to discuss what stood out from the teaching, Scripture, and journaling, then pray for one another. Or, you may choose one episode from the weekly teachings to **watch together as a group** during your gathering and have participants watch the other two on their own during the week. This packet is designed to work well for both approaches.

Please print a copy of this guide (2-sided) for each participant so everyone has space to reflect and write. You'll also find room to note meeting dates and who will facilitate discussion each week. We've found rotating leadership helpful, but it's optional. Please scan the provided QR codes to access the teaching links.

This format works well for individuals, pairs, or small groups who engage the teaching independently and come together for conversation and prayer. We hope this guide helps you grow in Christ, one day at a time.

If you have questions or need support, please reach out to us at connect@becomenew.com.

– The Become New Team

In the Beginning : Genesis 1-3

Weekly Map
12 Week Study Guide

wk1 *date:* *leader:*

1. **The God of New Beginnings**
2. **Discover Creative Hovering**
3. **Light in the Darkness**

wk2 *date:* *leader:*

4. **"Let there be..."**
5. **Shalom**
6. **Sun, Moon, and Stars**

wk3 *date:* *leader:*

7. **The Teeming Wild**
8. **The Speed of Seed**
9. **A Problem and a Purpose**

wk4 *date:* *leader:*

10. **Get Worked Up**
11. **Good**
12. **Real Rest**

wk5 *date:* *leader:*

13. **Space Maker**
14. **The "Oh God.." Prayer**
15. **Naked**

wk6 *date:* *leader:*

16. **670 Million Breathes**
17. **Why Christianity Makes Sense**
18. **Wax On, Wax Off**

wk7 *date:* *leader:*

19. **People**
20. **Cosmic Optimism**
21. **No Uninteresting Subjects**

wk8 *date:* *leader:*

22. **Scorning Shame**
23. **Rivers and Mountains**
24. **Deeply Rewarding**

wk9 *date:* *leader:*

25. **Practicing the Absence of God**
26. **Name the Snake**
27. **How to Not Languish**

wk10 *date:* *leader:*

28. **The God who Sings**
29. **Never Believe Anything Bad About God**
30. **Life's Greatest Struggle**

wk11 *date:* *leader:*

31. **Wanting vs. Liking**
32. **An Honest Day**
33. **"What happens in the first minute of this video will make your head explode"**

wk12 *date:* *leader:*

34. **Why Genesis Prevails**
35. **Therapy in the 'Cool of the Day'**
36. **Help is on the way**

Week 1 : From Chaos to Light: Beginning Again with God

Reading: Genesis 1:1-3, Psalm 104, John 1:1–14

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these words/phrases stand out to you?

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3. Where do you need a new beginning right now?

4. Genesis 1:2 says God hovered over the waters. Why is it comforting to know God "hovers" over your life?

5. Who brings light into your life right now, and how do they do it?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week ONE:

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Each morning pray: "God, where do You want to bring light or a new beginning today?"

Week 2 : Let There Be Shalom: Living Free Under a Generous God

Reading: Genesis 1:4-15, Isaiah 40:12–31, Romans 1:18–25

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Where in your life are you tempted to "make it so" instead of practicing "let there be"?

4. Genesis shows God separating things for the sake of shalom. What might God be inviting you to separate from, or reconnect to, right now?

5. How do you notice idolatry showing up subtly in your everyday life?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week TWO:

Genesis 1:14-15 (NIV)
And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

Spend 15 minutes outside noticing creation in stillness (without screens).

Week 3 : Created for More: Growth, Meaning, and Holy Wildness

Reading: Genesis 1:16-26, Mark 4:1–32, Romans 8:18–28

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. What part of your life feels small or slow right now, like a seed?

4. What is one purpose and one problem in your life right now. Are you able to sincerely thank God for both? Why or why not?

5. "Let us make humanity in our image." How is God shaping you into His likeness?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week THREE:

Genesis 1:22 (NIV)
God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

Resist rushing one decision this week.

Week 4 : Created for Work, Invited to Rest

Reading: Genesis 1:27- 2:2, Ecclesiastes 3:9–13, Philippians 2:1–11

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Where does your daily work (paid or unpaid) feel most connected or disconnected from your spiritual life?

4. When have you experienced serving someone as a holy moment?

5. Where is God inviting you to release outcomes in your life?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week FOUR:

Genesis 2:2 (NIV)
By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work."

Name (aloud) three ordinary things each day as "good."

Week 5 : Fully Known, Fully Loved

Reading: Genesis 2:2-19, Isaiah 58:6–12, Psalm 139:1–18

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Who has impacted your life with their hospitality? What did it look like?

4. What makes it hardest for you to believe you truly bear God's image?

5. How do you tend to protect yourself from vulnerability in relationships? Where might God be inviting you to open up?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week FIVE:

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)
So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Be courageously vulnerable this week with someone you trust.

Week 6 : Inspired Life: Breath, Belonging, and Becoming

Reading: Genesis 2:2-7, Job 27:3; 32:8; 33:4; 34:14–15 (read together), John 1:1–14

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. *Ruach* (Hebrew) and *pneuma* (Greek) mean wind, breath, or spirit. What does it change for you to realize every breath you take is a gift from God's Spirit?

4. When have you experienced growth through repetition or discipline (your own "wax on, wax off")?

5. John says character matters more than ability. How is God developing your character right now?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week SIX:

Genesis 2:7 (NIV)
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.

Each night as you go to sleep quietly pray...
Inhale: "Spirit of God."
Exhale: "Give me life."

Week 7 : A Hopeful Universe

Reading: Genesis 2:18–25, Revelation 21–22, Psalm 19

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Where do you feel most tempted toward isolation right now?

4. What subject or area of God's world would you love to explore more?

5. What in your life is flourishing right now? How do you see God's hand at work in it?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week SEVEN:

Genesis 2:18 (NIV)
The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Find three opportunities to surprise someone with a thoughtful question.

Week 8 : God's Healing Landscapes

Reading: Genesis 3:1-10, Hebrews 4:14–16, Psalm 23

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Where do you notice shame showing up in your body or emotions? What makes it difficult to surrender that to God?

4. Where have you recently sensed God's presence (a "mountain" or sacred moment)?

5. What would make today feel deeply meaningful rather than just productive?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week EIGHT:

Genesis 3:10 (NIV)
I heard Your voice in the garden," he replied, "and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Practice confession of sin (aloud) to God each day this week.

Week 9 : Facing Spiritual Dryness

Reading: Genesis 3:1-13, Psalm 139, Ephesian 6:10–18

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. When God feels absent, how do you usually respond?

4. What is one “snake” (thought, habit, fear, desire) that tends to threaten your inner life?

5. How does freedom (God stepping back) both challenge and empower you? How does it make you feel?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week NINE:

Genesis 3:6 (NIV)
When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

Limit one habit that drains your inner life this week.

Week 10 : Trusting God's Heart

Reading: Genesis 3:6-13, Psalm 145, Romans 8:1–11

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Do you find it difficult to 'never believe anything bad about God? Why or why not?

4. How do you notice legalism or self-condemnation showing up for you? What do you perceive God's heart to be toward this in you?

5. If you believed God was singing over you, what song might he be singing? How might that change your day today?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week TEN:

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)
The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

Find a song of worship you love and sing it (on the go) each day this week.

Week 11 : Learning to Desire What Is Good

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-7, Psalm 51, Colossians 3:1–10

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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3. Can you think of a time when you strongly wanted something that didn't turn out to be good for you? Did God bring good out of it?

4. What makes honesty hardest for you: fear, shame, image, or something else?

5. Where might God be inviting you to redirect your attention toward what is true and life-giving? What's a habit you could cultivate to support this?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week ELEVEN:

Genesis 3:4-5 (NIV)
You will not certainly die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"

Practice radical honesty in at least one conversation this week. Invite the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and courage.

Week 12 : Hope is On the Way

Reading: Review Genesis 1-3, Romans 8:18–39

1. Write down key words/phrases that stood out to you from the reading or the teaching.

2. Why did these word/phrase stand out to you?

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4. What does God's question "Where are you?" stir in you right now? How would you answer that question?

5. Where in your life do you most need The Holy Spirit's healing or wisdom?

6. What have these first chapters of Genesis taught you about the kind of person God is?

Pause. Listen for God's voice in your heart. What is He saying to you?

Write your personal prayer of response to God for this week:

memorization & practice week TWELVE:

Genesis 3:9 (NIV)
But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?

Upon waking each day this week pray:
"Here I am Lord. Fill me with your Spirit and lead me this day."

Find one concrete way to serve someone this week in a way that inconveniences you.

MEMORIZATION

Become New : IN THE BEGINNING

Week 1

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Week 2

Genesis 1:14-15 (NIV)
And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

Week 3

Genesis 1:22 (NIV)
God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

Week 4

Genesis 2:2 (NIV)
By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work."

Week 5

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)
So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Week 6

Genesis 2:7 (NIV)
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.

Week 7

Genesis 2:18 (NIV)
The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Week 8

Genesis 3:10 (NIV)
I heard Your voice in the garden," he replied, "and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Week 9

Genesis 3:6 (NIV)
When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

Week 10

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)
The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

Week 11

Genesis 3:4-5 (NIV)
You will not certainly die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"

Week 12

Genesis 3:9 (NIV)
But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?

Practices

Week 1
Each morning pray: "God, where do You want to bring light or a new beginning today?"

Week 2
Spend 15 minutes outside noticing creation in stillness (without screens).

Week 3
Resist rushing one decision this week.

Week 4
Name (aloud) three ordinary things each day as "good."

Week 5
Be courageously vulnerable this week with someone you trust.

Week 6
Each night as you go to sleep quietly pray... Inhale: "Spirit of God." Exhale: "Give me life."

Week 7
Find three opportunities to surprise someone with a thoughtful question.

Week 8
Practice confession of sin (aloud) to God each day this week.

Week 9
Limit one habit that drains your inner life this week.

Week 10
Find a song of worship you love and sing it (on the go) each day this week.

Week 11
Practice radical honesty in one conversation.

Week 12
Find one concrete way to serve someone this week in a way that inconveniences you.

Books Referenced During this Series:

The Everlasting Man — G. K. Chesterton
Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power — Andy Crouch
Not the Way It's Supposed to Be — Cornelius Plantinga Jr.
Being Mortal — Atul Gawande
How Not to Kill Yourself — Clancy Martin
The Lost World of Adam and Eve — John Walton
Breathe — James Nestor
The Breath of Life — George Catlin
Renovation of the Heart — Dallas Willard
The Great Divorce — C. S. Lewis
The Lord of the Rings — J. R. R. Tolkien
The Weight of Glory — C. S. Lewis
The Problem of Pain — C. S. Lewis
The Screwtape Letters — C. S. Lewis
Lonesome Dove — Larry McMurtry
The Magician's Nephew — C. S. Lewis
What's So Amazing About Grace — Philip Yancey
The Christian Secret of a Happy Life — Hannah Whitall Smith
After Virtue — Alasdair MacIntyre
Unbroken — Laura Hillenbrand
Les Misérables — Victor Hugo
The Godfather — Mario Puzo
On the Inner Ring — C. S. Lewis
Peter Pan — J. M. Barrie
The River Runs Through It — Norman Maclean