EPISODE 1 (SESSION 1)

Trust the Story

PRIMARY TEXT: GENESIS 1

Welcome to the adventure—the treasure hunt—in trusting the Story. Feel a bit strange, odd, or uncomfortable yet? Good!

This way of looking at the Text, for most of our Western listeners, is new—foreign. But what is not foreign to us is the emphasis our culture, our lives, place on production. We can relate to the misconception that our self worth lies in the amount and efficiency of what we are able to produce. We "do" to the extreme, and to think otherwise is, frankly, looked down upon or seen as weak, creating a society ruled by give-and-take, competition, and fake fulfillment.

Imagine starting a conversation or new relationship with the same Spirit that hovers over *this* Story.

Can you imagine starting a conversation or new relationship with the same Spirit that hovers over *this* Story in Genesis 1? Why is it that when we meet someone new, one of the first questions we often ask them is *what do you do?* What if, instead, we asked *What brings you life? What brings you peace, hope, joy? What is wonderful about you?*

Or, perhaps even more importantly, what if we spent more time asking our children or young adults, *what is awesome about you* rather than jumping straight to *what do you want to do or be when you grow up*? Less focus on *doing*, and instead more on the innate goodness placed there by a God who sees them as so very good.

What if someone did that for you? Sabbath, the wisdom, *mo'adim,* is God doing this for you.

God invites us into a different kind of narrative when we look at Genesis 1 through this lens. Through the chiastic treasure hunt He tells us we are not a problem to be fixed or a tool to be used, but that "we are a part of creation's goodness." Trusting the Story is trusting that God's love and goodness are enough to carry with us along this journey. What peace that should bring to our hearts when we truly accept it. We are made in God's image as "very good." Shouldn't we desire to rest in and celebrate that truth?

"We are a part of creation's goodness."

Of all the things that God could teach us in the very beginning of His Story, he chooses to teach us that we are valued, and he seeks to remind us through seasons and rhythms of rest and celebration. He reminds us that we are loved and valued because of who we are—how we rest and party and how we just be. In the vast array of things He could make, He filled his creation with people like us, He called us very good, and then God chose to rest.

we are loved and valued because of who we are…

So take a moment as you go about your day (after you've begun your day with rest, of course) to paint a picture in your mind—or if you're in a small group, look around the table or room—and ask yourself/each other: *What brings you life and rest? How do you celebrate? What brings you peace, hope, joy?*

What is wonderful about you?

PRAYER

God,
As we begin this new journey through the Text together,
we pray you soften our hearts to create that space,
with celebration and rest, for you to come and fill.
Give us peace when the chaos of our fears or doubts trouble us—
for you are bigger than our questions and greater than our worries.
Give us patience and grace with one another, and ourselves,
as we seek to love you, love others,
and become people of the Text—people of you.

Amen

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THE FOUR PILLARS

EPISODE 1



BEMA Discipleship is built on four pillars; a **Four-Pillared Perspective** to help us remember **to elevate the words of God** (not ours) and help us identify the principles that we see recurring in the Story of God's people.

Here are some applications for this episode echoing the ideas of the four pillars:

I

TEXT

What piece of Genesis 1 could you meditate over and memorize this week? (Also, check out our YouVersion Reading Plans to help guide you.)

II

COMMUNITY

Who do you have intentional relationships with that help you practice unity and authenticity? Who has God put on your heart to remind that their value is not found in what they do?

III

DISCIPLESHIP

Is there anyone you're taking with you into these new places? Who would be impacted by this new perspective? When talking with such people, how might you remind them of the Story of Genesis 1?

IV

WRESTLING

What questions do you have after this lesson? What challenges you about these literary devices? How can you incorporate time of rest and celebration into your weekly, monthly, and yearly rhythms, etc.?

Spotify

Are you a music listener?

Listen along to our BEMA Music Playlists on Spotify.

Song suggestions? Send them to bemabesorah@gmail.com.

BEMA SESSION 1

MEDITATION & PRAYER

REFLECTION, APPLICATION & IMPACT

There are three emphases we are always thinking about in terms of application at BEMA. These may be stated explicitly at times, but often we will want you to do the work of finding ways to connect the dots to the things we are learning. Much of this is what makes the work of BEMA distinct as a ministry of Impact Campus Ministries.

CREATING A SPACE
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*True success is developing intimacy with God, and **if we do our part in creating a space for God to fill, He will!** God has created rhythms of rest, work, and celebration to help us create that space. What might you need to do to create a space where you can rest and hear and be in the presence of God? How could you celebrate more, and well, that God is good and so are you?*

CONSIDERING CAMPUS
YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS

***We believe young adults are shaping the future of this world.** How could you reframe the questions you ask young adults and college students as they begin their "career paths" or journey. How could you remind them they are not what they do or study, the grade they receive, or even the degree they work towards? How could you help them discover or believe in trusting this Story?*

SACRED STATION
THEOLOGY OF WORK

*This may be about what we do at work—yet it also has to do with how we choose to rest. How we take a break and reset from our job. How it may take advantage of or bring life to others is something that God says is central to our presence in the world. Does our physical work require so much of ourselves (our 9–5 job) that it brings more chaos than shalom? Does it exploit creation, or help us marvel in its goodness? The way we manage our employees, interact with customers or coworkers, care for our children, or create products can provide relief and rhythms of rest and celebration. **The work we do every day is sacred and matters—but so does modeling how to take a break and rest from it!***

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