



Bible For Grown Ups, Pt. 2: In The Beginning

“In the beginning...” can be a loaded phrase - one that forces us into debate and doubt. But maybe we’re missing the point of Genesis 1:1 a point Moses made to a world where the violence and injustice of the gods justified and legitimized the violence and injustice of human rulers. Moses introduced a radically different, unparalleled, and untested worldview.

Bottom Line: We miss the point of Genesis 1:1 because it’s an argument we don’t need. It succeeded.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Genesis 1:1.** What do you think about when you read this sentence? Have you or someone you know tried to explore faith by using “In the beginning” as a starting point? What obstacles come with that approach?
2. In Genesis, Moses is not trying to explain how God created the heavens and the earth. Moses is making the case that God (not the gods) created the universe. How does this distinction change the way someone can approach reading Genesis?
3. Do you see anything in nature or life that supports the idea God created the universe with purpose and intent? What would change if you embraced the idea that everyone is here on purpose for a purpose?
4. Many civilizations had creation stories that supported the idea that the human race was an afterthought of the gods. Consequently, individuals had no rights, hope, or intrinsic value. How did those beliefs shape the cultures of that time? Do you see evidence of that kind of view now?
5. In the beginning God decided every man, woman, and child would be born with dignity because they were made in his image. If you took this perspective on the purpose of Genesis, what would change about:
 - How you view the Bible.
 - How you view yourself.
 - How you see and treat others.
6. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
7. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn’t allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.