

# YOBL

## Year of Biblical Literacy

### Week 1: In the Beginning

#### Daily Reading/Resources for Week

- Genesis 1-3, Psalm 1
- Genesis 4-7, Psalm 2
- Genesis 8-11, Psalm 3
- Genesis 12-15, Psalm 4
- Genesis 16-18, Psalm 5
- Video: What is Read Scripture?
- Video: Genesis Part 1, Genesis 1-11

#### Focus of time together

To take a closer look at Genesis 1-11, reflect on our initial experiences with the Year of Biblical Literacy, and prepare for our journey together through the rest of the year.

#### Quick Fire (10mins)

Share in one word how you are feeling about jumping into the Year of Biblical Literacy. (Use an emotional word such as anxious, joyful, exhausted, light, heavy, excited, scared, overwhelmed, encouraged, etc.) We'll elaborate on this in a bit. For now, just share how you're feeling with no further explanation.

#### Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

#### Intro to Discussion

What we read and try to comprehend in Genesis is the beginning...of everything. 'Genesis' simply means 'beginning'. Of the universe, our own earth, time, plants, animals, mountains, oceans, humanity. Yet more specifically, it is the beginning of the story the Bible is telling, a story about God's plan to redeem the world through his people. Genesis is a kind of preface, an ultra-important introduction to the story about to be told. Rather than a scientific account of how God created the world, the function of Genesis 1-11 is to introduce the reader to the foundational themes and ideas that the rest of the Bible is based upon. Everything you will read from here on out builds upon this introduction. The rest of the Old Testament stands upon this Genesis preface and the New Testament stands upon both.

This is a week of beginnings. Beginnings are important. Just as Genesis, the book of beginnings, aims to draw the reader into a long, dramatic, emotional story, the beginning of our Year of Biblical Literacy poses a similar invitation. This will be a long, difficult, confusing journey. It's crucial that we start with a solid foundation. Use this week to consider the journey ahead of you. What will it take? Are you ready and willing to embark? What kinds of questions or struggles are you bringing into this year?

## **Whole Group Discussion**

### **Questions for Examining Ourselves (15 minutes)**

*These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.*

Elaborate on your response in the unity exercise. Why do you think you've been feeling the way you are toward YOBL? What about your experience reading and watching videos so far has affected you either positively or negatively?

### **Questions for Basic Understanding (10 minutes)**

*These questions are to help us interpret and understand the text as it was intended to be interpreted and understood.*

If the opening chapters of Genesis, specifically ch 1-11, serve as a sort of narrative preface introducing key themes and ideas, what themes and ideas did you notice? Can you point out what passages you noticed these in?

### **Questions for Listening to Scripture (10 minutes)**

*These questions are to help us be affected by Scripture in the way it was intended to affect us.*

Throughout the opening chapters in Genesis we see again and again humanity rebel against the God who desires to be in relationship with them and the good created world spirals further and further into evil and brokenness as a result. What do these chapters make you, the reader, long to see happen in the rest of the story? Are there any questions you want to see answered or conflicts you hope will be resolved?

## **Small Group Discussion**

### **Questions for Examining Ourselves (15 minutes)**

*These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.*

1. Based on your initial jump into YOBL and your experience tonight, what do you need to do to make the most of this upcoming year?
2. What specific invitations or challenges will this journey present to you? Do you need to make any changes in your habits, or would you like to make any new commitments? Is there any ways other members of the group could help you throughout this journey?
3. What are practical ways you can begin every day by opening your heart and mind to God?

### **Closing Time of Prayer (10 minutes)**

Finish your time by praying for one another in your small groups.