
EQUIP

**In the beginning - Small Group Session One
Week beginning 11th September**



Beginning Equip

Last Thursday Evening at the Equip Launch, we saw that we only have one life to live and we want to make it count for God. All of us want to stand before our Heavenly Master on the day of judgment and hear him say well done good and faithful servant. None of us wanted to waste our lives, we all wanted to make the most of the years that are left to us.

So we committed to giving the whole of our lives to him and to serve him.

But (and here is our problem) what does that look like in practice? What is he actually asking each of us to do? Maybe most importantly, how can we get the motivation to do it? That is where Equip comes in. This year, we are exploring the foundations of our faith and letting those foundations equip us for a new radical discipleship.

Remember that quote from John Piper at our launch evening - "You just have to know a few basic, simple, glorious, majestic, obvious, unchanging, eternal things and be gripped by them and be willing to lay down your life for them..." So we are praying that we might be gripped deeply by a few basic things.

In this first block that runs till half-term we are asking 'What is the Gospel?' and how should it shape our lives. Of course the gospel starts in the beginning - and that is where we are going now.

If you want a question to start you thinking before opening up the Bible, have a think about what your idea of a perfect world would be?

God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good. And there
was evening, and there was
morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

In the beginning

1 God and His Creation

It is time to build two lists. On the first list write "things we learn about God" and on the second write "things we learn about God's creation".

We are now going to read a number of verses from Genesis 1 and 2 and for each of the verses fill out your lists, what are we learning about God and about his creation?

This exercise should take about 25 minutes or more. Take time to think and reflect on the picture we are being given.

First read Genesis 1:1-5, 1:31-2:3

Secondly read Genesis 2:5-25

2 What about Jesus

Now turn to Colossians 1:15-17 and read.

What do these verses add to the things we have learned about creation so far? How does this change our picture of Jesus?

This should take you 5 minutes or more.

3 Impact on Us

Now we need to spend some time dwelling on the significance of these truths for us as we think about giving the whole of our lives to serve God.

How do these things change the way we view God?
How do they change how we think about our world?
How do they change how we think about our lives?

Take time to let these things sink in, this should take about 15 minutes as you meditate on these things together.

