



Why on Earth Are We Here? | Doug Wekenman | 6.21.20  
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**What is your favorite place you've ever traveled to? What is one place you want to go?**

SHARE

Welcome to Week One of Echoes of Eden. In this series, we are going back to the beginning because the first few chapters of the Bible answer some of life's biggest questions. This week, Doug kicked things off by asking the question "why on Earth are we here?" but before we go any further, take some time to check in with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

**What is one word you would use to describe how you are currently feeling? Why did you pick that word?**

**What is one new thing you are learning this week?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What is the best thing that happened to you this week?**

GROW

**Read Genesis 1:1-28**

**What pattern did you notice in the first chapter of the Bible?**

“In the beginning God created,” we could do an entire series on the first five words of the Bible. They remind us that our entire existence is not an accident. There is a design to all of this. The Creator created creation!

As you probably noticed, there is a distinct pattern to the creation account, until you get to day six. On the sixth day, God does something different; He creates human beings in His image (Gen. 1:27). All of creation is amazing, but there is something special about you and me; we are created in the image of God (imago dei).

What does that mean? Well, as human beings, we have a unique job to do. In the next verse, God tells the humans to “be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28).

**What do you think it means to subdue the earth?**

We call Genesis 1:28 the cultural mandate. As humans, our job is first to fill the earth and then subdue it. There are many implications to this, but here’s one thought for this week: **what you do in your life matters!**

As humans, we have the free will to create the future we want. As Doug reminded us this week, a great question we need to learn to ask is: do you see what could be?

**Do you have a vision for your life, family, marriage, career, mental health, or finances? Or are you just going through the motions, hoping everything works out in the end? The first page of the Bible gives us permission to step up and create the future we want!**

**What is one area in your life that you’ve been thriving recently? What has been so good about it? What has God been teaching you through it?**

**What is one area in your life that you’ve been struggling in recently? What is one step you can take this week to improve it?**

M O V E

**Read Deuteronomy 4:29**

**What do you think it means to seek the Lord?**

**How does this verse relate to your current situation?**

As Doug talked about this week, we are makers of the future! It's so important that we remember that during this crazy season. This pandemic has left a lot of us feeling stuck, worried, and unsure about the future. Many of us have been forced to face the reality that we don't know what our next step is. Although this can be a scary moment, it is also an opportunity to let God work in our lives.

What if the best ideas have not been thought of yet?

What if the best businesses have not been created yet?

What if the best songs have not been written yet?

What if the best way to do church has not been invented yet?

In Genesis 1, we learn that there is something special about us. There is a reason we are here! We are created to be with and pursue God!

**What is one way you can seek God this week?**

**Take-Home Assignment: SEEK GOD**

Identify one area of your life you feel God is calling you to improve. It could be a relationship, your physical health, your mental health, your finances, or any number of things. Share it with the Group and talk about what it would look like to seek God in that area.

This week reflect on that area of your life every morning while you recite Deuteronomy 4:29 out loud three times:

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

**P R A Y**

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

T O G O

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

Ephesians 4:2