

Week One

I BELONG . . . TO GOD



Foundational Truth: *There is a God and He has revealed Himself to the world through history in His CREATION and His WORD.*



CREATION (General Revelation): God has revealed Himself through His CREATION.

Romans 1:19-20—For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has SHOWN it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made.

Group Discussion: What does creation reveal to us about God?

WORD (Special Revelation): God had revealed Himself through His CREATION . . . and His WORD.

Genesis 1:1—In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth.

GOD REVEALED

THERE IS A GOD Genesis doesn't try to convince you there is God. It states it. He is the source and creator of all things.

- **THERE IS ONE GOD** There are 28 passages in the Old and New Testaments referring to ONE GOD.

Deuteronomy 6:4—*Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is ONE.*

- **ONE GOD IN THREE "PERSONS"** We believe in a triune God.

TRINITY: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each distinct from the other--the Father is not the Son or the Spirit. The Son is not the Father or the Spirit—all share co-equally in the ATTRIBUTES AND FULLNESS OF DEITY as one God.

- **JESUS IS GOD**

John 1:1- 4—*In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

This is the pattern we see throughout scripture:

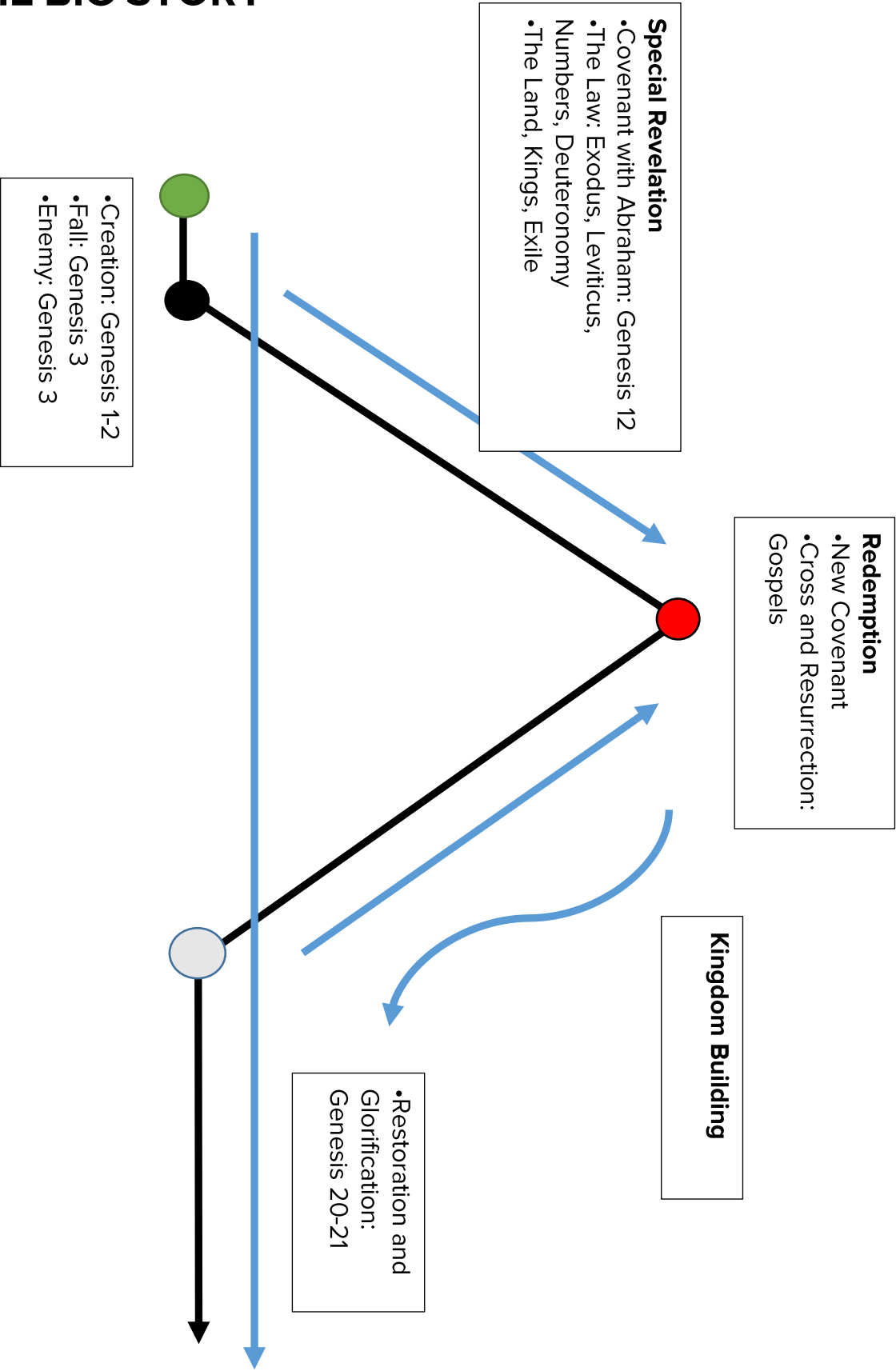
For the GLORY of the Father, THROUGH Jesus, by the POWER of the Holy Spirit

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Foundational Truth: We believe in ONE God, CREATOR of all things—holy, infinitely PERFECT, and eternally existing in a loving unity of THREE equally Divine Persons: THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. This ONE God—all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere present—has, in love and grace, purposed from eternity to REDEEM a people for Himself and to RESTORE His fallen creation for His own GLORY.

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THE BIG STORY





Foundational Truth: We believe that Jesus Christ, Israel’s promised MESSIAH, is God incarnate, one Person in two natures, fully human and fully Divine, having been conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a SINLESS life, was CRUCIFIED under Pontius Pilate, AROSE bodily from the DEAD, and ASCENDED into heaven where, at the right hand of God the Father, He is our High Priest and Advocate. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our REPRESENTATIVE and SUBSTITUTE, died on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins, and that He was raised from the dead for our justification. The gospel of Jesus Christ is our only hope for salvation, and it is THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE that anyone is justified before God.



Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40—LOVE the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20—And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Our role in Kingdom Building is to Love GOD, Love PEOPLE, share JESUS.

Jesus came not to create attenders or observers—but a movement of kingdom builders and world changers—to see people that are LOST and DEAD become SAVED and ALIVE!

And that is just what Jesus did with you...If you have put your faith in Jesus, you belong to God.

Group Discussion:

How does this idea of belonging change our idea of how we respond to God?

What do you believe God wants from those who belong to Him?

Restoration In the fullness of time—God will gather all who are His own to Himself, and we believe that all who did not put their faith in the person and work of Jesus will enter into judgement—and all who are His, by faith, will enter into eternal communion with God for eternity.

Group Discussion:

When did God first become real to you?

Have you responded to God in full surrender and worship? What does that look like? What is your next step of surrender? Worship?

Next Steps:

1. We will be sending out a Meal Train link each week. Please check your email so that you can sign up for different food items.
2. Read the Doctrinal Statement located in your packet on page 56 in the Appendix, and come back next week with any questions.