



Becoming a People Who... Live by The Book

"In the Beginning"

(Genesis 2:5-25)

Message notes: June 2, 2019

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Today we begin our summer series – Becoming a people who **Live By The Book**.

Overt he next 11 weeks, we will survey the entire Bible - key books on Sunday mornings, supplemented by a daily reading plan using our new RightNow Media resource that will overview all 66 books of the Bible: God's Holy revelation to us that we might know Him, ourselves, and how we were created to live.

In his book *Eat this Book*, Eugene Petersen explores the reality that, even though we have ample access to the Holy scriptures, we don't really know how to read the Bible. He explores the spiritual art of reading scripture on its own terms and not on ours.

We need to learn how to read the Bible so it gets into us and comes out of us so that it shapes and guides the way we live our daily lives.

In this summer series, we want to EXPERIENCE the word of God, so we will "live by the book."

GENESIS: (focusing on Genesis 2:5-25: How God created humanity to live)

We were created to:

1. Relate to God. (created for relationship WITH God)

- vs 7 – God molds human beings "by hand" from the dirt; He breathes His own breath into "Adam" to give Him life. So personal, so intimate, so relational.
- This captures the duality of our nature: Humility (from dirt) and Glory (made in God's image)
- The whole passage captures the generous goodness and delight of God in all He made for us to manage and enjoy – beauty, wonder, provision, participation.
- vs 18 – "it is not good for the man to be alone". God graciously designed us not just for relationship with HIM, but also with others (marriage, family, friendships, community).

2. Engage in productive work.

- vs 15 – we were not created to be spectators of the beauty and wonder of creation but rather to be cultivators – "to work it and care for it." To be active participants in stewarding creation.
- This involves both Physical and Mental work (like observing and naming the animals)

3. Be morally responsible to God.

- vs 9 reveals how we were created with choice (to trust and obey God or not). Many trees, one forbidden – the one "of the knowledge of good and evil" (representing the temptation to be our own gods, to discern our own morality and way)
- vs. 16-17 - God makes it clear, "trust in me, leave that one alone, your responsibility and freedom

are truly experienced in trust and obedience; in ME”

- God’s design was always for us to experience truth and morality in relationship to Him.

When we embrace these fundamental revelations of Genesis, we understand who are created to be.
If we cut ourselves off from these truths, we forget/lose sight of who we really are!