

AT THE FOUNDATION OF IT ALL

May 24th, 2026

Foundations // Genesis 1:1-3

Message Context

This week began our new Foundations series in Genesis 1–3. Pastor Jeremy reminded us that when the “first button” is wrong, everything else ends up out of line. Genesis begins by putting that first button in place: “In the beginning, God...” Before marriage, work, identity, family, sin, or salvation, the Bible starts with God as Creator. From Genesis 1:1–3 and John 1:1–5, we saw that God alone is before all things, God gives form to what is empty, and God brings fullness by His Spirit and His Word. Because we were made by God and for God, our lives only line up when we worship Him above all else, trust Him with our purpose, and build our lives on Christ, the eternal Word who was there from the beginning.

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Have you ever buttoned a shirt wrong, assembled something incorrectly, or started a project the wrong way and only realized later that the beginning was the problem? What happened?
2. Pastor Jeremy talked about people trying to “button up” their marriage, identity, priorities, sexuality, rest, family, finances, emotions, and future without first getting the foundation right. Which of those areas do people in our culture most often try to fix without beginning with God?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. Have someone read **Genesis 1:1–3** and **John 1:1–5** out loud. What stood out to you most from these passages or from Sunday’s message?
4. The Bible does not begin with man, marriage, work, government, family, sexuality, sin, or even salvation. It begins with God. Why is that so important for how we understand everything else?
5. Pastor Jeremy said, “God alone is before all things. So worship Him above all things.” What are some created things that people are tempted to treat as ultimate today? Where do you feel that temptation most personally?
6. Genesis 1:1 teaches that God created the heavens and the earth. Pastor Jeremy emphasized that we are not ultimate owners, but stewards of what God has made. How should that reshape the way we think about our money, possessions, time, and generosity?
7. The sermon said, “You didn’t create yourself. You don’t own yourself. You don’t get to define yourself. There is a Creator. And the most liberating thing you’ll ever do is stop pretending otherwise.” Why does that feel restrictive to some people? Why is it actually liberating?
8. Genesis 1:2 describes the earth as formless, empty, and dark, yet the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Pastor Jeremy said this was not chaos to fear, but raw material awaiting the work of a divine artist. Where do people today experience that kind of emptiness or formlessness?

9. The sermon connected creation to new creation: God still gives form to what is empty, brings light into darkness, and restores broken people through Christ. How does Genesis 1 help us better understand the gospel?
10. Pastor Jeremy said, “People are God’s mission, and God’s mission is our mission.” Who in your life may be experiencing spiritual emptiness right now — not as a problem to avoid, but as a mission field to pursue?
11. John 1 shows us that Christ was there in the beginning. Pastor Jeremy said, “Christ isn’t a latecomer to this story.” How does it strengthen your faith to see that Jesus is not Plan B, but the source and culmination of God’s plan from the foundation?

☺ PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

12. Is there an area of your life where you have been trying to fix the “later buttons” without first returning to the foundation of worship, surrender, and trust in God?
13. Where are you most tempted to define yourself apart from your Creator — through success, failure, relationships, desires, politics, family, work, or something else
14. Are you currently sensing any “fuel light” warnings in your spiritual life — emptiness, exhaustion, purposelessness, hidden sin, prayerlessness, or distance from Christ? How can this group pray for you and help you respond honestly?
15. Who is one person in your oikos who may be “running on empty” without Christ? What is one intentional step you can take this week to pray for them, encourage them, invite them, or share gospel hope with them?

Announcements

Church Picnic: Sunday, May 31st After 2nd Service at Farris Memorial Park – Sign-up bring something at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EA8A92AA7F4CF8-63848923-church?useFullSite=true#/>

Has the Lord gifted you musically? Either in singing or with instruments? We are always looking to grow our Worship Team.

Emerald Crossing Summer Bible Camp: July 12th – 16th – For Ages 2 and up! nvf.life/kidscamp

Resources for Going Deeper

- **Read Genesis 1-3** – I encourage you to re-read it as we walk through these opening chapters.
- **Read John 1:1-18**
- **Read Colossians 1:15-20**
- **Read Psalm 8 and listen to** <https://youtu.be/bPSv8vredVs?list=RDbPSv8vredVs>