

The Big Picture – How God Builds Our Home

Week 1: Home Sweet Home (Creation): Genesis 2 + Isaiah 45:18

SERIES RECAP & INTRO

Opening Illustration: Leader, there are multiple options you can choose for illustrations (including your own). Here are some. Option 1: Comparison of a regular bird's nest with a pigeon's nest. Bird's are known for building homes (nests), and they get quite elaborate (show some examples)--and then there are pigeons. Pigeons build nests that don't seem like they're worth living in (lookup and show examples of these nests). Option 2: Home is a fundamental need. All kinds of animals in the world build homes in creative ways: take this time to show some creative examples of homes (birds with elaborate nests, spiders with elaborate webs, beavers with dams, etc.) Option 3: Show different kinds of **human** homes. Explain the fundamental need for a home.

We have a natural desire to have a home. Maybe you feel like your home is chaotic. Maybe when you think of your home you notice how small it is compared to your friend's. Maybe home doesn't feel comfortable and safe for you. Maybe you find yourself *not wanting to go home* because of how you feel. In the midst of all of those feelings, we will learn today that God has a home for you, and he **wants** to be with you.

Today we're beginning a new series where we'll be exploring **The Big Picture** of the Bible. What is God's story, and where do we fit into it? The story of the Bible can be summarized in many ways, but we're going to focus on the beautiful truth that God has created a home for us to live in and to be with him.

Our Big Idea today is that **God wants to be with us, so he builds a home.**

We see this in the opening chapters of the Bible, especially in Genesis chapter two.

- I. **God made a home for us to live with him (Read Genesis 2:4-10)** [Leader, you can read vv. 11-14 as well if you'd like, but if you want to cut it shorter then you can keep it to 4-10. Verses 11-14 go into detail about the rivers and communicate that the land was bountiful and filled with richness.]
 - A. **Discussion Question: Why do you think God decided to create the universe?** A lot of people wonder what the answer to this question is. What do you think? [Give a second for students to answer]
 - B. When we open up the grand story of the Bible, we find that God created for a specific reason
 - It's not because he needed us or got bored. He wasn't lonely.
 - It's because he wanted to. Out of an overflow of love God created the world and created us. He wanted to share his love with his creation—to have a relationship with us. To know us and to love us.

C. So when God created, he didn't just make a world. He made a home. How do we know it's a home?

- God created the world perfectly for life to thrive, where people could live a healthy life. He planted a garden and created Adam to have a home there and to be safe (v. 8). He created plants for Adam to get his food from (v. 9). It had everything Adam needed to thrive.
- We also learn that creation was meant to be a home from Isaiah 45:18.

18 For the LORD is God,
and he created the heavens and earth
and put everything in place.

**He made the world to be lived in,
not to be a place of empty chaos.**

"I am the LORD," he says,
"and there is no other.

D. **Potential Illustration:** [Leader: You can compare God building a special home for his people to those HGTV shows where designers come to people in need and build a home perfectly suited for them.]

E. **Implication/Application:** This was all so God would have a place to be with his people. Remember, he created us out of an overflow of love. And so the home God builds is meant for us, but it's also meant for God himself to be with his people. Because he *wants* to be with us.

- How does it feel to know that God wants to be with you? Have you ever realized that about God? That he doesn't just love you—he likes you and wants to be with you.

<**Transition:** God wants to be with us, so he builds a home. This was the purpose of creation. So God wants to be with us, but maybe we should stop and ask ourselves the question, "Do we want to be with God?" Your answers may vary, but in Genesis here we see that God did not just make a home for us, but he made *us* for a home. How do we know this? This brings us to point 2.>

II. God made us to be at home with him (Read Gen 2:15-25).

A. In v. 18 we see that though God made a perfect home for Adam, it wasn't yet complete. Adam is alone.

- We learn that this is not good. People are not meant to be alone. And a home is not a home until there is a family or friends to live there with.
 - Remember, God created out of an overflow of his love—to have a relationship with his people. He also created people—us—to be in relationship with God and others.
 - That means that the home God created for us is meant to be a place where relationships happen. Relationships with God and with people.
 - So God creates a partner for Adam. The partner is not any of the animals, although they are important, but Eve—another human being that God creates.
- B. God’s plan all along was for **God’s people to be in God’s place enjoying God’s presence.** [Leader, maybe have the students repeat this phrase along with you to help it stick.] That’s the **Big Picture** of the Bible. The story of the Bible can be summed up in these words: “God with us.”
- In Genesis 2, at the beginning of the story, we see it in this way: God’s people (Adam & Eve) are in God’s place (creation and the Garden of Eden) enjoying God’s presence (God meets with them, speaks with them, spends time with them).

D. Implication/Application: What does this mean for us?

- You are not meant to do things on your own. You were made for relationship, you were made for a home.
- God made a home to fill a hole in our hearts. In other words, we are fully fulfilled when we are in this home with God.

Potential Illustration: Leader, this illustration can go here or at another point in the outline. Option 1: Have you ever been on a road trip (maybe when driving home from camp) and you’re tired and longing for your own bed, and then you see that Chicago skyline come into view? That feeling of home is what God gives us, but on a deeper level. Option 2: The feeling we get at camp or during worship nights or with other brothers and sisters in Christ, when we wish we could stay there forever, where it feels like we got a taste of heaven. A moment where we are with God’s people in God’s place (all of creation, church, etc.) enjoying God’s presence. These experiences speak to us of a deeper home that’s calling to us.

- Maybe you don’t have a home now that feels like home to you. But this points us to the true home that God has for us. Don’t you feel that? That ache for this true home? A place where you belong, where you have purpose, where you know who you are, where you

feel no shame? God gives us a taste of this home in this story, but also by being present with us now, when we feel far from this home. God is present with us when we put our faith in Him.

Each week of this series, we're exploring more of the Big Picture of God's story and how he is calling us home. It's almost like we're putting together a big puzzle. The little pieces by themselves might not make much sense, but as you put the pieces together, the big picture starts to become clear. So each week we're going to add some pieces to our puzzle to see what God has in store for us. Here's our puzzle for this week. [\[Show image below\]](#). It might not seem like much yet, but that's only because we have one piece of the puzzle! Let's continue coming to group together in the next few weeks to see how the puzzle develops over time.



Discussion Questions [\[I have purposely included more questions than needed for you to choose which ones are best for your group. Feel free to create your own.\]](#)

1. What does the word "home" mean to you? How does it make you feel? Is it a place, a feeling, or something else?
2. Have you ever felt out of place, like you didn't belong somewhere? How did that experience make you feel, and what did you do about it?
3. What does it mean to you that God not only loves you but also **wants** to be with you? Have you ever thought about God in this way? How does this understanding change the way you view your relationship with God?
4. Why is it significant that God made Eve as a partner for Adam? What does this teach us about the importance of relationships in our lives?
5. How can you create a "home" in your life where you and others can experience God's presence? What steps can you take this week to cultivate a space where you and others can connect with God?