

5. GOD MADE US TO W_____ - Gen 1:26-27, 2:15, 3:8,

- God is mentioned 43 times in Gen 1-2
- We are made in the image of God- to rule, reign and relate
- Comparisons
 - To the tabernacle- Ex 25, Gen 2:12
 - The Holy Spirit in us- Jn 7:37-39, I Cor 6:19, Gal 5:22-23
 - The New Jerusalem - Rev 21, 22
 - The Garden is described like a temple

THE POINT- Keep the BIG PICTURE of the BIBLE. Study the title, blurbs, table of contents and the beginning and end. Let the beautiful beginning soak in. A beautiful God, who makes a beautiful creation, and a beautiful you and me! God made us for a garden, to work, choose, relate and worship- from beginning to end.

4 STEPS TO TAKING IT HOME

1. TRAIN YOUR BRAIN- repeat for a week-
 - GOD CONCEPT- God is good. God is in control. God loves me. God loves everybody.
 - SELF CONCEPT- I'm made in the image of God. God loves me, likes me and wants me. I am beautiful in God's eyes.
2. FLY THE HELICOPTER- become-self-aware- "guard your heart" Prov 4:23
3. LOOK FOR THE GARDEN- what brings you life, love, joy, peace patience? What takes it away?
4. SPREAD THE GARDEN- what would bring others life, love, joy, peace, patience? Bless them.

❖ **WHAT'S GOD SAYING TO YOU?** – write it down, pray it back, DO IT, and share it with others! "Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word! Thank You for how You begin Your great book- with a garden, purposeful work, freedom of choice, caring relationships, and wonderful worship. You love me, like me and want me. Help me enjoy Your garden and be a garden of joy to others. I especially hear you saying..."

THE BIBLE: COME TO THE GARDEN, Gen 2, 8/6/23

GETTING OUR FEET WET: Why do we love...?

SO, HOW DO YOU READ A BOOK BEST? EVEN GOD'S BOOK?

- **GET THE BIG PICTURE - 4 THINGS:**

- I. THE TITLE – Bible = God's Word, written, holy
- II. THE BLURBS – F.L.O.W.S.- faith, love, obey, worship, share
- III. THE TABLE OF CONTENTS
 - A. 2 parts- Old & New Testament
 1. All point to Jesus
 2. Testament = covenant, a legal, loyal partnership
 - B. 66 books- 39 in the OT, 27 in the NT
 1. Seven subsections
 - OT- Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy
 - NT- History, Letters, Prophecy
 2. Four Genres

Story- 43%	Poetry- 33%	Teaching- 24%	Prophecy- 27%
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IV. THE BEGINNING AND END- A beautiful, bountiful, balanced GARDEN! (Gen 1-3, Rev 20-22)

- So, what do the BIG 4 teach us?? - Title, Blurbs and Table of Contents, beginning and end-
 - **Bible-** God speaks to us
 - **Testament-** God wants to partner with us
 - **7 Subsections-** God wants us to know our history, our future and how to live now!
 - **4 Genres-** God speaks to the whole person- emotion, imagination, intellect and will; spirit, soul and body
 - **Beginning and End -** God wants to bless us and partner with us in a Garden!
 - **Big Picture-**
 - ✓ God instructs us personally, relationally, societally; for everyday life and eternal life!
 - ✓ The whole Bible, from the whole God, for the whole person, for the whole world! Pi²!
- THE BEGINNING- Gen 1-3
 - GENESIS 1- God introduces us to Himself, His creation and ourselves
 - GENESIS 2- God introduces us to His garden and ourselves – what life is about

FROM THE BEGINNING - LIFE AND THE BIBLE ARE ABOUT 5 THINGS:

1. GOD MADE US FOR A G_____ - Gen 2:4-14

- The name- garden of Eden – fenced, delight
- Trees- beautiful and delicious
- A river- flowing into 4
- The “precious”- gold, aromatic resin, onyx

2. GOD MADE US TO W_____ & REST - Gen 2:2-3,15

3. GOD MADE US TO C_____ - Gen 2:16-17

4. GOD MADE US FOR R_____ - Gen 2:18-25

TRACE THOSE 5 THEMES THROUGH THE ARC OF THE BIBLE- garden, work/rest, choice, relationships, worship:

ARC OF BIBLE HISTORY

