SMALL GROUP GUIDE
AUGUST 16, 2026

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

SERMON SUMMARY

Watch here: https://youtu.be/Og3D2KwUVpU

INTRO

Tell a time you remember learning about a Bible story as a kid.

READ

Genesis 1:1-3, 26-31

DISCUSSION

1. The sermon names several competing "stories" people live by today (secular/progressive, Marxist/Critical Theory, postmodern, nihilist, Islamic, Buddhist, etc.). Which of these stories do you find yourself unconsciously drawn to or shaped by?

2. Genesis 1:1 opens with "In the beginning, God" rather than "In the beginning, chaos" or "matter." How does starting the story with a personal, relational God change the way you think about meaning, love, and purpose in your own life?

3. Pastor Mike points out that God creates ex nihilo (out of nothing) and suggests that "what looks like nothing to you is raw material to him." Is there an area of your life right now that feels like "nothing" where you need to trust God's creative power in that specific place?

4. Genesis 1 declares creation "good" six times, culminating in "very good." How does this challenge any tendency to view the physical world, the body, work, or beauty as spiritually unimportant or as something to merely escape?

5. The sermon connects being made in God's image to human dignity and worth — "loved before you were useful." How does this truth confront a performance-based sense of self-worth? Who in your life is easy to overlook or devalue, and how might this passage change how you treat them?

NOTES: