

FOUNDATIONS

Part 1 of Foundations 260 - OT. Genesis 1-4.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. January 11, 2026.

Dismiss the Middle School

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Our journey through the Old Testament began this week. We're reading one chapter a day, five days a week, for 52 weeks. We're calling it Foundations 260 - OT.



We won't read every chapter of the Old Testament, but we will visit every major passage and theme.

Our reading journey will expand our faith and fuel our worship.

TODAY

Here's what I'd like us to focus on this morning.

Last week, we read the opening chapters of Genesis. They outline the foundations of the Christian worldview.

So, I want to quickly survey those foundations.

Then, we'll consider practical ways to implement them in 2026.

We'll get to that in a minute, but first ... let's talk about the book of Genesis.

WHY WAS GENESIS WRITTEN?

Jewish and Christian tradition holds that Moses wrote Genesis after Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

God revealed to Moses details about the ancient origins of the world and the nation of Israel. And Moses wrote them down.

God had a definite purpose in mind. He wanted to provide an alternative worldview for a nation that had been immersed in Egyptian religion and culture for 400 years.

That's where Genesis comes in. It answers life's major questions, such as:

- Who are we?
- What is our purpose?
- Who is God?
- How does he relate to us?

Genesis provides God's unique perspective on those questions.

I call them the foundations of life.

Let's read several key passages in Genesis 1-2.

FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE: KEY PASSAGES IN GENESIS 1-4

Genesis 1:1 (CSB) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28 (CSB) Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.

Genesis 2:7 (CSB) Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:8-9 (CSB) The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. 9 The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15 (CSB) 15 The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE

Let's briefly survey Genesis 1-4 to discover the foundations of life. For the sake of time, we'll focus on four of them:

1. WHAT IS GOD?

There is **one God**, not a pantheon of gods, but one supreme, uncreated being. The Bible opens with that clear insight: ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*** (Genesis 1:1, CSB).

That indicates that **God is eternal** (existing prior to the beginning) and separate from his creation, and outside of time and space.

We also learn that God is **supremely powerful**. He created the entire world by speaking it into being. Everything he made was good.

Finally, we discover that **God is good and caring** toward us. He placed Adam and Eve in a bountiful garden and met with them there.

Next, Genesis teaches us about humans ...

2. WHAT IS HUMANITY?

The opening chapters of Genesis indicate that **the most important feature of being human is being created for a relationship with God.**

That relationship with God is the most important thing in life.

We also discovered that we depend on God for our existence. He breathed the breath of life into Adam. We are spiritual beings as well as physical.

God made us in his image and likeness so that we will relate to him, represent him, and rule the world with him.

We are his priests on earth. Genesis 2 states that God placed the man and the woman in the Garden to ***“work it and watch over it” (verse 15)***. Those terms are used later in the Bible to describe priestly service in the tabernacle and temple (Leviticus 8:35; Numbers 3:5-10; 4:46-49).

So, our purpose is to serve God as priests in whatever we do, as his representatives on earth.

But things seem to have gone badly wrong ... What is the problem?

3. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

As good and beautiful as life can be, it's obvious that things are not ideal. Disease, disaster, the devil, and destructive human choices (the Bible calls those sins) have disrupted our priestly purposes.

This is due to Adam and Eve's choice to rebel against God and declare their independence from him.

They were deceived and ate from ***“the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17; 3:1-7 CSB)***. They wanted to decide for themselves what is good and right and true, independent of God.

The result:

- Spiritual and physical death
- Alienation from God and each other
- Expulsion from the Garden.

They gave up their priestly calling. They abandoned their relationship with God, and death began to dominate. And we inherit all this disaster.

Genesis 4 offers vivid examples of death manifesting in conflict, pride, and godless living.

4. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

God stepped into the mess with a solution. Genesis 3-4 reveals three signs of hope:

- God did not abandon Adam and Eve, but sought them, spoke to them, and clothed them.
- He promised someone who would destroy the deceiver.
- He received Abel's worship offering.

All is not lost. God offers a way back. As we read through the rest of Genesis, we'll see how God has been working his plan of salvation through history, eventually culminating in the Savior, Jesus Christ.

He invites everyone to eat from the ***Tree of Life***, Jesus Christ.

There you have it. The briefest survey of the foundations of life: God, creation, humans, sin, and salvation.

What I take away from this survey is one big idea: The most important thing in life is a relationship with God. He created the world and placed humans in it so that we would know, love, and serve him as his priests.

Which brings us to 2026 and the Cornerstone Church. How will we put these foundational concepts into practice?

I propose that we focus on three main activities ...

APPLYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE IN 2026

1. WE WILL FOCUS ON HEARING GOD SPEAK.

God wants a relationship with us, and he wants to speak into our lives.

The primary means of hearing from God is through Bible reading and teaching. God speaks through his Word. He wants to bless, encourage, and grow us.

The main takeaway here is this: We must be a Bible teaching church. Let's be known for that: anyone wanting to learn Scripture will know that the Cornerstone is the place to be.

In 2026, we should all follow a Bible reading plan, whether our Foundations 260 - OT plan or something else. Let's get into the Bible every day to hear from God and respond to him in faith and love.

There have never been so many good options for Bible reading. For example:

- Foundations 260 - copies of the plan are on the Book Table.
- Bible app reading plans
- Study Bibles

Additionally, let's incorporate Bible study into every **small group**.

We are people of the Book. We want to hear God speak.

NEXT ... IN 2026, we will ...

2. WE WILL FOCUS ON SPEAKING TO GOD

Prayer is our part in the relationship with God. He speaks through his Word, and we respond in prayer. Intercession is our priestly calling.

Again, the main takeaway is this: We'll be a praying church. We'll include prayer in every possible way.

Here are three opportunities to pray:

1. **Personal Prayer:** We'll commit to personal prayer times. Prayer guides can help us speak to the Lord. I've placed two types of prayer guides on the book table. Give them a try.
2. **Public Prayer:** Come to the **Prayer Meeting for 2026** on Saturday, January 24. You don't have to pray out loud if that's challenging for you. Just come.
3. **Pastor's Prayer Team:** Kim and I need prayer. Leading a church is different than anything else. It is spiritual warfare. The devil hates the church and its leaders. We need God's constant help and protection. I'm inviting you to join **the Pastor's Prayer Team**. Interested? There are brochures at the Welcome Center with all the information you need. You can sign up there. You can also join online - there's a QR code in the bulletin.

Stay tuned for more discussion and teaching on prayer throughout 2026.

Now, since a relationship with God is the most important thing in life ...

3. WE WILL FOCUS ON SPEAKING FOR GOD

Genesis offers the perspective on life that the world craves. It answers the questions people are asking. We have good news to share.

Consider the church as an embassy, and Christians as ambassadors of God to the world. It's our priestly work.

We will represent God and his message: We will share that there is a way back to God through Jesus Christ.

In 2026, we will work for a spiritual awakening by sharing Jesus and the awesome Good News at every opportunity.

247 Project

Inside your bulletin is a postcard. On the front is a graphic 247. On the back is ***Acts 2:47, "Each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."***

That's the vision. That's success for us as a church; people coming home to God every day through faith in Jesus Christ.

Please place the 247 card in your prayer journal, on your prayer wall, or on your bathroom mirror. and **pray for God to do it again:** *"God, please add people who are being saved to the Cornerstone family - every day, Lord!!!"*

I'm convinced that the best, simplest, and most effective way to get this done is to invite family and friends to the Cornerstone Church. Let them hear from God and experience his presence. **(I've asked Trae to share)**

TRAE MCMAKEN

I've asked Trae, who is one of our elders, to cast a sort of prophetic vision for 2026.

LET'S PRAY

Let's commit our 2026 vision to God in prayer.

We'll humbly ask him to help us:

- Hear God speak
- Speak to God
- Speak for God

Let's ask the Lord to move in power in and around us to get it done.

Without God, we're going nowhere.

With God, what can stop us?

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we worship and adore you. Mighty God, glorious king, we submit our lives to you. We offer up a sacrifice of praise for your glory.

Give us more grace to fulfill our priestly calling, representing you faithfully in the world.

Lord, we commit to your Word, the Bible. We want to hear you speak through its pages. Help us to study it, teach it, preach it, and obey it.

Lord, we commit to prayer. Help us to seek you with all our hearts. Give us the drive and desire to talk to you, to ask for guidance and power to follow Jesus. Help us intercede for a world in need.

Lord, we commit to serving as your ambassadors. Help us speak for you, and to share the Good News about Jesus at every opportunity.

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's January 11th teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

In today's small group meeting, focus on helping each other apply the three takeaways from Peter's teaching.

4. Discuss practical ways **to hear God speak** through Bible reading, study, and teaching. What works for you? How do you overcome the barriers?
5. Discuss practical ways to **speak to God** through prayer. What works for you? How do you overcome barriers to prayer? Why bother?
6. Discuss practical ways to **speak for God** by sharing Jesus and the Good News.

Prayer Focus

- Turn everything you've studied and discussed today into prayers. Pray that the Lord will add to the Cornerstone daily those who are being saved.