Have you ever watched part of a movie, but missed the beginning? Often it can be a confusing experience, as you try to figure out who is who and where the story is going. That’s why beginnings are so important — they help us understand what is happening and what to expect in the future.

In our lives today, many people are deeply confused because, just like someone missing the start of a movie, they don’t know the beginning of the story of the world. That’s one of the reasons God graciously gave us the Bible, which tells us all we need to know about how things began. So when we have questions about skin color, racism, and human relationships, we first look to the Bible, because the Bible shows us the true story of the world. Having a biblical view is key.

The beginning of the Bible tells us how God made the world. God created everything good, and all people were made in his image, which means that all people have equal value and worth. Yet some people believe a lie about race that says that some types of people are better than others. Instead of believing this lie, God wants us to honor every skin color.
THE BEGINNING OF ALL BEGINNINGS

The Bible is made up of different books, and the very first book is called Genesis — which literally means “beginning.” The beginning of Genesis tells us how God created the world out of nothing by speaking light into existence. He made the heavens and the earth. On the earth, he gathered the waters together into the sea and made the dry land appear. God decorated the earth with vegetation that could reproduce all kinds of seeds, fruit, and trees. God made all these things good.

God made the sun and moon, and then he made the land animals and sea creatures — living things which were different but all wonderful. All these creatures were fruitful and multiplied their species on the earth and in the sea. God was pleased with what he had made.

Lastly, God created his crowning jewel — Adam and Eve — in his image, placing them in the Garden of Eden. God made this man and woman so that they would reproduce other stewards over his creation and carry out God’s creation mandate together. No other creature could help them fulfill God’s command. God was so excited about his creation that he rested to enjoy his artistry.

The story of creation presents a beautiful picture of love. God cared for his creation by crafting a world that could sustain the physical and emotional needs of humanity. The man and woman loved and trusted one another without fear. The animals and sea creatures enjoyed their habitats without territorial fighting. It was literally all good!
THE TRUTH ABOUT RACE

The Bible clearly tells us that God created every family from the loving relationship of the first family, Adam and Eve. According to Scripture, every human comes from this same family (Acts 17:26). Every person on earth is made in God’s image, and as such, has a unique worth and identity. And all people are equal because they are all made in the image of God.

Every skin color on the earth points back to the first person created from the earth — Adam. Therefore, God’s vision is for all colors to love one another truly, as equals. The Bible rejects the idea of a special race of people who sit above other skin colors.

THE LIE ABOUT RACE

But over time, some people began believing a lie about people who looked different than they did. They said that there are different types of humans, and that some humans are better than others. This imaginary concept of race was developed to separate humans based on color. Unlike God’s intention to have beautiful variety within his creation, this idea of race lifts up one skin color on the backs of other colors. These racial categories make some people feel better than others, giving them a sense of superiority.

WORD TO KNOW

EQUAL
Having the same worth and value.
As an example, many Europeans in the 18th century believed they were special above all other cultures. False teachers of the time taught others to see people with dark or brown skin color as inferior beings — despite the fact that they all had the same color of blood running through their veins.

Not only is this very sad, it goes against what God intended. The Bible shows us that there is ultimately only one race: the human race. True love for other colors will never label different hues inferior, and relationships suffer when some people think they are better than other people.
NEW EYES

God wants to give us new eyes to see all the colors of humanity without fear or anger. Every color was made to be loved and cherished, because God created all things good.

You are a part of God’s original good creation. He created you the way you are. All human colors are special since they bear God’s image.

So where does the destructive lie of racism actually come from? What is its ultimate root? The beginning of the Bible contains the answer to those questions, as we’ll see in the next chapter!

READ & RESPOND

Read the creation account in Genesis 1-2 and answer the following questions.

1. In Genesis 1:31, what did God say when he surveyed everything that he had made?

2. What does Genesis 1:26-27 tell us about all human beings? In whose image are they made?

3. What does this tell us about the value of people of different skin colors?

4. How do you think God wants you to treat other people made in the image of God through your thoughts, speech, and actions regardless of whether those people share your skin color?