

***Introduction and Background:***

The Scriptures are the authoritative measuring rod of the people of God. In the Scriptures, the people of God can use them to draw out multiple applications for faith and practice. Interpreting and applying the Scriptures as the source of how one is to live in the presence of God is both challenging and rewarding. The primary meaning of the Scriptures, however, appear to be their revealing the nature and character of God. The Scriptures are the particular or special revelation of God that give detailed and purposed understanding to who God is and how He acts. Though written over a thousand years with more than 40 authors, the scriptures of the old and new covenants progressively illuminate God's person and purpose in this world and the world to come.

***Lesson Outline:***

***A God-Centered Interpretation:***

"In the beginning," The Book of Genesis and the course of Scripture:

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***Creation and Covenant:***

The Connection of Heaven and Earth:

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### *Justice and Mercy:*

#### A Continued Revelation

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### *The Progress of Redemption:*

#### Adam, Noah, Abraham, David and the Messiah

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### *Summary:*

The Scriptures show forth the person and work of God as the primary source of its' revelation. With a God-Centered interpretation lens, God's person and character are personified and the reader of the Scriptures can wisely learn to live their lives in light of all that is made known about God. The purposes of God in creation and covenants shed more light of God's power and presence in the world. The righteous will of God is illuminated in His justice and mercy toward His creation. The unfolding of God's redemptive history is seen in His relationship to humankind.

### **Small Group Discussion:**

1. What is God-Centered interpretation?
2. How many ways to the scriptures connect Heaven and Earth in the Genesis narrative?
3. The justice and mercy of God are revealed early in the creation story, give specifics?
4. How are Adam, Noah, Abraham, and David joined together in the redemption story?