



## Progressive Revelation: Forming Theology from Scripture

**Introduction:** Genesis, the first book of the Bible, is absolutely amazing. Over the past year and a half, the Fellowship Groups have spent much time in the first four chapters. Whether you have been involved in the study or if you have just become involved, everyone should be able to move forward together. The goal of this study and the upcoming studies is to take the contents of the first four chapters of Genesis and group them into statements of fact within theological categories, usually referred to as doctrine. If you feel intimidated by the idea of writing out biblical doctrines to form a systematic theology, don't! While the endeavor is one that requires work to be done, the work is something anyone who is a student of Scripture can do. Above all, don't worry; our endeavor to learn theology will be taken in bite-size chunks that everyone can handle.

First, defining terms is necessary so that all can move forward in unity with Scripture. Each term below will be defined followed by a question for thought and discussion.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Group of Terms:

**“Categorize”:** The use of a single word heading to represent a group of items. For example: the categorical term *Bible* represents the whole of 66 books (items) that are grouped together.

**“Theology”:** simply stated, theology is the study of God and His activity (work) in relationship to His creation.

**“Relationship”:** As defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus* “the way in which people or things are connected or related” (p. 777).

**Activity:** Based on the first four chapters of Genesis (and any cross references you may choose to include), list the main categories with which God has relationship. Lines have been provided for your convenience, but more or less items may be found. Share your answers with one another in your group and write down what members of your group provide that you may not have thought about.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

**“Work”:** As defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus* “activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a result.”

**Activity:** Based on the first four chapters of Genesis (and any cross references you may choose to include), what work is God involved doing? Lines have been provided for your convenience, but more or less items may be found. Share your answers with one another in your group and write down what members of your group provide that you may not have thought about.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** From the lists above, is theology practical in making known through categorical words the activity and relationship of God with His creation? How so? If not, why?

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