

Session 1: This is Creation

February 10-16, 2019

THIS IS US
GOD'S WORD • OUR STORY

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers:
 - Share your name and where you grew up.
 - What is one of the most beautiful places you experienced?
2. Go through the Life Group Agreement and plans for your next meetings. See pages 11 & 12 in the Host manual. Make a copy for everyone. Hardcopies are available on the table outside Aaron's office.

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. We encourage groups to at least answer questions 1, 2 and 6.

1. What is one aspect of creation at which you marvel?
2. What do you think causes people to doubt whether God created all that is?
3. As a group help everyone to review how to look up a Bible passage and share any tips you have for looking up Bible passages.

Looking up Bible passages: During this study you will be reading from the Bible each week. Since the goal of this study is better understand the Bible, we encourage you to bring a Bible each week to look up and read the passages from your Bible. Experience has taught us that doing this will help you to become more comfortable with the Bible. Patiently care for one another by taking the time to help everyone find the passages in their Bibles. Passage lookup help will be given for most passages. Except for longer passages, each passage will be listed in the study for anyone who does not have a Bible with them.

4. Look up and read out loud both accounts of God creating the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1 - 2:25. Host: In order to share the reading of this long passage, prepare a head of time small cards with one of the following passages written on a card. All from Genesis: 1:1-5, 1:6-8, 1:10-14, 1:15-20, 1:21-24, 1:25 - 2:3, 2:5-8, 2:9-14, 2:15-18, 2:19-25. Pass the cards around the circle and anyone who is comfortable reading out loud takes one card. Continue passing around the cards until all the cards are distributed. When you read the passage, people read the verses on their card(s).

Passage lookup help: Genesis means "beginning" and is the name of the first book in the Bible.

Please keep this in mind as you read. Biblical scholars have speculated as to why there are two different creation accounts in the Bible. Are there different authors? Do the two accounts serve different purposes? To carefully read and better understand this passage as it is read, take note of the similarities and differences between the first account (Genesis 1:1 - 2:2) and the second account (Genesis 2:4-25).

- What similarities or differences between the two accounts caught your attention?
- Taking into account the similarities and differences, how would you describe the main message of the first account and the main message of second account?

5. Look up and have someone read Psalm 139: 13-16.

Fun fact: Psalm 117 is the middle chapter in the Bible. In most Bibles, however, you will find the book of Psalms just before halfway through your Bible. The book of Job comes before Psalms and the book of Proverbs follows Psalms. The Psalms were the worship songs of the ancient Hebrews.

Psalm 139: 13-16: *For you (O Lord) created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

- This passage teaches us that God personally creates each of us. Share any reactions or questions that you have about this teaching.

6. Look up and have someone read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17.

Passage lookup help. Second Corinthians is one of the 13 books (that are actually letters) attributed to the Apostle Paul that are in the New Testament, which are in order from the longest (Romans) to the shortest (Philemon). Second Corinthians is the third longest. It is helpful to develop memory devices to remember the order the books in the Bible. One kooky device for remembering the first seven of Paul's books uses the first letters in this sentence: **R**ead **C**hristians who are **G**ood **E**at **P**ie **C**onstantly = **R**omans, 1 & 2 **C**orinthians, **G**alatians, **E**phesians, **P**hilippians, **C**olossians. Develop your own memory devices.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17: *So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

- Keeping in mind that creation and recreation is solely the work of God (it is all by grace!), as a group list what you think it means to be a new creation.
- How does this this change your view of your life?

7. How can you make God's Word from this lesson to be more your story?

Summary

God created and recreates us and all that is. The first major theme of the Bible is that God has created and sustains all that is. In the New Testament the theme of creation grows to include that, through Jesus, God is recreating us will create a new heaven and a new earth as our eternal home. It is helpful to understand God's original blessing - God has personally, lovingly, and carefully created each of us to be in an eternal and perfect relationship with God, each other, and all of creation.

Next week we will learn that **This is Rebellion**.

Pray (5 Minutes)

Think of an aspect of God's creation that causes you to marvel and want to praise God. To close in prayer, go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence, "God I praise you for creating _____!"

The life group host(s) begin and end the time of prayer.