



Genesis - Creation

Big Idea:

THE origin story.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a moment to consider, pretty much all people groups through all of history have had stories about where they come from. This is true for individual people as well. We almost instinctually want to know who we are in relation to where we have come from.

Discuss

What insights do you have about the general need of people to know their origin and background?

Genesis 1:1-2 says “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”

When you view a masterpiece painting, one that you really enjoy the style of and the topic the artist brings to life it speaks to you in a way that few other things can. In some of the same ways God is master creator.

Discuss

In your group share things in creation, they find amazing, beautiful or awe inspiring.

Martin Luther in his commentary on Genesis opens with this “This first chapter of our Holy Bible is written in the simplest and plainest language, and yet it contains the greatest and at the same time the most difficult themes.”

Discuss

Why is this plain language which seems so simple, both challenging and deep at the same time?

There is an interesting difference in this creation story and the process of an artist. To create some work an artist will gather their paints, canvas, brushes and equipment and then start the process of creation. After gathering those materials, the artist will change and mold them into something new and beautiful. In the Genesis account we do not see God gathering materials or consulting other artists or even taking existing matter and making new things. Not only does he create the masterpiece of creation he creates everything to make his creation. The church fathers called this idea of creating out of nothing creation *ex nihilo*.

Discuss

What does God creating out of nothing tell us about him? How do you see that being different than an artist creating?

GROUP READING

- Read Genesis 1:3-25. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- After talking through the points above read Genesis 1:26-31

Discuss

What is different about the creation of man?

What does it mean about the value and origin of humans?

In Latin the phrase image of God is *Imago Dei* and was often used by church fathers to explain the uniqueness of the creation of man in the Christian story. There are countless pages that have been written trying to fully and completely explain the different facets of what being made in God's image means.

What stands out in the text about the uniqueness of humans in creation?

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

In verses 26-31 we also see that we have both a cultural mandate to steward the earth and a creation mandate to be creative.

GROUP READING

- Read [Genesis 2:1-4](#) Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What do you see as the significance of God resting?
- How does that impact the need for us to rest as creatures made in his image?

Individual Action

Take a few minutes for everyone to process individually an action step.

Based on what God is teaching in what we read today, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share it with the group.

As a Group

Share your "I Will" statements with each other.

READING

John the man who followed Jesus and later wrote about him opened his telling with this "In the beginning the Word [Jesus] already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone." John 1:1-4

Later the great teacher Paul in explaining Jesus to the followers of Jesus in what is modern day Turkey wrote this about Jesus. "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." Colossians 1:15-17

Pray together as a group