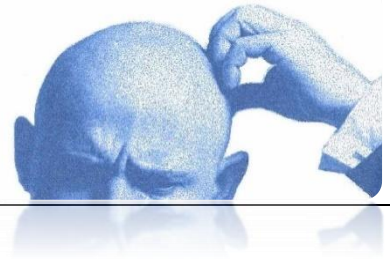


## Creation

# Small Group Questions

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The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series this fall will explore Genesis 1-11 (Origins). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories *BEFORE* you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **Genesis 1:1-2:4** together as a group. What stands out for you? Try not to rush this question—take the time to notice as many things as you can.
- Genesis provides no details on the origin of God; the text assumes that God has always existed. What do you think God was doing before creation?
- What is the genre (type of literature) of the creation story? Why do you think this? Why does this matter?
- What is significant about God's word speaking creation into being? Read **John 1:1-5**. How does John pick up (and develop) this theme?
- What are the connections between Days 1-3 and Days 4-6?
- How many times does God see that creation is good? What is significant about this? Do you think that God still views creation this way?
- Does it make any difference whether we refer to the world as "creation", "nature", or "the environment"? Are there assumptions (or ideologies) embedded in these words?
- What is the first thing in creation that is referred to as holy? What might be going on here?
- Assuming that this text is not a scientific explanation of how the world came into being, what is the purpose of the creation narrative? In other words, what does the author want us to notice and learn?

**In the coming week you are invited to reread Genesis 1:1-2:4.**

- What stood out to you in this story?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you think differently about God?
- How might this change the way we live?