

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Genesis 1 – 2:3

(Sunday, September 13)

1.
 - a. What time of day are you most creative? (Are you an early bird or a night owl?) Do you get more done on your “day off” or on “work time?” Do projects wait for a “rainy day” or vacation?
 - b. If you could create a new animal, what would it be like? What would be its most important feature? Why? What would you call it?

2.
 - a. How aware are you of the created world in your everyday life?
 - b. What aspect of the created world is most inspiring to you? Why?
 - c. How does it affect your understanding of God?

3. The Hebrew name for God in Genesis 1 is Elohim. This is a Hebrew word that emphasizes God’s majesty and power. The English Standard Version and most other versions translate this word simply as “God.”

Why is it particularly significant that God created the universe “out of nothing”? What has humankind created “out of nothing”?

4. Light is a familiar theme throughout Scripture.
 - a. How do the references to light in Genesis 1 set the stage for the way light is used later in God’s Word? What does it mean that God Himself is light?
 - b. Read John 1: 1–5. What does this passage reveal about light?
 - c. How do we become light to an unbelieving world?

5. One refrain throughout this passage is that, “God saw that it was good” (Gen. 1: 10, 12, 18, 21, 25), culminating in God seeing “everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1: 31).
 - a. How does that affect the way we ought to treat God’s creation? How well are Christians caring for God’s creation today? How does our care for God’s creation have an impact on those who don’t believe in Jesus?
 - b. How does this story of creation affect the way you treat the land, water, plants and animals in God’s world? What can you do to help protect the beauty, diversity and fragility of the world God created?

6.
 - a. What does it mean that we are created in God's image? What does this tell us about God? About His intent for humankind?
 - b. How does being created in God's image affect the way you view yourself? How should this affect your relationship with God?
 - c. How should/do you treat other people as bearers of God's image?

7. One repeated phrase is "And God said" (Gen. 1: 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29). This word which God speaks creates. The creative power of God's word is stressed throughout Scripture (e.g., Isa. 55: 10– 11; John 1: 3; Rom 4: 17).

How does the creative power of God's word strengthen our resolve to meditate on the written Word of God as well as the spoken Word of God revealed through his creation in our own lives?

8.
 - a. What is distinctive about the seventh day of the creation week? What message does it give us about God's own character?
 - b. What precedent does it set for His people? What is God's message for us today in His decision to rest on the seventh day of creation?
 - c. Why is it so difficult for people to rest today? Why is it important to be diligent about rest?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

PRAY

Creator God, you built the whole world and everything in it. When you created man and woman, you knew it was very good. When you created me, you made me in your own image. Be with me today so that everyone I come into contact with sees my attitude, actions, and character in such a way that reflects glory on you who created me. Amen.