

Discussion questions

Genesis 1: 1 – 2

'In the beginning...The Creator'

Possible opening: Creation is God-centered rather than man-centered. Give a couple of ways the world is God-centered. What are some ways humanity makes it man-centered?

Read Genesis 1 and notice how God dominates the entire chapter as he speaks the Universe into existence. What struck you about the sermon this week?

1. From a skim read through chapter 1, what do we see about God here? How would you use Genesis 1 to counter the idea that God is an impersonal, unknowable force or simply an idea human's invented?
2. Everything that exists is either the Creator or a Creature. There is nothing in between. What implications does it have that God is profoundly different to us – as a personal being who is self-existent and eternal?
3. How can we avoid domesticating or reducing God? Is that just inevitable? How does God himself communicate on our level, whilst maintaining his unique glory and greatness?
4. God creates with no prior materials and out of nothing, v1. What does that tell us about God's power? About God's wisdom?
5. The Spirit hovering over the waters, v2, shows a God involved, not detached and remote. How do we make sense of a God who made the heavens and the earth – and yet knows the intimate details of our lives?
 - a. Do you find it more difficult to contemplate his vastness or his closeness?
 - b. In which areas of your life, do you need the comfort and consolation of knowing that God is involved, not remote?

Discuss together experiences you've had of God's creation that have stunned you with God's genius or his greatness.

How can we look with fresh eyes at the creation and for that to prompt us to worship God?