

Discussion questions

Genesis 1v 3 – 25

'In the beginning...The Creation'

Possible opening: What do we mean when we see Genesis 1 as a painting rather than a photograph? What unfair expectations do we sometimes bring to this chapter?

Read Genesis 1v1-25 and notice how God creates with pattern and design? How does the world evidence that?

1. Read v3-5. What is the significance of God creating by speaking? What does it demonstrate about God? Or show us about the creation?
 - a. How does God creating through speech demonstrate his control?
 - b. In what ways does God's control disturb us? Confuse us? Comfort us?
2. Read v6-8 Why does naming imply authority? What rights does God have concerning the creation?
 - a. Describe the ways in which different elements of creation fulfil God's purpose for them?
 - b. In what ways is mankind different? What parts of life are we most likely to exclude God from?
3. Read v9-13. Describe the way Genesis 1 shows a world perfectly suited to the needs of mankind.
 - a. When are we most thankful for the gifts of creation? How can we cultivate that thankfulness more?
 - b. Discuss Chesterton's poem about saying grace before a concert or opening a book.
4. Read v14-19 and v20-25 Describe some of the extravagant, unnecessary blessings of this world.
 - a. Why did God make a world like that - more delightful and varied than it needed to be?
 - b. Where do God's good gifts bring you joy? Where are you failing to have joy where you should and what can you do to value your Father's world more?

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?