

# morning coffee



discussion guide  
#1 genesis

# creator

Why is it appealing to believe the pantheistic idea that we are all “part of God” rather than a part of the creation of God? What is troubling about that idea?

What is appealing about the biblical idea that God is Creator and we are part of the creation? What is troubling about that idea?

God speaks and creation bursts onto the scene. Are your words creative in any sense?

Genesis 1:1-25; Psalm 33:1-9

Like Job, we are sometimes overwhelmed by the power and complexity of the creation. Where do you look to see the grandeur and intricacy of the creation? Do you see those qualities in yourself?

Do you believe all people instinctually know (not necessarily respond or believe) there is a God?

Job 38:1-40:5; Romans 1:16-23

If God has total control over creation, why doesn't God act to stop all the bad disasters from happening?

How is fear (in the face of a terrible storm perhaps) related to faith?

Matthew 8:23-27

Are there parts of creation you have trouble receiving with thanksgiving? Why?

Romans talks about all of the creation groaning, longing for God to redeem and make the world right. Do you think of the creation as alive and longing for God?

1 Timothy 4:1-5; Romans 8:18-23

# humanity

The Psalmist indicates that humanity has been given dominion over creation. How do you think we are doing? If we were doing our job perfectly, what would the earth look like?

Psalm 8

If you personally assimilated the idea that you were created in God's image, are there any actions you would no longer do? Any thoughts or beliefs that you would have to set aside?

Genesis 1:26-31

God speaks and creation bursts onto the scene. Are your words "creative" in any sense?

Do you believe that our spoken words 1) reflect our thoughts and beliefs, 2) help mold our thoughts and beliefs, or 3) accomplish both? If you could put a "Jesus filter" over your mouth, what words would be heard?

James 3:1-12

What images come to mind when you read that humanity is created out of dust? Does our human physicality help or hinder your faith?

Genesis 2:4-7

How might our inability to see others as created in God's image limit their ability to know God's love for them?

Ephesians 4:17-24

How would the church change if we believed we were the only image of God some people might see? How would your life change if you chose to view others as God views them? How would our church change if we all did so?

Colossians 3:1-17

# sin

What does it mean that after they sin Adam & Eve see themselves as “naked?”

God had said they would die if they ate the fruit, but they did not immediately die. What kind of death did their actions bring?  
Genesis 3:1-21

Jesus indicates that lusting in your heart is the same as adultery. Do all actions of sin have an “interior” component?

Can an action be sinful if the person’s intent is good?  
Matthew 5:21-30

If we are born into the broken order of creation, does that mean that our tendency to sin is really not our fault?  
Psalm 51

Do you believe that Satan is a spiritual being that lives to tempt humanity or a personification of the temptations that “naturally” occur in the broken cosmic order? Why is it comforting for people to believe one of these ideas over the other? What is the temptation we might face in believing each of these ideas?  
James 1:12-18

Most people don’t believe God holds children accountable for the sins of our parents, but in what ways are children affected by the sins of the parents? How many generations feel the effect of our sin?

John 9:1-5

Can we sin and not know it?

Are all sins the same to God or are there some sins that are worse than others?

1 John 1:5- 2:2