

# Way of Discipleship Small Groups

## Bible Themes 1: Creation



### Touching base (5 minutes)

Open in prayer as is helpful for your group.

If this is your first session take time to introduce yourselves and set any ground rules you want to for your time together.

If you met previously take the opportunity either as a group or in pairs to check in with each other about how your response from last time has gone.



Introduction: This session is the first of several on great themes that run through the Bible. In the book 'The Drama of Scripture' the authors write this: "Imagine that the Bible, with its 66 books, written by dozens of human authors over the course of more than 1000 years, is a grand cathedral with many rooms and levels and a variety of entrances....You can, for example, enter the Bible through one of the gospels....If you want to gather a sense of the cathedral as a whole, you face an important question: where is the main entrance, the place from which you can orient yourself to the whole? The cathedral of the Bible has many themes." By looking at its themes we can begin to get a sense of how to "enter" the Bible.

### Opening question(s) (5 minutes)

What difference does it make that we were created, rather than just "happened"?



### Understanding the information (20 minutes)

Share these thoughts in your own words or read them together:

What is important that we understand about how the story of the Bible describes the world?

The book of Genesis sets up the whole of the Biblical story. It describes why things and people exist, and the kind of place we find ourselves in. There are a number of things about creation which can make all the difference to our everyday lives:

The world is made by and continues to exist because of God. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) The Bible says that the world we live in is a place created by God. "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, who created the heavens and the earth."



In addition, the first verse of the Bible introduces us to the reality of a seen and unseen world, a physical and a spiritual reality – the ‘heavens and the earth’, originally created to be united.

From the beginning of the Bible, creation is not worshipped – but it points to God’s glory (“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” (Psalm 19:1)) and reveals His reality.

The world continues to exist because of God – creation is ongoing. He did not wind it up like a big clock and leave it to run itself but remains faithful to it.

The world is ordered by God. “And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’” (Genesis 2:16-17)

God rules His creation by His law. There are two ways He rules. The first is directly without help from anyone. The second way that God rules His creation is indirectly, through human beings. In our lived experience God has created all of life to flourish in different ways. For example, if I am an artist, I can know that there is good art and bad art. God has designed art to be created in certain ways and not others. I am called to serve God by working out how art should be pursued to reveal God’s creativity. But, as the second chapter of Genesis makes clear, human beings are always given the choice as to whether to apply God’s laws to human situations or not.

A proper understanding of God’s world makes our relationship to it healthy. “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7) “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1: 31)

At the beginning of the story soil and spirit are united. There isn't somewhere else. This is God’s theatre. Human beings are living body-souls. God thoroughly approves of the body. God does not split human beings up. He breathed his spirit into the human being’s body. This understanding should help us to be unafraid to enjoy God’s good gifts. It should help us not to split our lives into sacred and secular compartments.

Discuss: How do these insights into the creation help you to live in the world?

## Reading the Bible (15 minutes)

Read Psalm 104 which celebrates God’s gift of creation.

Discuss the Discovery Bible Study questions:  
What does this passage teach me about God?  
What does this passage teach me about people?  
How does this passage call me to obey God?  
What might I do in response to this this week?



## Seeing how it looks in real lives (10 minutes)

Watch the video at:

<https://youtu.be/Hhzxfu4f3sU>

What struck you as important in the video?



## Responding to God's leading (5 minutes)

Give people an opportunity to think about, "What might God be showing me and how might I respond?" They may like to write this down and/or share it with the group and/or share it with one other person. A friendly question is to ask each other, "Is there anything that would be helpful to ask you next time?"



## Group prayer (5 minutes)

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth  
Sing to the Lord, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.  
For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
For all the gods of the nations are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.  
Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth.  
Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."  
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.  
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.  
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;  
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.  
Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.  
Amen



From Psalm 96



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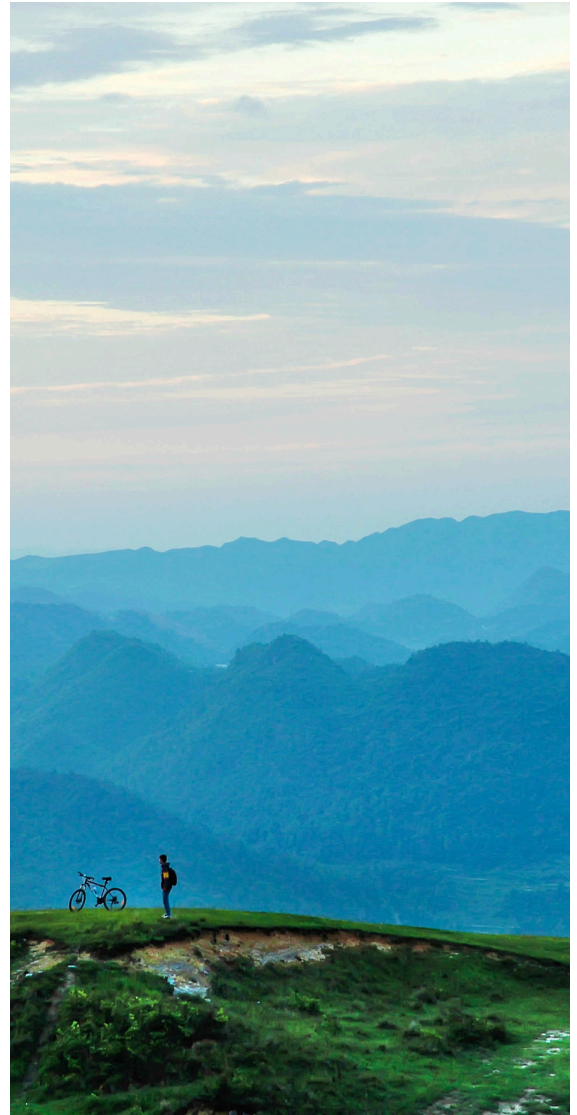
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