

THE **crossing** **small groups**

And God Said | Genesis 1:2-3 Sermon Discussion Leader's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To become aware of the ways we are not trusting God as our king who loves us and to submit those ways to God.

Sermon Refresher: Genesis 1:2-3 tell us that God has brought life and light into a dark, empty, formless world. In the same way, he brings light and life into our own worlds today.

Discussion:

1. What are the kinds of things going on in the world that you could worry about?

Digging Deeper (optional): Why do you think anxiety is such a common struggle for people today?

2. Compare these two images of the town of Saint-Remy. Which is more true?



Transition: We might wish Genesis 1 & 2 were more like a historic photograph with a certain scientific explanation of dinosaurs, the Big Bang, or evolution. Genesis is more like the painting trying to shape how we see God, how we see ourselves, and the world. Allowing Genesis 1 & 2 to change how we see will also change the way we experience our lives.

3. Read the following verses. How do these verses depict God as king of creation?

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Genesis 1:2-3

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4. Dave made the point that the earth being formless, empty, and dark (*"tohu vabohu vehoshek"* in Hebrew) not only describes the pre-life earth but also our lives when we don't acknowledge God as king of our lives. When we function as our own kings, why does that make us anxious?

Transition: We need spiritual life something to fill the spiritual void, but we can't fill it with other spiritually empty and lifeless things.

5. What might we look to in order to try to fill that emptiness in our lives rather than God?
6. Read the following verses. How do these verses tell us that we can be brought out of the dark anxiety of being our own kings? Why does living with God as our king help us to deal with our anxiety?

2 Corinthians 4:6

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

7. Read the following verses and the quote. How does God speaking into our lives and shining light into our hearts through the Bible change the way we feel about it and read it?

John 6:63

⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

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[2 Timothy 3:16](#)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed...

[Jerry Bridges, Trusting God, p.166-167](#)

"God's unfailing love for us is an objective fact affirmed over and over in the Scriptures. It is true whether we believe it or not. Our doubts do not destroy God's love, nor does our faith create it. It originates in the very nature of God, who is love, and it flows to us through our union with his beloved Son. But, the experience of that love and the comfort it is intended to bring is dependent upon our believing the truth about God's love as it is revealed to us in the Scriptures. Doubts about God's love, allowed to harbor in our hearts, will surely deprive us of the comfort of his love."

Sharing and Prayer:

Either in a large group or splitting up into smaller groups have people spend time casting their anxieties upon God, praying for the things we feel anxious about.