

There is a God, and It's Not You | Genesis 1:1 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To identify an area of life which God asks us to bring under his authority.

Sermon Refresher: We all tend to think the world revolves around us. But to believe this is to overlook the fact that Scripture places God at the center of the world. He is the focus and the authority. The opening line of Genesis teaches that He alone is the Creator of heaven and earth. All creation is attributed to God, and therefore, everything that exists must find its origin and meaning and purpose in God.

Icebreaker: Describe a time when you have marvelled at God's creation.

Transition: It's easy to look at aspects of God's creation in our world and marvel at its beauty: the view from the top of a mountain, the birth of a baby, the intricacies of the human body, the enormity of our universe. These things point us to the God who was before everything and who created everything. And as we heard in the sermon this week, God being the Creator has implications for our own lives.

Discussion:

1. Think about what you know of other cultures, religions, history, and the current scientific thought on the universe's origins. How might someone who doesn't have a biblical worldview answer the questions: Who or what created the heavens and the earth? Where does the universe come from? Where do people come from?
2. Think about what you know of other cultures, religions, history, and the current scientific thought on the universe's origins. How might someone who doesn't have a biblical worldview answer the questions: Who or what created the heavens and the earth? Where does the universe come from? Where do people come from?
3. Read Genesis 1:1 and Colossians 1:16.

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

Genesis 1:1

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Colossians 1:16

¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him.

Why do you think it's important for us to know that God created all things? How is God different from the rest of creation? How might that change or inform the way we think about God?

4. Read Romans 1:18-25. How does Paul say humankind sinned against God? (Hint: v. 21) What are some of the results or consequences of this sin?

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

5. **Digging Deeper (optional):** What sinful behaviors could result from failing to acknowledge and worship God as Creator and authority? What godly behaviors could result from rightly acknowledging and worshiping God as Creator and authority?

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

6. Keith said that, "The Bible very intentionally puts us in our place when it starts with 'In the beginning God.' God is. We don't evaluate him. He evaluates us. He's not accountable to us. We are accountable to him." What do you think about this? In what ways do we try to evaluate God?
7. How do you look first to yourself or others for guidance before God and his word?
8. Identify one area you struggle to submit to God and his word. How might our lives look different if we were to bring them under God's authority and his rule?

Sharing and Prayer:

Consider breaking up into groups of 3 or 4 and spend some time confessing ways in which you have failed to acknowledge God's lordship in your life. Ask God for forgiveness and thank him for Jesus, who stands in our place.