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study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

They are more than stories. Something in us rings true when we read the first chapters of Genesis. It may not be in the vernacular or way we would put it but most of us have an inner sense that we came from somewhere – or more precisely someone.

The question is why, or more precisely who? Who is it we are dealing with when it comes to how we got here? Who is it that would create such amazing and unlikely things as earth and human beings?

As much as any other passage in the Bible, Genesis 1 and 2 begs us to ask that question. You could say that's why these stories, which feel so epic and even historic, have been written down and preserved for us.

It's a message down through the ages: "It's true what you see...you really are fearfully and wonderfully made."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Psalm 139:1-14 together.** What amazes you most about your life as a human being? What impresses you most about people you know and love?
2. Read 1:26 – 2:24 together, all at one time.
 - a. What is your understanding of the "image of God" placed in all of us? What is it, what are its implications, and how should that truth about how we are made affect our lives?
 - b. How do you balance the "dominion and rule" (1:28) over the planet, with the caring for the creation we are called to in 2:15?
 - c. Some see another creation story starting at **Genesis 2:4**. Taking it all in context, what do you see?
 - d. What do you make of God's example and command to rest (2:1-2)? How easy or difficult is that for you to do?
 - e. Why do you think God gave Adam and Even the choice with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
 - f. What insights about God's gift of relationship do you see in **Genesis 2:18** and following?
 - g. Is there anything in 2:21-24 that helps you understand what marriage is, and how to live it better?
3. Is there a relationship, or choice, or scheduling (rest or worship) issue in which it would help you to have brothers and sisters praying for? How can your group pray for you this week so that you can find all that your Creator meant for you when he awesomely and miraculously made you?

MOVING FORWARD

God intended the best life, beyond imagination, for you and I. As we will see next week, sin marred that plan but we shouldn't blow by this part of history too quickly. He made us so wonderfully that it causes a reaction which can only be described as "fear" – an involuntary shudder of awe. But he didn't do it just to get such a reaction. He did it because he loved you even before you were born – before he created it all.

So when he had things tuned just right, he put our ancestors in the perfect place so that they and you could eventually thrive. But most of all, he wanted to be your Heavenly Father.

PRAYER

"For you created my inmost being...I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14