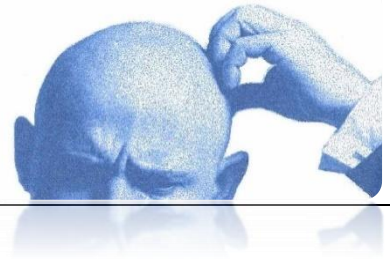


Time

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series this fall will explore Genesis 1-11 (Origins). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories *BEFORE* you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Have you ever felt like you do not have enough time? Why do you feel this?
- Read the creation account in **Genesis 1:1-2:4**. Without getting distracted by whether these are literal days, it is clear God created in time. Why not simply create instantly?
- What phrase is repeated at the end of each day? What do you notice about this phrase? What is the author trying to communicate?
- Westerners (us) tend to think about a day as “morning and evening.” In the Hebrew world, this pattern is reversed— “evening and morning” (vs. 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). Experientially, this means that the day does not begin with us. Every morning, we step into a day in which God has *already* been active. How might that affect how we enter the day?
- Re-read **Genesis 2:2-3**. What is significant about the seventh day? Why did God rest?
- Given that God created the Sabbath (and later commands it, **Exodus 20:8-11**), why do we tend to ignore this practice? Do you think the Sabbath matters?
- Should Christians keep the Sabbath? Why or why not?
- If you were to keep the Sabbath, what might this look like? Be specific.
- From Abraham Heschel, *The Sabbath*: “Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul. The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else... The Sabbath teaches all beings whom to praise.” What do you think?

In the coming week you are invited to read Genesis 11:1-9.

- What stood out to you in this story?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you think differently about God?
- How might this change the way we live?