

Answers in Genesis Selected “creation” passages

Community Reflection is part three of Vineyard Boise’s “Weekly Discipleship Track.” Community Reflection is intended to point you towards the unique interaction that happens in the face to face setting of small group life. You’ve processed the truth on your own in the weekly devotions and have heard the truth presented in Sunday’s teaching. Now you have the opportunity to interact with other believers about the implications and applications of that truth. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another,” says the proverb. That’s exactly what takes place in the small group setting. Perspectives are clarified, truths explored, convictions sharpened (or softened, as the case may be), life is built. There are three segments in each Community Reflection: **Prepare**, **Process**, and **Participate**.



PREPARE

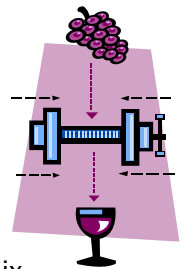
(For leaders/co-leaders prior to group meeting)

1. Work through “This Week’s Walk.” Do the devotions, noting any key insights you want to share with your group or questions you would like to ask.
2. This week’s study revolves around the AIG (Answers In Genesis) seminar coming to Vineyard Boise on October 2-4. The president of AIG, Ken Ham, will be speaking at Vineyard Boise during our Sunday morning services. The best way to prepare for your group meeting is to come and take good notes! You can also check out the AIG website www.answersingenesis.org. I also found that doing a search on “creationism” on the Christianity Today website (www.christianitytoday.org) turned up a lot of relevant, current material. Beyond all this, consider reading Genesis 1-11 to get the full content of these crucial, foundational chapters before you as you go into your group meeting.
3. Pray over your upcoming meeting daily – and for each person in your group.

PROCESS

(For leaders/co-leaders during group meeting)

1. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
2. The debate over creationism and intelligent design, evolution and the big bang, are huge in our culture right now. Battle lines are drawn, and from the viewpoint of many in the creationist camp, where we stand as believers on issues such as six literal days (24 hour periods) of creation, an old or a young earth, etc. are almost matters of heaven and hell. So go into this being sensitive to the nature of the debate and how it might be affecting people in your group – and how all this might be impacting a visitor to your group, particularly a seeker.
3. The readings in the devotional for the week are all focused on creation and our attitude towards the Creator – on the practical side of what it means to us to be the creation as we relate to our Creator. The discussion starter below flows from this thought. But be prepared for potential debate



Weekly Discipleship Track



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

Community Reflection

on some of the key issues in the creation vs. evolution debate. You can either let the group engage in the debate, or refer them to the seminar and related books and materials and encourage them to focus on the bigger picture of what it means to live as a “practical creationist” rather than a “practical atheist.” It all depends on what God is doing in your group!

Track One *God creates...creation sings*

Read **Genesis 1:1-2:4** and **Psalm 104**. This will get the “grand sweep” of creation before the group—the focus on the *who, what and why* rather than the *how...*

Discussion starters:

- What do you think our response should be to the revelation that we are God’s creation, living in a world created by him? Practically speaking, how does your reading of Genesis 1 impact the way you live your life?
- How does Psalm 104 strike you: Primitive and simplistic? Holy and grand? From your perspective, has science added or subtracted from the wonder of creation as reflected in this psalm?
- What is the purpose of creation? What is God’s ongoing role in creation? What is humanity’s role? How does all this apply to you?

Track Two *Good news for a culture gone bad*

Read **Romans 1:16-32**. This is a fairly “in your face” assessment of a society and culture in decay.

Discussion starter:

- What would you identify as the root cause of the decaying society that Paul describes? To what extent do you see our society mirrored in Paul’s description? What can we do in the midst of such a culture? What good news can we both receive and bring?



PARTICIPATE (As a group during or after your meeting)

Challenge everyone in the group to have a “be still and know that I am God” moment sometime this week – or even try one together as a group before everyone heads home. As a group you can put on some nature sounds (if you like) and sit in silence together, just listening for God’s voice and basking in his presence. If the weather’s good and you have a good place outside to do it, go outside and be silent before God there. Just keep it to about five minutes or so, unless you feel led to go longer. Close the time with some prayer and/or worship.