



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 1—Genesis Part 1

Lesson 1: God Desires Offspring—Genesis 1

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 1 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

What does it mean that God brought order to chaos?

- Bringing order to chaos is to organize the cosmos by defining roles and functions.
- When God chose to order the world, God chose to bring form to formlessness, light to darkness and dimension to the deep.

What does it mean that God created the world out of nothing?

- It was truly out of nothing (ex nihilo) that God acted upon God's nature of love, creativity, beauty and trust.

OUR STORY

What's more important, why God created or what God created?

- It is important to note that when humankind looks at the beginning of the first creation narrative in Genesis 1, what God created on the first day is not as important as the fact that God created with purpose.

How do you think the Israelites would have understood the creation story?

- The Israelites would want to know why they were created or for what purpose, rather than worry about what was created and how it was created.
- These were a people hearing the cosmos narratives through the lenses of wandering and restlessness.
- We read and hear the narratives through the lenses of settlement and safety.

In what way are we to understand the creation story today?

- The creation narratives are not meant to be engaged in an evidential way. They are, however, to be engaged in a poetic or romantic way that brings forth a longing for a pure relationship with the supernatural.

What is the difference between approaching the creation story from a faith lens as opposed to a scientific lens?

- When you approach the creation stories with a faith lens as opposed to a scientific lens we interpret the text in its original intended context.

OTHERS' STORY

What was the ultimate purpose of creation?

- God created for the purpose of relationship.

Why do you think God created Eve?

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

- In order for people to live in relationship the way that God intended for people to live in relationship they must 1) see each other in the image of God 2) realize that a mutual relationship is based on love and 3) think about our love and devotion in terms of quality or the highest conceivable love rather than in terms of quantity or the minimum.

THE WORLD'S STORY

How did God intend for the world to be when God created it?

- The world was intended to be a place of wholeness, not of brokenness. In our inability to see the world as good we see what's wrong with the world as opposed to the way God intends the world to be.

What is the difference between living out of despair and living out of hope?

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

*God in heaven
we choose today to meet together
as your people.*

*We declare, God, that we are one people.
We are one family tied together with your love which
Ties all of creation together.*

*Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather.
One family in fellowship with you, its Holy and Heavenly Father.*

*May this coming week be a time of joy,
a time of growing with one another,
a time for strengthening one another,
a time for caring for one another.
May we also choose to find more family time
together as a faith community. Amen.*

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Before we gather again find a few minutes in one of your days this week to make a list of at least 10 small things in your life that remind you of a big God. Go outside and experience creation—walking to school, sitting at a park, sitting on your back deck, working outside, and so on and take note of the many “small” things (flowers, wind, insects, people) that you see. Describe how these small things are a reflection of God’s creativity, power and love.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Psalm 33

Psalm 136

Psalm 148

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 1, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 1?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 1?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 1 and read them this week, journaling as you go.