

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
February 11, 2018

The Story of God – Week 1



BIBLE IN A YEAR READING (SPEND 10-15 MINUTES HERE):

Spend a little time at the beginning of each week to talk through the “Bible in a Year” reading plan. Use this as a time to encourage, discuss, and apply what we’ve read together this week since our group last met. Give people an opportunity to share around these 3 general questions:

1. What passage(s) did God use this week to help you grow?
2. What passage(s) did you have challenges with? Why?
3. What passage(s) did you not understand?

Encourage your group members to dive into study and research when they come across passages that they don’t agree with or don’t understand. There are some great resources online. Here are a few to share:

<http://blueletterbible.org/> - Tons of biblical study resources available

For the Love of God – Vol 1 & 2 – Daily reading commentary

INTRO:

Pastor Paul said about the bible, “This is a different kind of story that is answering a different set of questions and is inviting us into a different way of life.” It’s different... are you trying to understand scripture through your story, questions, and way of life, or are you letting scripture shape how you approach your story, questions and way of life?

DIVE IN:

Read Genesis 1 together as a group and then discuss the following questions:

1. When you read Genesis 1, how do you read it – literally, figuratively, some blending of the two? What’s the goal of the story? How is different than expected?
2. Why do you read it that way (literal vs figurative)? How do you read it answering a “different” set of questions than how most of us typically try to understand it?
3. Are you OK with the idea that Genesis 1 might not be a scientific perspective that answers the “How” questions of creation? Does that strengthen or weaken your faith?
4. What do you learn about God from Genesis 1? What do you learn about yourself?
5. Paul mentioned the need for context as we engage scripture. How does the bigger context of the bible as defined today - “The Bible is a library of writings that are both divine and human that, together, tell a unified story which leads us to Jesus” – help you understand and engage scripture better?

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6. How do you use context to filter your interpretation and understanding of scripture, especially the challenging passages? How does it fit into the BIG story, what do the verses around it say to help understand it – chapter, book, etc..., where does this fit historically?
7. What's the "different way of life" that Genesis 1 calls us to? What was God's plan for humanity vs how we currently live?
8. Multiple times in Genesis 1 God tells humanity they were made to reign over creation (have dominion, rule, reign, etc... depending on the translation). What do you think that meant?
9. The fall happens (spoiler alert to next week!) but the purpose of humanity hasn't changed from creation. What does it look like for you to play a part in the story of God as a partner with Him to reign over creation? How are you living it out now in your life?

NOW WHAT:

10. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
11. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?