

Leaders: Consider prioritizing questions that you believe will produce the best discussion and be ready to leave out a question for the sake of giving sufficient time (30+ min) for accountability.

LEARN

What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

Read Colossians 1:17, Job 12:10, and Hebrews 11:1-3. Why is it important to believe the biblical teaching that the universe is not God or any part of God, but distinct from God?
(Believing creation is divine or part of God will inevitably lead to idolatry – worshiping something else as God. For Christians, creation can and should lead us to worship God as we enjoy and marvel at his creation.)

When does science go beyond the realm of observation into philosophy or religious belief? How can we appreciate scientific understanding while being mindful of what science cannot answer for us?
(Science can describe “what” and to some extent “how”; it should not assert “why” or “who”. When it does, it seeks to replace/deny God. Science used properly will make much of God, not subvert him.)

PRACTICE

As a Christian, what are the most important things you need to assert about creation from the Bible? What kinds of things do you need to hold more loosely and humbly, where the Bible does not give every answer?
(This is sometimes referred to as “closed hand vs open hand” issues. Examples of closed hand: He created everything, he is separate from creation, it was from nothing, it’s for his glory. Examples of open hand: precisely when he did it, precisely how old things are, precisely how long creation took.)

Read Psalm 104:27-35. How can someone develop a more observant, worshipful response to God’s works and glory revealed in creation? Why is it important that we do so?
(Focus on thankfulness, “stewardship” of God’s earth and resources, ask God for his help in recognizing how amazing “normal/routine” things really are all around you. In short, creation should cause ongoing worship!)

In our sin, we shrink God down and make much of ourselves. How can the doctrine of creation help you repent quickly, worship gladly, and live daily for God’s glory?
(Repent quickly because in sin we live against the Creator’s will; worship gladly because he alone is worthy and we were made for worship; live for his glory because everything is from him and through him and ultimately for him and not you)

(Leaders: Prayer suggestion to end group discussion – Reflect on God’s beauty, his genius displayed in creation, and pray with thanksgiving about “ordinary” things we take for granted. Idea is to spur one another on to not only understand the doctrine of creation but worship God because of it.)

CHANGE

What is a specific way you have shrunk God in your own life? Where do you need to repent and seek God’s power to change you so that you view him, and therefore yourself, rightly?
(Examples: Disregard for his will as revealed in the Bible, low view of Scripture, not taking sin seriously or repenting quickly, justifying sin, consistent disinterest in knowing the Word, prayerlessness)