



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: Does It Matter?
January 7, 2018

Opening Questions:

- As we begin this new series called *The Straight Dope*, can you think of a time when you knew someone was trying to deliver news to you, but just couldn't come right out and say it? Maybe it was with your doctor, your boss, or your mechanic. Take time to share stories from around the group.
- Have you ever felt like the major parts of Christianity can sometimes get lost in the religious "mumbo-jumbo?" Has there ever been a time in your life when you were turned off by the Christian faith because of the confusion and the complications?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Colossians 1:15-20...** What do you think it means when the Scriptures say that all things were made *in* Christ? What about *through* him? *For* him? Having thought through those ideas, does it change your perspective on what all of creation is about?
- When we say Jesus is supreme over all things, what do we mean? What does that position tell us about everything underneath him?
- Why are so many Christians tempted to pit the physical world against the spiritual world, if the above is true? Why are we so often interested in escaping Earth to get to Heaven? Should we be? Why or why not?
- Why would Jesus reconcile *all* things? Why not just humans? In your mind, what is the proper view of—or relationship between—the physical world and the spiritual life? How should Christians think about and interact with God's creation given its importance to the Creator?

Application Questions:

- This week's bottom line was **ALL THIS IS ALL HIS**. Sometimes people think they need to see God in everything, but Josh encouraged us to see everything in God. What does that mean? What should creation do for us as we observe it, engage with it, and learn more about it?
- After hearing Dan's story, how do you feel about the idea of seeing nature and creation as a sanctuary? Is there a part of you that struggles with thinking about religion outside the walls of a church?
- What about matter mattering excites you? What about God creating, loving and saving all of creation mean to you? How might you walk through tomorrow a little differently than you walked through yesterday?

End your time together, asking God to open your eyes more and more to His creation. Ask Him to help you see His image in others and appreciate His handiwork in all of the physical world. Pray that He enlivens and enriches your spiritual life through all He's made.