

the magnificently mundane.

PART 4: Matter Perception

INTRODUCTION

Not everyone is “outdoorsy.” And yet, we all recognize the majesty of a sunrise, the wonder of a bird’s flight and the power of a rushing wind. Why? What about those things makes us linger? Causes us to stare in amazement? Perhaps it’s because there’s something—or someone—we recognize just beyond it all. Maybe every tree and rock says something more than we consciously listen for. Could it be there’s something to all the ordinary scenery and all the mundane systems that we should notice? That’s a question of perception.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. It sounds really nice to find meaning in the mundane moments, but what about when moment after moment is hard or overwhelming? Where do you look when you’re just not seeing it?
2. When was the last time you took the time to appreciate nature? Are the outdoors a place you connect with God? Are you able to marvel at all its complexities?
3. Read **Psalm 19:1-6**. How do Jesus-followers see creation differently from other worldviews and religions? Why is it important to understand this distinction?
4. What 2-3 things does nature and creation say to you about God? What do those things mean to you and your relationship with God?
5. Read **Romans 1:20**. When you read that we really have no excuse for not knowing God given what we see in creation, what goes through your head first? Is that troubling? Comforting?
6. Why do so many think that seeing the magnificent in the mundane is something that just happens to us? Why do we seem to abdicate responsibility so quickly?

MOVING FORWARD

Perception makes the matter more. This week, refuse to allow the nature we take for granted stay that way. Decide to appreciate the wonder all around you. Spend time telling God just how amazing his work is and thank him that you get to know him more deeply from it. Remember that everything is a God thing, there’s no such thing as a higher calling, and you are a living parable. Just make sure you notice it!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. —Psalm 19:1

