

REDISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY



ACT 1 BIBLE STUDY

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Creativity is often found naturally in children. What's something you enjoyed creating or making when you were a kid? What does that say about you or kids in general?
2. In what ways has the college environment encouraged or dissuaded your creativity?
3. In what ways has your faith experience encouraged or dissuaded creativity?

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

Psalms 95:1-7

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

1. Reading these two Psalms, what catches your attention?
2. According to Psalms 19, God speaks to us through creation without words. What does this mean? What does creation communicate to us about God? How can we be more attentive to discover God in the natural, created world around us?
3. What does it say about God that He chose to reveal His glory through the natural world? What does this tell us about his character? Can you think of analogous human activities where people communicate through non-verbal means? What does this teach us about what it means to be made in the image of God?
4. Is “singing for joy”, “shouting aloud”, and “extolling him with music and song” a proportional and appropriate response to God’s creation? What are other appropriate human responses to the goodness of God’s creation?
5. How does gaining a better understanding of God’s created world around us help us understand what it means to be “people of his pasture, the flock under his care”? What can we learn about God’s care for us through the created world?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. In the midst of the secular university environment, how can we find opportunities to see God in the natural world around us?
2. Beyond song, what are other ways we can “sing for joy” and “extol God” for what we see and encounter in nature around campus?
3. How can our standing as “people of his pasture” impact our motivation for environmental justice?
4. How can our finding God’s creative hand in the natural world impact our commitment to scripture and prayer?
5. The intricacies of nature created by a loving God and meant to be discovered by His people can certainly impact the ongoing story of our personal faith. How can we encourage each other not to take that impact for granted?

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

Go on a walk with a friend and let yourself be more aware of God’s created world. Point out to your friend what catches your attention during your walk. And let yourself ruminate about what that tells you about God’s character.