

THE STORY OF GOD



Act I: Creation - The Kingdom of God Begins

April 3, 2022

CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)
Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Recap the Sermon.

1. What stood out to you from the Scriptures or the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?
2. *Optional question* - What has been your experience with Genesis 1 or the creation narrative in the past?

Read Genesis 1:1

3. How is it convicting to you that the story of the world is first and foremost about God, that He is the main character, hero, and author? How should that reality affect how you live everyday?

Read Genesis 1:27-28.

We are here from God and for God - to join Him in His mission in the world. But this is easier said than lived. In the sermon, we said that we all live out of the story we believe. One of the biggest stories in our culture today is that of "western secular liberalism". In summary - the goal of life is to live your authentic truth and seek your own happiness. Sometimes this gets Christianized, where God becomes a tool to use to seek that authentic happiness.

4. How do you see yourself drawn to want to live out of the story of this cultural narrative rather than the story of God? How does this (or can this) affect your day to day life? How would your life change if you learned to live like you are here from God and for God?

Time of Prayer.

Pastor Greg Gilbert, in his book 'The Gospel' says, "The fundamental truth of human existence, the well from which all else flows, is that God created us, and therefore God owns us."

5. Pray for yourself, your CG, and our church - that we would learn to live out of the reality that God created us, and therefore God owns us. That this is a beautiful and true reality that, when lived, leads to flourishing with God.

ENGAGE THE HEART

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)
Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes

