



The Story We Live In: *Who is God?*

The EN/CORE Journey starts with Scripture. Our story is not about man's search for meaning, nor learning a list of rules to live by, but rather to know and love the God who created us uniquely and desires to reveal Himself to us and live in relationship with us.

The Beginning of The Story - Genesis 1

The first chapter of the Bible is not a scientific description of the process of Creation but an introduction to the unique Creator God. As you watch the video with Pastor Scott, note the way God is revealed...

- **1 - A God who reveals Himself in _____.**
 - In your group, read Paul's prayer for believers in Ephesians 3:14-21:
 - *In v.16. where does our power come from?*
 - *In vs.16-17, what roots and grounds us in an unpredictable world?*
 - *In vs. 18-19, Paul prays for us to know something "that surpasses knowledge"! What does he want us to know? How is this possible and what is the result?*
 - *In vs.20-21, Paul reveals the source of where all this comes from - where is this power working? How does knowing this God change everything for us?*
- **2 - A uniquely powerful and purposeful God.**
 - Although Genesis 1 indicates other spiritual powers are in play, God is unique in His creative powers. Other forces bring about chaos, disorder, and dysfunction.
- **3 - A God of Purpose and _____.**
 - Unlike spiritual powers of chaos and disorder, God creates with order and purpose.
 - Read Genesis ch 1 about a God who creates space, then fills it with order and purpose:
 - Gen. 1:1-5 - God makes separation in the heavens on Day 1
 - Gen. 1:14-19 - God fills that space on Day 4
 - Gen. 1:6-8 - God makes separation in the waters and sky on Day 2
 - Gen. 1:20-23 - God fills those spaces on Day 5
 - Gen. 1:9-13 - God makes separation on the land on Day 3
 - Gen. 1:24-25 - God fills that space on Day 6
 - *At the end of Day 6 (Gen. 1:26-31), **God's ultimate act of Creation** is to make beings in His image as caretakers of all that He had made, and commands them also to fill the space that He had made and to represent His character and presence!*
 - **Consider this** - God's presence brings order and purpose, but other spiritual forces bring chaos, disorder, and dysfunction. How does this apply in our lives?
- **4 - Made in God's _____ (*Tselem*)**
 - Read Genesis 2:7 - note the pattern again of God making space and then filling it with purpose and order! Where does God "make space", and how does He fill it?
 - How does it impact you to know that you are the unique *tselem* of God?
- **5 - Made for _____!**
 - Read Genesis 2:18 - God says we are not designed to live in isolation, but that we are made for relationship. This means He also desires relationships - *we were made to love God and to love others!*

Discuss how these passages relate to the 3 aspects of being healthy:

1. **A deep sense of your own value and significance**
2. **To authentically live your unique identity**
3. **To be able to give and receive love**

How does it make a difference to think about God and yourself in this way?

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Spiritual Health Inventory

Last week our groups all took a Spiritual Health Inventory as a way to set intentions for the Journey from the beginning. We take time for health checkups, so it's important we do the same for our soul, spirit, and relationships. Make sure everyone in your group has had the chance to complete their inventory and share any revelations it brought them with the group.

Close with Prayer for One Another...

Thinking about our identity, significance, value, and purpose speaks to the very core of our being. As you close in prayer, how can your group pray for you in light of ways God may be speaking to your heart through this lesson?