



Dgroup Discussion Guide for June 14, 2015
Honor God, Our Creator

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1.1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Honor God!

Genesis 1:1 declares God to be the Creator of all things. The biggest problem of mankind today is dishonoring God. Even though they knew God through His creation, they did not honor God as God, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened, professing to be wise, they became fools (Romans 1:21-22).

God is our Creator and we are to honor Him. The word honor means heavy or weighty in the Old Testament and also respect and reverence in the New Testament. We honor God when we believe His word and live a life pleasing to Him. We dishonor Him when we don't believe His word or we treat Him lightly.

Why Do You Need to Honor God?

There are three important phrases in Genesis 1:

1. "God said..." repeated 7 times.
2. "According to its kind..." repeated 10 times.
3. "It is good..." repeated 7 times.

The appearance and repetition of these phrases in Genesis 1 show us why we should honor God.

"God said..." (Genesis 1:3-24)

We honor Him because of His infinite power and wisdom, as manifested through the power of His spoken word. ***By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth, all their host. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalm 33:6-9)***

Everything will pass away but not His word. (Matt. 24:35) So, when God says it, you can trust Him. God is faithful. He always keeps His word.

"According to its kind..." (Genesis 1:11-25)

God created every living thing according to its kind, each with a unique design. In schools our children are taught the theory of evolution, which requires billions of year for a single species to evolve into complex species, then to apes and ultimately man. But there is no scientifically validated evidence to support this theory.

Supposed evidence, such as the "Lucy", imagined from bone fragments discovered in 1974 in Ethiopia, was later discredited when the bones were discovered to be from a chimpanzee. But this is not reflected in school text books.

"It was good..." (Genesis 1:4-31)

After each day of creation, God declared, "It is good." But after He created man and woman, He said, "It is very good." The goodness of God can be seen in His works. God is infinitely good! We can trust Him and we are to honor Him!

A non-Christian scientist has observed that there must be a supreme being so powerful to have made the earth so precisely hospitable for living things, because if there were even a minimum change in its orbit around the sun, temperature, distance, etc. life on earth would cease to exist [Read Isaiah 45:18].

We are His Twice

Man is very precious to God. He created us in His very own image to reflect Him, have an intimate relationship with Him and to rule over His creations (Genesis 1:26). To be created in His image means that we, like God, have an intellect – we can think and create, and emotions, and a will to make moral choices. Humans did not evolve from apes. We are different from animals. But sin distorted the image of God in us. As a result man became a fallen image bearer of God who dishonored God and did not fulfill God's purpose. We were separated from God because of our sin and we dishonored Him by our attitudes and actions.

But Jesus came to not only save us but to also restore us to God's original design for us, which is to reflect His image and to enjoy an intimate relationship with Him forever. So, we are His twice. First, He created us. Second, He bought us back at a costly price, Jesus' blood. 1 Corinthians reminds us, "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation..." God is at work to cause all that happens in our life to work for good, which is to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. So let us cooperate with Him (Romans 8:28-29).

As those being conformed to the image of Christ, let us live like Jesus. Let us love and treat others the way He would, especially your family members. The greatest compliment that we can ever receive is that that we are like Jesus. When we are like Jesus, we honor God our Creator!

OBSERVATION:

What is Man.

1. What value does God place on man? Why did He create you in His image?
2. When God Said It. Why should you trust in God's word? What specific promise of God do you desire to believe and experience today? Why does believing in this promise of God give you peace?
3. Image Bearer. Does your life reflect Christ-likeness? In what ways does it? In what ways doesn't it?

APPLICATION:

Are You Like Jesus?

You were created in the likeness of God to honor Him. Although sin has distorted your original design, God restored it when you surrendered your life to Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. You are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Do people see Jesus in your life at home, in your community, at the workplace, in your circle of friends, in school, in public places? What do you need to stop doing to reflect Jesus? What do you need to start doing to be a good representative of Jesus?

Honor God this week by intentionally living like Jesus in all you do. Pray for God's generous grace to empower you to do it. Others might even ask if you are a follower of Jesus and this will open opportunities for you to share with them how to know Jesus

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.