



Dgroup Discussion Guide for June 14, 2015
God, Stand in Awe of Him

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

FOCUS	FOUR GREAT EVENTS ¹					FOUR GREAT PEOPLE ^{11 12}				⁵⁰
TOPICS DIVISIONS	Creation 1-2	Fall 3-5	Flood 6-9	Nations (Babel) 10-11		Abraham 12-24	Isaac 25-26	Jacob 27-36	Joseph 37-50	
TOPICS	Primeval History					Patriarchal History				
	Beginning of the Human Race					Beginning of the Hebrew Race				
LOCATION	East (Eden to Ur)					West (Canaan to Egypt)				
TIME	2,000+ years (20% of Genesis)					About 286 years (80% of Genesis)				

Genesis - The Book of Beginnings and it begins with God as the Creator of heaven and earth. Genesis 1:1 is foundational to our faith in the truth of the Bible. If you believe this verse then you will not have a problem believing the rest of the Scriptures. But if you do not believe this verse then you will be more prone to believe in the Theory of Evolution and doubt the infallibility of the Scriptures.

God is Elohim

The name used for God in Genesis 1:1 is Elohim. *El* means almighty. This is in a plural form which reveals the Trinity of God. In Genesis 1:26 we see God saying *Let Us . . . one God in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.* In Genesis 1:2, we are told that the Spirit was also present moving over the surface of the waters. Jesus’ presence during creation was also testified in John 1:1. Colossians 1:16 says ***For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.***

Elohim means that God is eternal. He is sufficient. God is wise. He is all-powerful. He is sovereign and He is good. God created the heavens and earth out of nothing. This is mind-blowing but this is a testament of God’s sovereignty. Nothing we can do or nothing we don’t do can take away anything from God. We do not contribute to who He is – He is all sufficient. Psalm 90:2 says ***Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*** There is no concept of time when it comes to God, He is eternal. There is no past, present or future when it comes to God. He remains the same, constant – we are the only ones who are affected by time.

Genesis 1:1 reminds us that we were created *ex nihilo*. We were created out of nothing. We were created in His image and likeness. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. We were made out of love. And not because He needs us but rather because He decided to create us because He wants to share His life with us (Colossians 1:16). It is possible that these things are difficult for us to understand but do not despair if you cannot comprehend God. It will take us eternity to know God. Our greatest joy should be to discover who God is day after day.

It is the book of Genesis that refutes:

- *Atheism*, for creation is the work of God’s hand.
- *Evolution*, for the universe was created and did not evolve.
- *Materialism*, for the universe did not always exist.
- *Polytheism*, for there is only one God.
- *Pantheism*, for God is apart from and independent of His creation.

Evolution is not Science

What do you believe about the beginning of things? Creation or Evolution? Most of us were taught in school that Evolution is scientific but in fact it is just a theory. True science is observable, demonstrable and repeatable but evolution is not.

Here are some fallacies of the theory of Evolution:

1. The universe began with a big bang.
2. Non-living matter produced life
3. Random chance resulted in life
4. Simple cell developed to complex cell in time
5. Time – the earth is billions of years old

But true science tells us this:

1. Evolution cannot explain what caused the Big Bang. Kalam Cosmological Argument states, “Whatever has a beginning must have a cause.” The universe had a beginning therefore, it must have a cause.
2. Violation of the Law of Biogenesis that states life comes from life.
3. A human cell’s anatomy is so complex including the person’s DNA, which is like computer software. It cannot just appear at random, somebody must have designed it.
4. Violation of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics: Law of Entropy –when matter transforms, it loses energy to other usable form; things in time do not get better but worse, e.g. human body as it ages
5. Geologic clock contradicts the theory of billions of years. Measuring cosmic dust for instance demonstrates that the earth is young and not billions of years old.

These are the Bible Truths we must keep in mind:

- The book of Genesis tells us that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it for a purpose (Psalm 90). Scientific laws do not contradict the Bible but in fact confirms it.
- We are not here by chance. God mindfully created each one of us (Psalm 139, Revelations 4:11).

Faith in God is a Choice – a choice we have to make. Hebrews 11:3 says **By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.** A Nobel Prize Biochemical scientist George Wald said that he would rather believe in that which he knew to be scientifically impossible than accept Creation because he did not want to believe in God. That which is known about God is evident within us so that we are without excuse. But even though people knew God, they did not honor Him as God, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools (Romans 1:20-25).

What about you? What will you believe in? Theory or truth? By faith choose God, who made the heavens and the earth, nothing is too difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:17). You are not an accident but intricately created for a purpose by our indescribable God! So, stand in awe of Him!





OBSERVATION:

Study the passage. What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Reflect on: Genesis 1:1. How does this verse speak to you?
2. Reflect on the characteristics of God. What does this say to you?

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Personal: Do I believe in <i>Elohim</i> ? Do I live my life reflecting my faith in God’s sovereign power, reflecting God’s sufficiency? Does my life reflect my faith in God’s loving plans for me?
	Family: How can we as a family apply Genesis 1:1 in our life? What are the things we can teach our children about God based on Genesis 1:1? How will we as a family reflect our gratitude for God’s love and power?
	Discipleship: Am I ready to use my life as a testimony of God’s favor and grace to other? Am I willing to be discipled and to disciple others?
	Church/ Ministry: Our first ministry is discipleship, how committed are we in discipling others? How can you best be a witness of God’s grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)

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.