



SERIES TITLE
DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK 1



MAIN SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 1:1-27
Psalm 139:1-6

MAIN POINT:

The Creator of the Universe knows your name.

JESUS CONNECTION:

Jesus loves you and wants to be in a personal relationship with you.

LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize God knows “the real them” and wants a personal relationship.

THINK ABOUT THIS

High school students think like a philosopher: they want to discover meaning and process best by processing out loud. The best small group discussions are ones where leaders talk 20% and students talk 80%, so lean into your students and encourage real talk with statements like: “No pressure to give the answer you think I want to hear, I want to know what you think for real...” Encourage your students to have open and real conversations and that small groups is a place where they can process out loud; this is a HUGE step in helping students OWN THEIR FAITH – which is a major goal of discipleship.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

How does it feel when someone forgets your name? Why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways our desire to be known is normal?
2. What are some ways our desire to be known can be dangerous?
3. Why do you think people sometimes compromise who they are to get attention or popularity?

READ GENESIS 1:1-27 and answer the following questions:

4. In your own words, summarize the beginning of creation.
5. What stands out to you about the beginning of creation? How is this different from other things you have heard? How do you know which to believe?
6. What is different about how God created mankind? (*Hint: Look back at verse 27*)

READ PSALM 139:1-6 and answer the following questions:

7. In your own words, how well does God know you?
8. Do you ever feel like you have to “put on a mask or front” with God? Why do you think that is?
9. How can we share our real thoughts, emotions, self, etc with God? As a group, create a list of at least 5 different ways you get real with God.
10. How does it make you feel that God knows you so well?
11. What does it mean to you that God wants a personal relationship with you?
12. How can really knowing and remembering the Creator of the Universe knows your name change the way you live?

NEXT STEP

Encourage everyone to look back over your list of how to get real with God and pick one, tangible next step they can take on their own this week to live out. Have your students share their goal with the group, or if you have a larger group maybe pair up students in groups of 2 to 3 to share with each other.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer. Consider doing this as a whole group or keeping students in their smaller groups and having them pray for each other.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-27 NIV

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. ⁶ And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. ⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. ²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. ²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

Psalms 139:1-6 NIV

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

Genesis Dad Joke #1:

Q: At what time of day did God create Adam?

A: Just a little before Eve.

Genesis Dad Joke #2:

Q: What type of phone did Eve have?

A: An apple.

Genesis Dad Joke #3:

Q: Need someone to watch your pets?

A: I NOAH guy.

Genesis Dad Joke #4:

Sarah read the book of Genesis yesterday.

Q: Yeah, what did she think about it?

A: It was good.

Genesis Dad Joke #5:

Q: Where does baseball appear in the Bible?

A: Genesis, In the Big Inning...

YOU.

ARE.

WELCOME.

