



WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Week 1 - ELOHIM God the Creator

Welcome to our Discussion Guide - designed to help you think more deeply about the sermon topic as you engage with others through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and real-life application.

➤ KEY PASSAGES

Genesis 1-2:3, Exodus 3:1-15, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Hebrews 11:3, John 1:1-14, Ecclesiastes 12:1, Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 139:13-18

➤ QUICK REVIEW

The Old and New Testaments give a variety of names for God, and the truth is we know Him by his name, in these revelations. Each gives a unique aspect and understanding that helps us appreciate, love, worship and trust God more fully. In the ancient world, a name revealed personal characteristics, value, and identity of the one named.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTERS

When you were growing up, what was your nickname?

How did it make you feel? Who is still allowed to call you by that name?

➤ EXPLORATION

Today we explore the name Elohim which means God the Creator. The question about creation is not, "what does this mean", but "how can I get in on it?" What is God continuing to create in my life right now? We see this clearly in the encounter that Moses has with God in Exodus 3. As you read the following scriptures, keep in mind that the word translated "God" is Elohim in the original language. Watch for ways that Elohim was at work creating.

Exodus 3:4-6

God is speaking here to Moses, letting him know this is a holy encounter. He is also helping Moses see that He is the same God who created Abraham, Issac and Jacob and he reveals that he is still at work. He is inviting Moses to be part of what he is doing in the world.

Exodus 3:13-14 Moses said to God (Elohim), "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God (Elohim) of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"¹⁴ God (Elohim) said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

Think about a difficult situation you are facing, what difference would it make to know that God (Elohim) is facing it with you?

What does “Elohim” teach us about the God of the Bible and why does it matter?

1) God is Powerful and Personal

These two things don't necessarily seem to go together. God is powerful, strong, and mighty, **AND** He is also personal, connected and good to His people.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

God is creating for Himself, people in His name and in His image; inviting them into relationship with Him.

How does knowing that God is both powerful and personal help you pray?

2) God is Proclaiming and Inviting

- Elohim speaks creation into existence
- Elohim calls out to Abraham and Moses
- Elohim proclaims the truth to us through scripture every day
- Elohim has conversation with many we see in scripture, and he is still speaking today

In the New Testament we also see an account of creation that reminds us of Genesis 1

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

In their book, Faith For Exiles, Aly Hawkins, David Kinnaman, and Mark Matlock help the readers ask big questions:

Questions of Identity: Who am I, really?

Questions about how to live: Do my choices matter?

Questions about intimacy and relationships: Am I loved?

Questions of meaning and purpose: Does my life matter?

Questions about legacy and significance: What really matters?

Which of these questions are most relevant to your life right now? Share about why.

A majority of Christians have succumbed to wrong-headed ideas such as:

- You discover the truth about yourself by looking inside yourself
- You can believe whatever you want as long as those beliefs don't affect society
- You should pursue the things you desire most

Ecclesiastes 12:1

“We must persuade young exiles that *the truest thing about humans is what our Creator says about us*: that we are created with essential worth and dignity as children crafted in his image and that following his Son, Jesus, restores his image in us, which was broken as a result of human rebellion.”

Faith for Exiles

Respond to the previous quote, What captures your attention?

“If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God, you'll be at rest.”

Corrie ten Boom

Where do you put your focus when you are facing a difficult situation?

3) God is Sovereign and Purposeful

Do you sometimes wonder why you are facing the difficult things in your life? Why is this

happening? Why this diagnosis? Why this level of depression? Why this issue? In John 9, Jesus' disciples come across a man who was born blind, and they ask who sinned, this man or his parents that caused him to be born blind.

John 9:3

Remember, just because we can't understand God's purposes in a moment or season of life, doesn't mean he doesn't have one. We can still trust that God is Sovereign and Personal. He is at work in you.

Ephesians 2:10

How does knowing that God is still at work in your life make a difference in your current perspective?

Psalm 139:14-17

14 I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in the secret place, When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; All the days ordained for me were written in your book

Before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God (Elohim)!

How vast is the sum of them!

➤ TAKE AWAY

In the week ahead be sure to set aside time to read the following scriptures, asking God to expand your understanding of Him as Elohim.

Genesis 1-2:3, Exodus 3:1-15,
Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Hebrews 11:3,
John 1:1-14, Ecclesiastes 12:1, Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 139:13-18

As you finish, take some time to pray together, asking God to help you see where He is at work in your life and in the world. Ask Him how you can join what He is doing.