



## **Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: THE BIBLE 10.21.2018**

### Recap:

- Oftentimes, people who approach the creation story in Genesis fall into two camps: in the first, people ignore the Bible and embrace science, and in the second, people embrace the Bible and ignore science. We should not neglect either of these. We should accept that in the ancient world, people held certain views about the world that would contrast to some of our views. Instead of debating the science of Genesis, we can read the creation story as a piece of literature.
- Reading the Bible as literature takes the Bible seriously because it forces us to ask questions about the context, the people, and the situations they were facing. It also forces us to ask the question: what are they trying to teach us about themselves and their understanding of God?
- In Genesis 1, the writer tells us about God's protection, in particular, the firmament that the writer says protected them by holding back the waters.
- Our God is one that is bigger than the problems that we're facing. We can turn and run to him and find shelter in him.

### Discuss:

- Before this series, how did you interpret the Biblical creation story? Did you read it literally? Metaphorically? As literature? As poetry? What truths did you take away from it?
- READ Genesis 1:1-9
- God creates light before he creates the sun (which we normally think is where light emanates from). Some scholars suggest that when God creates light, he is creating order (as opposed to chaos). How do you think God provides order to our lives?
- The writer describes God as providing protection by separating the waters -- that he holds them back to keep us safe. How do you think this image contains truth?
- READ Psalm 91:1-4
- In these verses, the writer describes God like a bird sheltering his young. What are some other images that come to your mind as you think of God protecting us?
- READ Matthew 6:25-34
- As Christians, we should be imitators of Jesus. What are some ways that Jesus trusted in God's protection?
- If you feel comfortable sharing, what are some ways that you need to trust in God's protection?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

### Read at Home: Additional Readings about God's Shelter

- Deuteronomy 31:1-8
- Psalm 121
- Matthew 8:23-27