



Small Group Questions

Part 2: Is God Really Good?

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Read

Genesis 1:1; Job 40:15–19; Psalm 136:1 and 145:17; and Romans 8:28

Reflect

There are many theories about how the world came into being, and whether God exists. Pastor Greg discusses creation theories, where the dinosaurs fit in, and how we know that God really is good.

1. Creation Theories

- **Atheistic Evolution:** belief that there is no God behind the emergence of life.
- **Theistic Evolution:**
 - God started the process of life, but then stepped back and let things happen.
 - God started it, but only became involved again for miraculous, major leaps in evolution. (from simple to complex creatures).
- **Gap Theory:** Gap between Genesis 1 & 2.
- **Day-age Theory:** Hebrew word for “day” can mean an era or an age.
- **Apparent-age Theory:** God made the earth to look older than it is (e.g., God created Adam as an adult).
- **Punctuated 24-hour Theory:** God created on the first day, and then let things simmer for a while between each day of creation.
- **Scientific Creationism:** Young Earth model. Unique characteristics of the flood impacted geology, making the Earth seem older than it is.
- **24-hour Interpretation:** traditional interpretation that God created the universe in literally six solar days of 24-hour periods.

- a. What theory do you believe or lean toward? Why?
- b. Which theory do you think requires the most faith? Explain.

2. What about the dinosaurs in the Bible?

- a. The word “dinosaur” wasn’t coined until the 1800s, and therefore wouldn’t be in the Bible. Read Job 40:15–19. What do you think of the reference to the Behemoth?

3. The most important thing you can believe.

- Decide what you believe about creation.
- Determine not to judge others for their belief.
- a. In conversations with others, how have you handled differences in beliefs? How could you do better?
- Dedicate yourself to essentials. (Whichever theory you believe doesn’t change your salvation.)
 - In essentials we have unity. What would you list as the “essentials”?
 - In non-essentials we have liberty. What non-essentials have you seen cause strife?
 - In everything we have charity. Do you feel you are showing God’s love to others?

4. Is God really good?

- a. Do you believe God works things together for our good, even when we can’t understand/see it?
- b. Would you say you have lingering doubts or trust issues because of heartbreak you’ve experienced? What is an example of something bad that happened that God used for good?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?