



# CREATION

**KNOWING GOD** | Connection Group Discussion Guide | Week 4

## Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

***Come together to build relationships through fellowship and sharing about this week's worship.***

- Take a few minutes to share your thoughts about worship this week.
  - What aspects of worship did or did not connect with you?
  - What story or illustration made an impact on you?
- What is your favorite piece of art (movie, painting, music, etc.) OR what is the most incredible scientific discovery in history in your opinion?

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## Context (30 to 40 minutes)

***Dig deeper into the videos and scripture for this week through questions and discussion.***

- Before diving into the scriptures of the videos, how would you define creativity in your spiritual life? What about your personal life?

***Read Exodus 19:1-9. Pay attention to how God says he will appear. Also pay attention to what God plans to create with the Israelite people. Think of the language God uses in this passage, and how it might have been interpreted at the time. God's creation of a people and a kingdom like this was an essential part of the identity of the Israelites. While other gods at the time were worshipped by cultures and communities, the true God created a community and vowed to protect that creation.***

- What do you typically think of if someone were to ask you about the powers that God has? Do you give thought to exactly what it means that God created everything in existence, and what creating everything around you might have entailed?

***Watch Part 1 of the Connection Group video.***

- Do you ever refer to God as the creator? When you say this, what creation are you referring to?
  - What is the most impressive thing to you that God created in this world or in this universe?
  - How often do you reflect on the creation of God around you?
- When you think about the fact that you too are created by God, what do you think that means for you and the way in which you should live your life?
  - God created the church as well. As you think about church life and worship, what are the most impactful moments for you in the church?
  - With the Israelites, we saw that God would create a kingdom, but that God would serve as the ultimate king of that kingdom for it to thrive and prosper. When you think about the structure of the church and the kingdom of God that God created, why is the hierarchy of God at the head of that kingdom so critical?

- Jesus once used five loaves and two fish to feed the masses around him. He created solutions out of seemingly impossible situations. Are there other stories where you can think of God coming up with creative ways of doing things?
  - What does this say about the lengths that God will go to in order to serve creation?

**Watch Part 2 of the Connection Group video for this session.**

Galileo Galilei was not the first person to pitch the idea of the sun being the center of the solar system. Copernicus is widely known to be the first major scholar to present this idea. However, Galileo's role in this work is particularly interesting given his relationship to the church. Check out the Galileo Affair on Wikipedia or Google for more information. His innovative mind put Galileo at odds with the church that he faithfully served, despite the fact that in pursuing his creative talents, he was actually coming to greater understand the majesty of God. He ended up being imprisoned until his death as a result of his work and propositions.

- Who is the most creative person you've ever interacted with? What made them so creative?
  - Do you think they were innately gifted to be this way? Or do you think it came as the result of hard work on their part?
  - How would you actually define creativity?
- What is your favorite thing you remember imagining or creating when you were a child? Was there an art project or a writing assignment or a game that you have fond/proud memories of?
  - Do you feel like you still embody that creativity today? Why or why not?
  - What does creativity look like in your particular line of work?
- What does creativity in the world offer to those around us?
  - How can we use our creativity to benefit our neighbors and community?
- After you have created something, be it big or small, what do you want to do immediately after you've finished?
  - How does it feel to create something new? Emotionally? Mentally? Spiritually?
  - How do you recuperate? Think about the connection that exists between rest/sabbath and the act of being creative.

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## Call (10 minutes)

***We believe that God not only shows us who God is but invites us to participate in God's ministry by answering unique calls in our own lives. Join together in discovering how we can actively respond to scripture and God's presence.***

- Give yourself time to be creative this week. Write something, play make believe with your kids, or dream up a solution to something in your life that you've always wanted to solve. Think about what you feel afterwards.
- Take time to rest afterwards and see how the rest makes you feel. And reflect on the relationship between creativity and sabbath in preparation for next week's topic.

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## Closing (5 minutes)

***God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.***

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

### Closing Prayer

Creative God, you made everything in this world and in our lives. We see you in nature, in the artistic expressions of art and music, and in the faces and actions of those around us. Let us therefore embody your creativity ourselves. Let us become vessels of creative influence that inspire others to pursue the unique gift that you have given us to create for the wellbeing of creation around us. Let us embrace this as a core characteristic of who we are and strive to embody this as a way of growing in relationship with you.  
Amen.