

**Notes:**

**1. Read Genesis 1:1.**

What do you think about when you read this verse? Have you or someone you know tried to explore faith by using “In the beginning...” as a starting point? What obstacles come with that approach?

In Genesis, Moses isn’t trying to explain how God created the heavens and the earth. Moses is making the case that God (not the gods) created the universe. How does this distinction change the way someone might understand the creation story?

Do you see anything in nature or life that supports the idea that God created the universe with purpose and intent?

What would change if you really embraced the idea that everyone is here on purpose for a purpose? How might you live out your faith differently in light of that truth?

Many ancient civilizations had creation stories that reinforced the idea that the human race was an afterthought of the gods and that individuals were created to serve them and, consequently, had no rights, hope, or intrinsic value. Do you see evidence of those same kind of beliefs in our culture today? In what ways does this disregard for human life impact our world?

**2. Read Genesis 1:27.**

Using a dictionary, look up the definition of the word dignity. Considering this verse, along with the dictionary, write a definition of dignity using your own words.

*In the beginning*, God decided that every man, woman, and child would be born with dignity because they were made in His image. How does understanding this truth impact:

How you view the Bible?

Your faith or your willingness to explore faith?

How you view yourself?

How you see and treat others?

How will you live out your understanding of this truth this week?