

STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: Week 2

6.1.14

Note: To prepare for this lesson, please refer to Pastor Chad's blog post at <http://cvcblog.org/>. On the blog, Chad summarizes the 6 main creation theories, shares which view he personally holds, provides a helpful perspective on how to hold your particular view in a context of unity and grace, and supplies links to some helpful online resources.

[set up]

(If the weather permits, you might want to conduct this LifeGroup meeting in a beautiful setting outdoors to enjoy God's creation.)

Take some time to share a few LifeHouses stories that members of your LifeGroup experienced.

Have you ever been displaced from your home? Or have you ever been away from your home for an extended time? How did you feel being away from home? Why is having a place to call home important for us?

Describe a few of your favorite sights, sounds, or smells you've experienced in creation, i.e., a vista of a valley, a view from a mountain top, a sunrise or sunset, a beach scene, or a garden. What sight, sounds, or smells give you a sense of awe?

How aware are you of the created world in everyday life? How would you benefit if you were more aware? How might you increase your awareness?

[digging deeper]

Read Genesis 1:1-25. Note the words and phrases that are repeated. What does this tell us about the God who created? About the order of creation? About the purpose of the creation?

What are some questions that are raised in your mind as a result of reading the Genesis 1 account of creation?

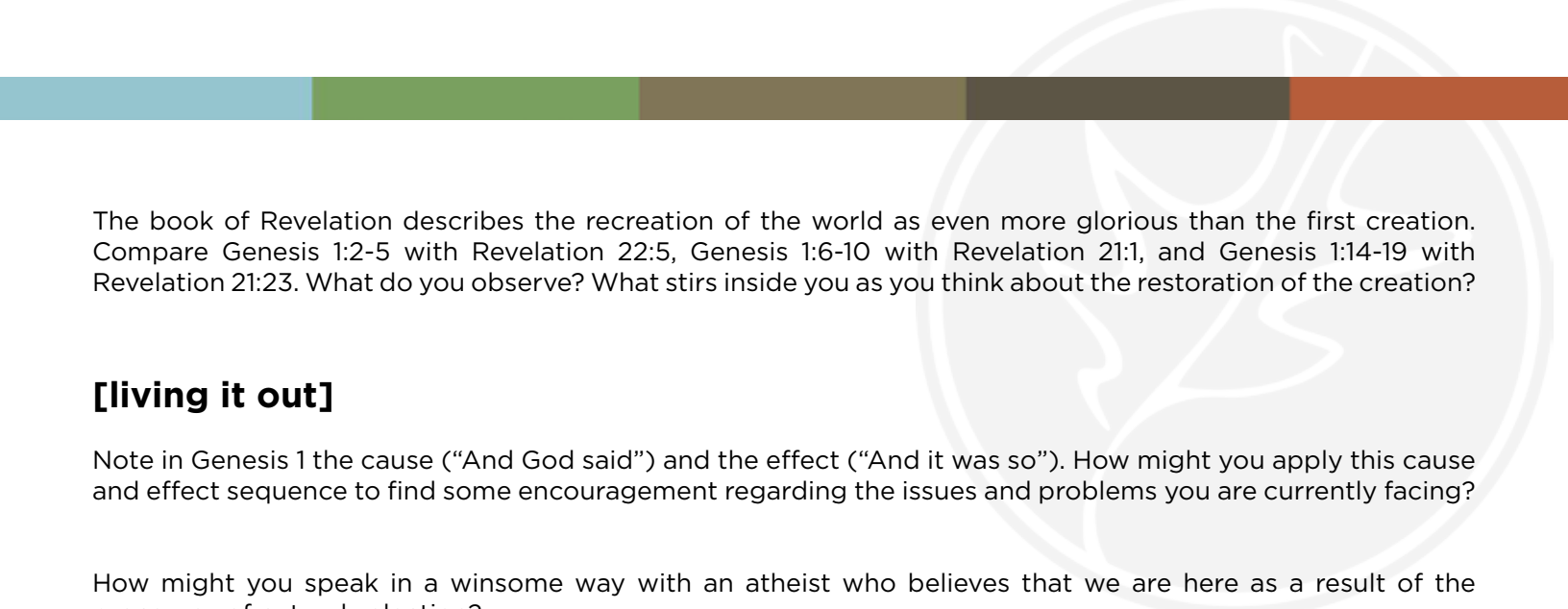
Which of these reasons to believe in God is most compelling to you and why? A) The design demands a Designer. B) The order demands an Organizer. C) The effects demand a Cause - an uncaused Cause. D) Something could not have come from nothing.

Read Genesis 1:2. Note that "the earth was without form and void." On Days 1-3 God formed what was "without form." On days 4-6 God filled what was "void." What does this pattern tell you about God?

Why do you think the Bible tells us that God created but does not tell us how He created? What does this tell us about the relative importance of the who and the how of creation?

Read John 1:1-3. How does this enrich your understanding of Genesis 1:2-25? How does the Genesis account help you appreciate the nature and work of Christ?

Since we are given a reason for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15), how might you handle difficult questions like, "Are the 6 days of creation literal 24 hour days?" "What happened to the dinosaurs?" "Did animals die before the fall?" "How old is the earth?" "Why does the earth appear old?" (For help in framing your answers, consider the source at The Resurgence: <http://theresurgence.com/2006/07/03/answers-to-common-questions-about-creation>)



The book of Revelation describes the recreation of the world as even more glorious than the first creation. Compare Genesis 1:2-5 with Revelation 22:5, Genesis 1:6-10 with Revelation 21:1, and Genesis 1:14-19 with Revelation 21:23. What do you observe? What stirs inside you as you think about the restoration of the creation?

[living it out]

Note in Genesis 1 the cause (“And God said”) and the effect (“And it was so”). How might you apply this cause and effect sequence to find some encouragement regarding the issues and problems you are currently facing?

How might you speak in a winsome way with an atheist who believes that we are here as a result of the processes of natural selection?

According to Romans 1:20-25 and Hebrews 11:1-3, what should be our response to God’s self-revelation through creation? What are the consequences for refusing to praise the Creator (Romans 1:21-32)? What do these observations imply for your life?

As you close your time together in prayer, envision yourself and those you love in the re-creation – the place God is now preparing for His people. What if someone you love is NOT there? Spend some time thanking God for His creation and for the re-creation that is coming. Ask Him to help you and your neighbors to be prepared for that place. Ask Him to help you share Jesus with people who need Christ so that they can be prepared to live in the place where His presence will be enjoyed for all eternity.