

Week 3: Creational Intent and Pattern

Fellowship

- **Eat:** Prepare some snacks and drinks to provide hospitality.
- **Check-Ins:** In a large group or small groups of 2-3 do an emotional check-in—How are you doing? How is your family doing in this season?

Adoration

- **Prayer:** You could read one of the “evening prayers” from the **Common Prayer** book or App.
- **Worship:** Ask someone to lead worship or use a speaker with your favorite music App. You could try the *TRIBL Playlist* on Spotify!

Learning

- **Scripture:**
 - Give some context of the reading. We are jumping into the world of Ancient Near Eastern literature and poetry, thousands of years apart from the world we know. Give the caveat that our aim is not to debate cosmology or the age of the earth. We want to pull out the values and themes of this ancient Jewish Scripture. Here is a short passage from **God's Big Picture** by Vaughan Roberts (PDF linked on facilitator page) to help you prepare.
 - Read **Genesis 1-2** (*If you think that is too much text consider breaking into two groups and have each group summarize, then answer the questions from their version of the creation narrative).
- **Resources:**
 - None
- **Dialogue Questions:**
 - What are repeated words and phrases? What do these themes tell us about God and His world?
 - Christians talk a lot about the “*image of God*,” what does the text suggest this phrase means? What have you heard before? Without this scripture would you say those are “obvious” conclusions about humanity?
 - Are you familiar with the concept of *The Kingdom of God*? How do you define this? Does the creation text in Gen. 1-2 help define this concept further?
 - You could end by reading Revelation 22:1-5 and pull out similarities you see to the Garden of Eden? This further shows how the authors saw the unfolding narrative of Scripture as one big story.
- **Implications:**
 - Does the language, *The Kingdom of God*, have any relevance for our contemporary lives (c'mon we don't live in Kingdoms anymore)? How do you think the *Kingdom of God* is realized through your life? Is it?
 - Creation culminates in *rest* on the seventh day. What significance should this have for our understanding of what it means to be human?