



## **OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, we recognize you as our Creator and that we are your creatures. We will never know all that you did to create our universe, but we can see your love, caring and majesty. We accept each day of our lives as a gift you have given. Open our hearts as we seek to understand your scriptures, know you better, and love you even more. We especially give you thanks for the light brought into the world by your son, Jesus. For it is in his name we pray. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

### **Genesis 1:1-13 (NIV)**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.*

*<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” <sup>7</sup>So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.*

*<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.*

*<sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.*

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 *January 23, 2022*  
“Science and the Bible”

## INTRODUCTION

Many people perceive a tension between science and faith, particularly as we consider the origins of the cosmos, the earth, and humans. Some insist science must conform to the Bible, or insist the Bible must fit with their scientific understanding. Others believe science and faith cannot be reconciled and this leads some to believe they must walk away from science, and some decide they must walk away from faith. To understand science and faith are not enemies, we need to explore our core assumptions about the Bible, what it is, what it is for, and how it communicates, which can deepen our appreciation of both approaches to our understanding of the world.

## QUESTIONS

1. Do you know someone for whom science and Christian faith could not be reconciled, who then walked away from faith? Has the tension between science and faith been a challenge in your own life?
2. Read through Genesis 1 & 2, and compare the two different accounts of human origins (Gen. 1:1-2:3 and Gen. 2:4-25). Do the differences surprise you?
3. What does it mean to you to know that life originated with God?
4. In Genesis 2, humans are presented with a warning to avoid the tree of “the knowledge of good and evil.” How do you respond to these images? When have you see humankind decide what is “good” without God’s perspective?
5. Read John 1:1-18. In what ways does John’s revelation about Jesus echo the accounts in Genesis? What does it mean to you, that Jesus came to suffer the pains and sorrows of this life? What did Jesus come to bring to the universe? To you?

## FINAL APPLICATION

Take a hike or walk, or explore photos of a beautiful place in nature. When have you been moved by an experience of nature that gave you a new perspective of the world? A new perspective of yourself? Consider the ways knowing technical scientific data about the physical world as well as experiencing the physical world, could grow, rather than hinder your faith.