



Small Group Discussion Guide

March 26, 2017

Sermon Title:

"Managing Life: Creation"

Sermon Text: *Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-9, 15-17*

Scripture Reading: *Psalms 19:1-6*

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: Do you remember the Crying Indian commercial from the 1970s? (The younger members of the group may need to look it up on the internet.) What are the messages the commercial is trying to convey? Have we gotten better or worse since the commercial first ran?

Discussion:

1. Managing our lives in relation to our world is the oldest charge given to mankind and comes right for the story of creation itself. How has mankind succeeded? How have we failed?
2. The pastor mentioned two approaches, environmental extremism and environmental dismissiveness. How would you define the two? What makes each right? Wrong?
3. **likeness** (1:26), a word about **representation**. As God's agent, how well are you doing at "framing" and "presenting" his artwork? Is the analogy to being God's representative regarding Creation a fair one? What tangible things are you doing, or can you do, to add to the canvas of God's artwork?
4. **rule** (1:26), a word about **responsibility**. Part of man's obligation from the beginning was to protect and care for Eden. Do we share the level of responsibility in this present day? How do you go about protecting and caring for the Earth?
5. **formed** (2:7), a word about **connectedness**. Adam was created from Creation itself, the two were inseparably connected. Are we fully aware of our connectedness to and dependence upon the environment? If necessary, how can we become more fully aware of our connectedness to the Earth?
6. **put** (2:15), a word about **proximity**. Like many topics, we can easily dismiss our part saying the issue is elsewhere or belongs to someone else. Do you believe God has "put" you where you are? Does that apply to carrying for the environment around you? What are you doing for the space where you are?

7. **care** (2:15), a word about **service**. The pastor noted this word was an agrarian word signifying work and toil. Most of us are not farmers, but how can we play a significant role in cultivating a better environment?
8. Overall, as you consider the management of your life, where does Creation fit in? How well are you doing in this area of stewardship?

Closing: Close *by praying for each other*. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!**