

## Questions for Discussion and Personal Reflection:

1. What is one aspect of creation that reflects or reveals who God is? Why?
2. Kory stated, "If the God you worship is simply the God you want to worship then, you're not really worshipping God, you're worshipping your own desires." Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not?
3. Which of the three competing stories is most common today? Do you see any of these creep into the Church?
  - The natural world is all there is.
  - God is IN nature or God IS nature.
  - Spirit is good, matter is evil.
4. Rick Warren states our lives are not about our own fulfillment. We were made for God's purpose. What are the implications of this in our lives?
5. Read Psalm 8. What aspect of God from this passage enlarges your view of God?
6. Which of the three Biblical understandings of creation is most surprising to you? Which is most challenging for you? Why?



## God is Creator

In our society, to live is to \_\_\_\_\_.

"\_\_\_\_\_"—right belief

"\_\_\_\_\_"—right practice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Theology: What we believe when we're not thinking about it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Theology: To be aware of what we believe about God.

The Biblical God is not someone we can \_\_\_\_\_.

“The universe is all there was, is and ever will be.”

-Carl Sagan

### **The Biblical creation account is unique:**

- God brings the material world into existence.
- It shows a loving God carefully crafting the universe.
- It shows a God who is outside of creation, but intimately involved in it.

Marcion and the Gnostics taught that Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ and the material world is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **What the Bible tells us about Creation:**

#### **1. The material world is a good (but fallen) creation of a loving God.**

- Psalm 19:1-6

#### **Three competing stories:**

- a. Godless Materialism—the natural world is all there is.
- b. God IS nature or is IN nature. (Pantheism/Panentheism)

We don't \_\_\_\_\_ creation

- Romans 1:21-23

- c. Gnosticism—the material world is evil

#### **2. Humans are unique in all of creation.**

- Psalm 8

“<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation.”

--Colossians 1:15

#### **3. Everything exists for God's glory.**

“It's not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose.”

-Rick Warren

The only appropriate response is \_\_\_\_\_.