



# Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

## Genesis 1 & John 1 “In the beginning” Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020

**WELCOME:** we’ve had a two-week break from online services and we were encouraged to get together with one another – to share a meal and/or some meaningful conversation. We had “Chat Matters” placemats to help start conversations – did you get the opportunity to catch up with anyone in the last couple of weeks, did you use the “Chat Matters” mats? Share your stories as a LIFEgroup.

**REFLECTION:** This week we revisited Genesis 1 & John 1 and again we were challenged to consider our reading of the Old Testament passages wearing “Kingdom glasses.” How does that perspective alter the Christian’s view of the Scriptures? What prior knowledge and assumptions do we bring to the text as we read?

בְּרֵאשִׁית, בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

*“In the beginning God created...”*

Transliterated as “Bereshit bara *Elohim*”

### **DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:**

“Elohim” the word used to identify God is a plural form in Hebrew, which indicates a unique dynamic perspective of God for the Hebrew people, who were a monotheistic community.

**Read Genesis 1:1&2**

- What does verse 1 tell us about God?
- What does verse 2 tell us about God?

**1<sup>st</sup> significant thing is the claim of Scripture that GOD created...**

**Read Genesis 1:3-5**

As westernised Christian people, we approach the text with a number of key preconceptions – for example we consider a “day” as a 24 hour period that starts with the sun rising, but that’s not the way the text of Gen 1 uses the term “day.”

- How does verse 5 describe the process of the “first day?”
- What impact does the Hebrew understanding of day and night have on their day to day lifestyle?

Orthodox Jews consider that the daily 24-hour period begins when the sun goes down in the evening, and it carries through to the next sunset.

- What difference would living with this concept of a “day” make to you? (if any!)
- If the Old Covenant believers – and Orthodox Jews today – considered this an important element of obedience to God, why don’t we observe this today?

***Read John 1:1***

- **What does the verse tell us about God?**
- **What does the verse tell us about the Word?**

***Read John 1:14***

- **What does this verse tell us about the Word?**

In what ways does John's revelation of "the Word" impact our understanding of "the beginning?"

***Read Genesis 1:6-27 around the group***

- **What do these verses reveal about God**
- **What do these verses reveal about creation**
- **What do these verses reveal about humanity**

**2<sup>nd</sup> significant point is that HUMAN beings are important to God**

- **In what ways is the "image of God" invested in humanity?**
- **How should this impact how we treat one another and other people – regardless of people's behaviour?**

As New Covenant people wearing "Kingdom Glasses," it is important that we value one another – and we practice on one another, how we plan to treat everyone else we meet.

**PAUSE: Take a few minutes and consider the person who is directly to the right of you, in what ways – in their attitudes, behaviour and/or character – do you see the image of God reflected? Beginning with the group leader go around the group and tell one another how you see God reflected in each other.**

Consider the impact this has on the people in your group and think about how it would be received if you could take the time to share with another person this week how you see God in them.

**Pray together:**

Pray for one another – pray that Connect Church, our LIFEgroup and each one of us would become a more positive influence in our world, being image bearers of God in our world

- **Pray that God would open doors for us as we journey through each day.**
- **Pray that God would open the hearts of people we know and love and others we meet**
- **Pray that God would open our mouths and give us truth to speak into the lives of others**

In Jesus name, Amen.