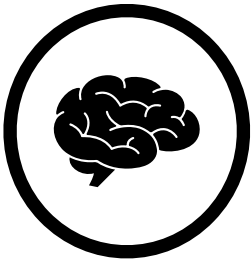


SERMON NOTES

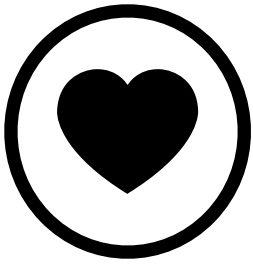
8th January 2023 | Genesis 1 | God of Beginnings



Exploring the text

Questions for reflection:

1. Read Genesis 1-2:3 as if reading it for the first time. What strikes you about this passage?
2. What words would you use to describe God from this passage?
3. What words and themes re-occur? What emphasis do these suggest?
4. What do you think is the difference between the words used 'created' (vs.1,21,27) and 'made' (vs. 7, 31)?
5. Compare Genesis 1-2:3 with Genesis 2:4-3:24.
 - what are the similarities and difference about these stories?
 - what is the central point of each passage?
6. Why does the author phrase each day as, 'and there was evening, and there was morning...'? What does this teach us about rest?
7. What questions does Genesis 1 raise for you?
8. Would you understand the earth as being old (over 4 billion years) or young (10'000+ years)



Connecting our hearts

Questions for reflection:

1. Stu said the purpose of Genesis 1 is to ground us and to guide us to praise. Would you agree?
2. In what ways would you say that Genesis 1 provides a grounding for you? How might this sustain you in the trials of life?
3. Isaiah grounded the exiles in the truth of God's creative power in 40:21-22, 25-31. What stands out to you from this passage?
4. There is a definite rhythm to the Genesis 1. Do you think this is supposed to inform our living? Do you have a rhythm of life or rule of life?
5. What thoughts / praise does, knowing that the One who 'also made the stars' created you in His image?
6. Does knowing that all humankind has been made in the image of God inform the way you relate to and treat others different from you?
7. What is the significance of Genesis 2:2-3 for you?



Living it out

Questions for reflection:

1. What is your take away from the message on Genesis 1?
2. Reflect on Genesis 1 and Isaiah 43:18-19. God is the Lord of new beginnings who can create out of nothing. What new beginning are you praying for or do you need to start?
3. If you are not planning sabbath rest, how can you incorporate this into you week?

Use the below space to write you own prayer of response