

TEACHER / FACILITATOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

LGBTQ & THE BIBLE – Creation

SESSION OVERVIEW (FOR THE FACILITATOR)

Big Idea

The biblical creation stories are often used to define rigid ideas about gender, sexuality, and “what is natural.” This session invites participants to read Genesis not as a simplistic blueprint for human identity, but as a **theological proclamation about God, goodness, diversity, and relationship**.

Rather than asking, “*Who fits God’s design?*” this lesson explores a deeper question:

What do the creation stories actually say—and what do they not say—about humanity, difference, and belonging?

The goal of this session is not to undermine Scripture, but to **read creation texts carefully, contextually, and faithfully**, allowing them to speak with nuance rather than being reduced to slogans.

TEACHING GOALS

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand the purpose and structure of the Genesis creation narratives
 - Recognize the difference between theological poetry and scientific or social prescription
 - Identify common assumptions projected onto creation texts
 - Explore how “image of God” applies to all humanity
 - Reflect on how creation affirms diversity, embodiment, and relationship
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TIME GUIDE (Suggested – 60–75 minutes)

- Opening & prayer: 10 minutes
 - Teaching & discussion (three movements): 40–50 minutes
 - Personal reflection & closing prayer: 10–15 minutes
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OPENING (10 MINUTES)

Opening Question (Icebreaker)

“When you hear the phrase ‘*God’s design*’ or ‘*created order*,’ what thoughts or feelings come to mind?”



(Allow participants to respond freely. Do not correct or interpret at this stage.)

Facilitator Notes

- Some participants may associate creation language with certainty and authority
 - Others may carry wounds from how these texts have been used
 - Set a tone of curiosity rather than debate
 - Emphasize that this session focuses on **what the text actually does**, not how it has been used
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Opening Prayer

Invite God's presence with words such as:

"God of creation, open our minds and hearts as we return to familiar texts.

Help us to hear Scripture with fresh ears, humility, and trust.

Guide our conversation with grace, honesty, and love for one another. Amen."

FOUNDATIONAL CONTEXT (FOR THE FACILITATOR)

Before formal teaching, briefly frame the session:

- Genesis contains **two distinct creation stories** (Genesis 1 and Genesis 2)
- These stories were written to proclaim **who God is**, not to answer modern scientific or social questions
- The language is **theological, poetic, and symbolic**
- Reading carefully means honoring genre, context, and purpose

Reassure participants:

"Faithful reading does not mean forcing the text to answer questions it was never written to address."

TEACHING MOVEMENT 1: WHAT CREATION IS ACTUALLY ABOUT

Key Teaching Point

The creation stories declare that **everything God creates is good**, and that humanity exists in relationship—with God, with one another, and with the world.

Facilitator Explanation

Help participants notice:



- Genesis 1 follows a **structured, poetic rhythm**
- Repetition emphasizes goodness, order, and abundance
- Humanity is created as part of creation—not above it
- The focus is on **God’s generosity and intention**, not human hierarchy

Emphasize:

- “Male and female” functions as a **pairing of completeness**, similar to light/dark or land/sea
- The text does not describe roles, power, or social expectations
- The emphasis is that humanity, in its diversity, bears God’s image

Discussion Questions

- What stands out to you about the rhythm or tone of the creation story?
- What does it mean that humanity is called “very good”?
- How does this passage emphasize relationship rather than rule-keeping?

Facilitator Notes

- Keep discussion grounded in the text itself
- Avoid jumping ahead to modern conclusions
- Encourage observation before interpretation

TEACHING MOVEMENT 2: IMAGE OF GOD AND HUMAN DIVERSITY

Key Teaching Point

Being created in the image of God is about **vocation and relationship**, not conformity or uniformity.

Facilitator Explanation

Guide participants to consider:

- “Image of God” is never defined as gender, sexuality, or physical traits
- It is connected to **connection, creativity, stewardship, and presence**
- The image of God is given to *all* humanity—not earned or limited

Emphasize:

- Scripture affirms embodiment without flattening it
- Difference is not presented as a problem to be solved



- Diversity reflects the richness of the Creator

Discussion Questions

- How have you typically heard “image of God” explained?
- What changes if image of God is about calling rather than category?
- How might this challenge narrow definitions of who reflects God?

Facilitator Notes

- This section may surface deeply held beliefs
- Encourage thoughtful listening rather than persuasion
- Affirm that questioning assumptions is not rejecting faith

TEACHING MOVEMENT 3: WHEN CREATION IS USED AS A WEAPON

Key Teaching Point

Problems arise when creation stories are turned from **proclamations of goodness** into tools for exclusion.

Facilitator Explanation

Help participants reflect on:

- How “creation order” language is often used selectively
- How complexity in Scripture is flattened into rigid rules
- How cultural assumptions are projected back onto ancient texts

Emphasize:

- The Bible describes creation before it describes sin
- Creation establishes belonging before brokenness enters the story
- Scripture consistently moves toward restoration, not restriction

Discussion Questions

- What risks arise when creation is used to define insiders and outsiders?
- How does starting with goodness change theological conversations?
- What might it look like to read creation as invitation rather than boundary?

Facilitator Notes



- Avoid framing this as a political debate
 - Keep the focus on theology and Scripture
 - Re-center the conversation on God’s character
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PERSONAL REFLECTION (10 MINUTES)

Invite silence. You may read aloud:

“God looked at what had been made and called it very good.”

Reflection Prompts

- Where have I assumed that difference equals deviation?
- How have I limited God’s creativity—intentionally or unintentionally?
- What would it mean to trust that God’s image is broader than my understanding?

(Allow quiet space. Do not rush.)

CLOSING (PRAYER & CHALLENGE)

Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Trust in God’s creative wisdom
 - Humility in how Scripture is interpreted
 - Courage to honor the goodness of all God has made
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Optional Take-Home Challenge

Invite participants to:

- Re-read Genesis 1–2 slowly
 - Notice how often goodness is named
 - Ask:
“What does this story say about God before it says anything about me?”
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FINAL FACILITATOR REMINDER



This session is not about redefining creation.

It is about **listening to it carefully**.

When creation is read faithfully, it does not narrow God's image.

It **expands our awe**—and reminds us that God's world is richer, more complex, and more gracious than we often allow.

