

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

LGBTQ & THE BIBLE – Creation

SESSION FOCUS

The creation stories in Genesis are often treated as simple explanations of how the world began or as fixed rules about gender, sexuality, and human identity. These passages are frequently quoted to define what is “normal,” “natural,” or “God-designed,” often without careful attention to context or purpose.

This session invites you to return to the creation stories **slowly and thoughtfully**, reading them as theological narratives that reveal who God is and how humanity relates to God, one another, and the world.

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

What do the creation stories actually say about goodness, difference, and belonging?

The goal is not to avoid difficult questions, but to approach Scripture with curiosity, humility, and trust.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a few moments to reflect before continuing:

- What words or ideas come to mind when you hear “creation” or “God’s design”?
- Have you ever encountered creation stories as comforting, confusing, or limiting?
- What assumptions do you bring into this session about gender, bodies, or what is considered “natural”?

(You may want to write a few notes before moving on.)

SCRIPTURE READING

As you move through this session, consider the opening chapters of Genesis, especially Genesis 1–2.

As you read or reflect, pay attention to:

- The tone and rhythm of the creation story
- What God is doing versus what humans are doing
- What is named as “good”
- Where difference and relationship appear in the text

Do not rush. Notice where you feel comfort, resistance, or surprise.



KEY IDEA

The creation stories are not rulebooks about who people must be.

They are proclamations that **God creates generously, intentionally, and calls creation good.**

Before Scripture speaks about sin or brokenness, it speaks about **belonging, goodness, and relationship.**

PART 1: WHAT CREATION IS DECLARING

Genesis 1 presents creation as ordered, abundant, and purposeful. Repeated phrases emphasize rhythm, balance, and blessing. Humanity is introduced as part of creation, not separate from it, and is described as bearing the image of God.

The focus is not on hierarchy or restriction, but on **God's delight in what has been made.**

Reflection Questions

- What patterns or repetitions do you notice in the creation story?
- What does it mean to you that creation is repeatedly called "good"?
- How does this passage shape your understanding of God's character?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: IMAGE OF GOD AND HUMANITY

Being created in the image of God is one of the most powerful claims in Scripture. The text does not define this image by physical traits, gender roles, or sexuality. Instead, it points to humanity's relationship with God, responsibility toward creation, and connection with one another.

The image of God is given—not earned—and applies to all humanity.

Reflection Questions

- How have you previously understood the phrase "image of God"?
- What changes if the image of God is about relationship rather than conformity?
- How might this challenge narrow definitions of who reflects God?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: DIFFERENCE, RELATIONSHIP, AND GOODNESS



The creation stories include difference from the beginning—light and dark, land and sea, many kinds of living beings. Difference is not portrayed as a flaw, but as part of creation’s richness.

Human relationship is described as good, meaningful, and necessary. The emphasis is on connection rather than isolation.

Reflection Questions

- How does creation portray difference—as a problem or a gift?
- What happens when creation stories are used to draw rigid boundaries?
- How might starting with “goodness” reshape conversations about identity and faith?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect:

- Where have I assumed that difference means something is wrong?
- How have my beliefs about creation been shaped by culture rather than Scripture?
- What would it mean to trust that God’s creativity is broader than my understanding?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

In your own words, or silently, pray for:

- Openness to Scripture read with humility
 - Trust in God’s creative wisdom
 - Grace to see goodness where you once saw limits
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OPTIONAL TAKE-HOME PRACTICE

This week:

- Re-read Genesis 1–2 slowly
- Notice how often goodness is named
- Ask yourself:

What does this story say about God before it says anything about me?



FINAL THOUGHT

The creation stories were never meant to shrink God's world.

They invite us to stand in awe of a God whose creativity is vast, intentional, and good.

Faithful reading does not reduce creation to categories.

It allows the text to lead us toward **wonder, humility, and trust—**

and reminds us that God's image is reflected in ways far richer than we often imagine.

