



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Lesson 1—Genesis 1:1-2:4

ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

How is this God's story?

How is this my story?

How is this others' story?

How is this the world's story?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father—we gather together—your people—one people—your family—bound together—with the woven chord—that binds all of creation together—fashioned from your love.

We thank you for creation—for creating the heavens and the earth—for creating all living things—for your presence. When we see your creation, let us be mindful of your work in the world and in our lives. Give us the strength and guidance that we may we find our rest in you alone.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Sabbath:

This week, intentionally set aside time for Sabbath. Turn off your cell phone, iPod, or computer and simply rest. Breathe easy and rest as a way of pointing toward the time when all of creation finds its rest in fellowship with God. As part of your Sabbath, consider taking a walk outside where you can immerse yourself in God's creation, looking for signs of life. Spend some time as part of your Sabbath journaling your thankfulness to God for the life of creation.

BECOMING MY STORY

- *Psalms 8, 19, and 24*
- *John 1:1-14*
- *Romans 8:18-30*
- *Revelation 21:9-22:5*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story, and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 1, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 1?

How do these Scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 1?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages that you might know related to Genesis 1 and read them this week, journaling as you go.