

Tuesday, February 4

Prayer

Introduction: Deon

GOD/CREATION

The Existence of God

Think about how you have encountered God in our life as we listen to a song about Him.

Song (God): Abba, Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MneanjtBRns>

- 1-2 minute sharing about an encounter with God; freedom to skip

My experience (Jim Collins); Your experiences

God Exists: From our experiences ([Rom 1:19-21](#)); reason (uncaused cause), beauty of creation (Ps 19: 2-5)

One God: Deuteronomy: 6:4-6

Attributes: Ex 34:5-7: merciful, gracious, slow to anger, rich in kindness and fidelity, forgiving wickedness and crime and sin; but wickedness can have an effect on future generations; Ultimately, mercy prevails for all when God the Father sends his only son so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17).

Human beings share in and reflect attributes (Gn 1:26-27): created in God's image, with intellect and free will, free to be good stewards of creation, loving God, fellow human beings and all creation as God does.

We owe a response to God: (Mk: 12: 28-31)

We are earthen vessels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAZhIw49ULc>

We hold a treasure
Not made of gold
In earthen vessels, wealth untold
One treasure only, the Lord, the Christ
In earthen vessels.

Light has shown in our darkness
God has shown in our hearts
With the light of the glory
Of Jesus the Lord.

He has chosen the lowly
Who are small in this world
In his weakness His Glory
In Jesus the Lord

BREAK

CREATION

Think about one of your most memorable encounters in creation as you listen to the following song.

Song (Creation): All Creatures of our God and King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJRqM45Y8Gk>

- 1-2 minute sharing about your favorite experience of creation; freedom to skip.
- Your experiences

Why God Created: Ephesians: 1:3-6: God's loving, eternal plan.

How God Created: John 1:1-4: God alone in the beginning; all things came to be through him; Genesis 1:1-2: the Spirit hovering over the waters. 1 John 4:16: God is love and he who abides in love...

Parable of the newly married couple wanting to share their love by starting a family. Encountering God when they meet their baby for the first time and realize that this baby is God's creation and their creation, a procreation. Now they can focus their love on this baby and form a loving family.

The Trinity is the perfect loving God who wanted to share love in creation. The angels, the universe, all material creation and human beings were created out of love. God is focused on all creation like the married couple desiring that all human beings will join the family of the Trinity in eternal happiness and love.

The Revelation of God's Creation: Genesis: 1:31: *God looked at everything he had made, and it found it very good.*

God's Plan for Those to Whom He Has Given Freedom: Gal 5:13-14, 22-23: Love your neighbor as yourself. Romans 8:14-17: the vision to be children of God

FORMED: <https://formed.org/> Why a God? The Search. Episode 3: 14:40 to 24:41

Questions about God and Creation

- Why do you believe in God?
- Have you experienced a desire for God?
- How can you develop your relationship with God?
- What does it mean to be a steward of God's creation?
- What is the difference between God's creation of us and everything else?
- What does it mean to be a "new creation"?
- Other questions

Prayer of Thanksgiving. Add an item of special thanksgiving to God.

Song: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yZVweZ2Cvg>

Psalms 148.