

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. Where should we look to find our true identity and purpose?
2. How do you think your answer to the previous question is influenced by social media, movies, music, news outlets, etc.?
3. What questions do you have as you begin this study?

**Discuss any reflections from the group based on your meditation on Genesis 1:26–31.*

EPIC QUESTIONS

Who Am I (Who Are We?)

1. This section begins by pointing out who God is and how he is different from us. How might this approach change the way we answer the question, “Who am I?”
2. Though God is different from us, he has made us to “resemble” him and “represent” him in the world. How should these realities affect the way we view the purpose of our lives? How should they change the way we think of the dignity of other people?
3. God has given men and women equal dignity and he has made them distinct. What are some dangers of denying either of these truths? Which of these truths seems to be most under attack in our culture?
4. When it comes to God’s design for the complementary roles of men and women, what are some ways our culture tries to undermine Scripture’s teaching?
5. Some people view male leadership in a marriage as dangerous or oppressive. How does the analogy of Christ’s relationship to the church help us see a husband’s leadership as God’s design for our good? (see Ephesians 5:22–33)

What Is Wrong in the World?

1. In your own words, and based on the biblical truths covered in this section, how would you answer a non-Christian who asked, “What is sin?”
2. Given the way sin disorders our desires, why is it dangerous to look inward to try to find our true identity?
3. In this section, we saw that sin is our attempt to define ourselves apart from God. What are some specific ways you’ve seen this play out in your own life, the lives of others, and/or in the surrounding culture?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. According to Scripture, what are the consequences of sin? (see Romans 6:23)
5. Does the reality of sin mean that people are no longer valuable in God's eyes? Explain your answer.

How Can It Be Made Right? How Can I (How Can We) Experience the Good Life?

1. Even unbelievers may try to change their attitudes and actions because they feel bad for certain sins. Why are these efforts ultimately futile in terms of dealing with our sin problem and making ourselves right before God?
2. How would you answer the following question: "Who is Jesus?"
3. Why is it important that we believe Jesus is fully divine (fully God)? Why is it important that we believe Jesus is also fully human?
4. What has Jesus done to deal with our sin problem? What response is required of us if we are to receive the salvation Jesus provides? (If you're not a Christian, talk with someone in your group about what it means to have forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus.)
5. How does salvation in Christ change our identity and purpose? What are some practical effects this should have in our everyday life?

**Discuss any reflections from the group based on your meditation on Psalm 8.*

CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS

Humanity and Sexuality

1. When we think about sexuality, why is it important to begin with God's design and ownership of our bodies?
2. Many non-Christians view the Bible's teaching on sex as being restrictive and opposed to our happiness. In what ways does this miss the Bible's teaching?
3. What are some ways you've noticed our culture trying to normalize, or even celebrate, sexual immorality?
4. All people have, at some level, committed sexual sin (either in thought or in deed). What hope does the gospel offer for such people?
5. What biblical truths and promises can you meditate on and apply in order to flee sexual temptation and find your ultimate satisfaction in Christ? (Make a list.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Humanity and Race

1. What tendencies toward racial pride have you noticed in your own life?
2. How should the Bible's teaching about our being made in God's image shape the way we think about people of other races and backgrounds?
3. Why should God's grace in salvation make racial pride unthinkable for followers of Christ?
4. How does racial division in the church undermine the church's witness? How does unity around the gospel give credibility to the church's witness?
5. Given that racism is ultimately a spiritual battle, what are the main "weapons" the church should use in this battle?

Humanity and Abortion

1. What's wrong with viewing abortion primarily as a political issue?
2. In what way(s) is abortion rebellion against God himself?
3. Why is the question, "Is the unborn human?" the critical question when it comes to abortion?
4. How does God relate to the unborn? (see Psalm 139)
5. What are some practical ways churches and individual Christians can minister to moms and families who may be tempted to see abortion as an option?

**Discuss any reflections from the group based on your meditation on Revelation 22:1-5.*

Humanity, Infertility, and Artificial Reproductive Technology

1. How should God's original design for marriage and sex affect the way we address the issue of infertility?
2. What promises can Christians cling to amidst the pain and grief of infertility?
3. How might the use of some artificial reproductive technologies undermine God's design for marriage and sex?
4. What options do you think are clearly unbiblical when it comes to addressing infertility? What questions do you still have? (Talk to one of your pastors or another member of your church or small group who you know well if you have further questions about this issue.)
5. What are some practical ways churches can care for members who are dealing with infertility?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Humanity, Genomics, and Eugenics

1. Though scientific discoveries and advances can be a great blessing, what's wrong with viewing all scientific "progress" as something we should embrace?
2. God designed humans to be finite, or limited, and dependent on him. How should this reality affect the way we approach questions of genomics and eugenics?
3. Which uses (if any) of gene editing seem biblically permissible and wise? Which uses seem unbiblical and potentially problematic? (Explain your answers.)
4. What are some biblical truths and passages that ought to factor into our decisions concerning gene editing?
5. How should the potential effects of genomics and eugenics on the poor and vulnerable affect the way Christians think about this issue?

Humanity and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

1. In what ways have you already encountered AI in your own life?
2. How would you explain the difference between a human and a machine?
3. Which uses of AI seem biblically permissible and wise? Which uses seem unbiblical and/or potentially problematic? (Explain your answers.)
4. How might a biblical view of work affect the way we think about the benefits and drawbacks of AI?
5. Why will AI technologies always lack the kind of wisdom God requires of men and women?

Humanity, Digital and Social Media, and the Metaverse

1. On an average week, how much time do you spend on social and/or digital media? How do you think this affects the way you look at the world?
2. How might the goodness of God's physical creation (see Genesis 1–2) affect the way we approach digital and social media? What about the metaverse?
3. We're often quicker to assume the worst about people or treat them with a lack of dignity when we communicate through social media. Why do you think that is? How can we guard against this tendency?
4. Why is it important for followers of Christ to view their use of social/digital media and the metaverse not merely as a recreational activity but also as a discipleship issue?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5. In terms of your use of various forms of technology, what are some practical steps of accountability you could put in place with the help of fellow church members or mature Christian friends? (Make a list of potential steps and people.)

ULTIMATE CONCLUSIONS

Who Is God?

1. How has this study affected the way you answer the question, "Who am I?"
2. One of our responses to God's greatness and sovereignty should be humility. How might humility before God change your approach to many of the complex issues we've been looking at? In what ways have you treated God lightly?
3. Why is it critical that we keep returning to the Bible as we think about who God is and how he would have us respond to the issues covered in this study?
4. Why are attempts to break free from God's design ultimately futile?
5. What promises does the Bible offer for the Christian beyond his or her physical death? How should our future hope affect the way we live today?

**If you have further questions about what it means to be a Christian, we would encourage you to talk to a Christian friend. If you are struggling with any of the issues covered in this study, talk with a pastor or another member of your church. In addition to giving us his Word, God gives us the church to provide counsel in understanding and applying the Word.*