

2007-08 BSP#1 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 25 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] Read Genesis 1:2. Who else, besides God, was present at the beginning of creation? What was He doing? In verse 26, God said, “Let us make man in *our* image.” What does this use of the plural suggest about God? As a result, how many Persons were involved in creation?
2. [M] According to JP11, Christianity does not reject matter; matter is theophoric (see item G bullet 2 in session outline). How do you arrange the space in your home to speak of God to you? Is there a certain décor or holiness of space there? How do you separate the time of the week to remind you of God?
3. [H] Read John 1:1-5 and Colossians 1:15-22. How do these New Testament references to the creation of the world expand the picture that we get from Genesis 1?

Reflect on:

- The relationship between how God created according to Gen 1 and Jesus as the creative Word of God
- Two different creations coming from Genesis and John
- The added perfections of the new creation as depicted in Col 1:21-22

(B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question(s) for Group Meditation and Prayer (Suggested time: 10 minutes)

1. In the Genesis creation account, we find that things and creatures were created in great varieties. In our everyday life, we also meet with people who are very different from us in their ethnic background, in their behavior, their style of doing things, their viewpoints, etc. Sometimes the diversities and differences are the reasons for conflicts, distrust and enmity.
2. Take 3 minutes to read and reflect on the following passages:

God wills the interdependence of creatures. The sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow: the spectacle of their countless diversities and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other. (CCC 340)

The multiplicity and distinction existing among things were devised by the divine intellect and were carried out in the real order so that the divine goodness might be mirrored by created things in variety, and that different things might participate in the divine goodness in varying degree. Thus, the very order existing among diverse things issues in a certain beauty, which should call to mind the divine wisdom. (St. Thomas Aquinas, The Compendium of Theology, n.102)

3. Group facilitator ends this meditation by saying a short prayer to praise God for His wisdom in giving us multiplicity and diversity, and ask Him to forgive us for our inability to tolerate differences.
4. The whole group completes the prayer by saying *Glory Be* together.