



Small Group Curriculum

Still Wondering • Week 1 • What does it mean to be human?

We are beginning a six-week series, *Still Wondering*, about the questions that we ask and keep asking, whether out loud or only in our heads. If we weren't aware of artificial intelligence a few years ago, we certainly are now. Our daily lives are being shaped more and more by AI, causing many to wonder then, what does it mean to be human?

REMINDERS

- [Awakening 201](#): a three-week membership class specifically crafted to guide you through a clear and practical pathway to growing as a follower of Jesus on Sunday, April 19th, 26th, & May 3rd, 11:15am - 12:30pm.
- [New Believers class](#): a two-week introduction to new faith and life in Jesus and how to begin growing in this relationship on Sunday, April 19th & 26th, 11:15am-12:30pm.
- All upcoming events can be found [here](#).

ICEBREAKER

- Where were you when you last felt awe?
or
- What chore would you most like a robot to do for you?

INTRODUCTION

This week, [Paul Taylor](#), co-founder of Faith, Work, & Tech, taught on the question, “What does it mean to be human?” He used the framework from centuries of Christian theologians that God has created us as relational beings within four main categories: with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.

AWAKENING

DISCUSSION

Scripture passages [here](#).

Awe: Relationship with God

Read Genesis 1:1; Psalm 8

- What do these verses say about God?
- Take a moment to name things you recognize as God's majesty and glory on the earth.

Identity: Relationship with self

Read Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-16

- What do these verses say about humans? What makes humans distinct from the rest of God's creation?
- Thinking over the last few weeks, share specific examples of where you have reflected the image of God or recognized the image of God in others.
- What word or phrase from Psalm 139 encourages you?

Intimacy: Relationship with others

Read Genesis 2:18; Matthew 22:34-40

- What is the first "not good" in creation?
- What does Jesus say is the second greatest commandment?
- In what ways have you loved your neighbor as yourself recently? If you are willing to share, in what ways have you failed to in thought, word, or action?

Agency: Relationship with creation

Read Genesis 1:28-30; Psalm 8:4-6

- What role does God give to humans?
- In what ways are you inspired or encouraged by humans' care of God's creation? In what ways are you disappointed or concerned?

RESPONSE

- How would you describe to a nonchristian what it means to be human?
- In your own use of ai, has it begun to shape any of these relationships: with God, self, others, and creation? Consider the implications of what is helpful or hurtful. Where might you implement guardrails to protect awe, identity, intimacy, and agency?



PRAYER

Do a Lectio Divina on these verses, then end your time in prayer together.

Lectio Divina (Latin for “divine reading”) is an ancient Christian practice of reading Scripture slowly and prayerfully, meditating on God’s Word, and listening for God’s voice.

Lectio - Read the Scripture slowly

Meditatio - Read the Scripture and meditate on it; intentionally listen for the “still, small voice” of the Holy Spirit to highlight a word or phrase to you

Oratio - Read the Scripture and respond by praying it back to God

Contemplatio - Read the Scripture and rest in God’s presence by sitting in silence

Colossians 1:15-20 NLT

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead.

So he is first in everything.

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.