



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Did Faith and Reason Really Get a Divorce?

Somewhere along the way, someone started a rumor – that science and the Christian faith had a nasty divorce, and you have to pick a side. The history says otherwise. The men who built modern science were Bible-believing Christians, and the cosmos itself testifies to a Creator. This week Pastor Kent Keller walked us through Genesis 1, the fine-tuning of the universe, and the hard limit science was never given to cross – the questions of who and why. For those, you don't need a better instrument. You need the One who made you.

01 ICEBREAKER

When you were younger, did anyone ever tell you (directly or by implication) that you'd have to leave your faith behind if you wanted to be a serious thinker? Where did that message come from – a teacher, a friend, a movie, the culture in general? How did it land on you?

02 READ TOGETHER

GENESIS 1:1-2 (ESV)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

03 DISCUSSION

- 01** Kent opened by naming the cultural rumor: that somewhere around the Renaissance, science and faith went through a divorce, and now you have to pick one. Where in your own life have you felt the weight of that rumor? At work? With a family member? In your own head late at night?
- 02** Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Pascal, Faraday – these men weren't doing science in spite of their faith. They were doing science as an act of worship. Kepler called himself a priest of the highest God in regard to the book of nature. How does it change the way you think about your own work – your job, your study, your daily problem-solving – to call it worship?
- 03** Kent said the entire scientific revolution rested on one assumption: a rational God made a rational universe, and his image-bearers could discover it. Read Genesis 1:1-2 again slowly. What does it do to your day to start with 'In the beginning, God' instead of 'In the beginning, me'?

- 04** The expansion rate of the universe one second after the Big Bang was tuned to one part in a hundred thousand million million. The earth tilts at 23 degrees. The moon sits at 240,000 miles. Stephen Hawking — an atheist — called this the anthropic principle. When you really sit with those numbers, what does the universe seem to be telling you?
- 05** Kent's pull-quote was direct: science can tell you a lot about *what* and *how*. Science can tell you nothing about *who* and *why*. And for that you need God. What is a *who* or *why* question you have been carrying — about yourself, about a loss, about your purpose — that no amount of data is going to answer?
- 06** Psalm 19 says the cosmos itself preaches a sermon, day and night, without using words. When was the last time you actually went outside and let creation talk to you? What did you hear?
- 07** If we are made in God's image, our minds are not a threat to our faith — they're a gift from it. Where in your life have you been afraid to ask God a hard question? What would it look like to bring Him the question this week instead of avoiding it?

04 PRAY

Pray for the people in your life who think they have to choose between their mind and their faith — friends, coworkers, kids, the version of you that used to believe it too. Ask the Father to settle the rumor in this group, and to make you the kind of community where someone wrestling with a hard science-and-faith question feels welcomed, not lectured. Pray for one honest conversation this week about the questions science cannot reach.

05 LEADER NOTES

This sermon covers a lot of ground — history, cosmology, biology, and the limits of scientific method — and group members will land at different depths. Don't try to cover all seven questions; pick three or four and let them breathe. Question 5 (the *who* and *why* question) is where the sermon actually does its pastoral work; protect time for it. If someone in the group has science training or works in a STEM field, draw them in early on Question 2 — their voice on 'work as worship' will land harder than yours. If someone is wrestling with personal doubt, slow down. The goal is not apologetic victory; it is to show that this group is a safe place to bring the question.

CHRISTCHURCH MIAMI

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Sundays at 11 AM

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