

Small Group Notes: 16 August 2026

Theme: “Then God said ...”

Warm up:

Do you find pleasure and joy in being in nature? If so, what memory of being in nature stands out for you? What happened?

Read Genesis Ch. 1

→ Interesting fact, Genesis 1 was probably a liturgical hymn that was sung at worship. It has a rhythm, and repetition to it – look out for this pattern when reading. Furthermore, remember Genesis is not a book of scientific explanation of the origin of the universe and our world, it is not a book focused primarily on historical events either. Genesis is primarily a book about God ... God’s Nature, God’s Power, God’s character. God speaks, God acts with authority, God is majestic, unparalleled with any other in the Universe. God is not one of many god’s; God is the only God! (Ollerton)

- How many times does the phrase “Then God said” appear? What happened after each occurrence of these words?
- Genesis tells us God spoke What do you think God’s voice sounded like?
- Do you believe that God speaks to you? If so, how do you recognize his voice?
- Do you think the world still respects the voice, the power, and the authority of God today; in the way Genesis describes who God is?

Read John 1:1-5

- Who is “The Word” as described by John?
- Does what you read here change the way you understand the creation story in Genesis 1?
- Does this reading mean that God, and Jesus, are one and the same? Why?

Read John 14: 6-11

- In verse 9, Jesus makes a startling statement “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”. What does Jesus mean?

- Once again with the creation story in mind, read verse 10. Has Jesus always been “one with the Father”? What does Jesus mean?
- Does looking at Jesus (his life, teachings, love for people), help you to “see” what God looks like?

Prayer thought for the week:

Using Jesus as the prime example of how the voice of God speaks; and when looking at the actions of Jesus – how Jesus is also the personification of what God “looks” like (i.e. God’s character, God’s nature, God’s purpose). How might this way of thinking better help you “hear” God and “see” God at work in your life this week?

Have a blessed week,

Tim.