

God-Shaped Void

Presentation Handout

God-shaped void

- Only God as our Creator-Savior-Lord can fill this “longing” in our lives for something more—real love, acceptance, forgiveness, joy, peace, power, worth, etc.

Creation—God’s Beauty

- The creation story reveals the beauty of who God is in a “scratch-the-surface” kind of way {Romans 1:19-20}

Take-Away: *The origin of our world and human beings is more than scientific facts, a debate between two opposing ideologies—creation vs. evolution, or a list of what was created on day 1, 2, 3, 4, etc....*

Creation—God’s Power

- The Bible in the creation story does *not* debate God as Creator, instead it simply proclaims: God created {Genesis 1:1} emphasized by the fact:
 - “God” is referenced 26 times in the 31 verses of Genesis 1.
 - “God” in Genesis 1 = Hebrew word “Elohim” – the Almighty, all-powerful God.
 - God simply speaks and creation happens in Genesis 1:

DAY 1	“God said, ‘Let there be light...there was light.’” {v. 3}
DAY 2	“God said, ‘Let there be a firmament....’” {v.6}
DAY 3	“God said, ‘Let the water..., let dry land appear...it was so.’” {v. 9}
DAY 4	“God said, ‘Let there be lights...let them be....’” {vv. 14-15}
DAY 5	“God said, ‘Let the waters abound... let birds fly....’” {v. 20}
DAY 6	“God said, ‘Let the earth....’” {v. 24} “God said, ‘Let Us make man....’” {v. 26}

Take-Away: *In this display of power, God is not “flexing” His “muscles” or showing off!*

Creation—God’s Blessing

- God uses His power to bless His creation by expanding Their “Community of God” circle of unselfish, other-centered love to include all creation, particularly human beings {Genesis 1:27-28; 5:1-2}
 - This is why the “mile-marker” in *theJourney* seminar is called “Blessing.”

Take-Away: *Though God is all-power “Elohim,” His power is not demanding or self-centered, but selfless and self-sacrificing as He provides for His creation, instead of Himself.*

Creation—God Provides & Sustains

- God uses His power to care and provide for His creation, not selfishly taking care of Himself {*Genesis 1:29; Psalm 145:15-16*}!
 - The idea of a god providing for its creation was very foreign and revolutionary to the Mesopotamia nations living around Moses and the Israelites. These peoples expected to give to their “gods” instead of receiving from them.
- God providing for His creation is what sets Him apart from the other “gods” of this world!
- Here’s how God provides and what He provides:
 - Humans’ & animals’ physical needs—like food, rain, etc. {*Genesis 1:29; Psalm 104:10-18, 21, 27-28; 145:15-16; 147:8-9*}, even when there isn’t a faith response {*Matthew 5:43-48*}
 - Helps with life challenges, needs, and issues {*Psalm 145:14; Isaiah 40:28-31; 41:10, 13; 43:1-3*}
 - Sustains creation, even providing life {*Acts 17:24-25, 28; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3*}
 - Redemption/salvation (re-creation) {*Psalm 51:10, 12; Isaiah 45:8; Ephesians 2:8-10; 4:20-24; Colossians 3:8-10*}

Take-Away: *When was the last time you told your heart to beat and lungs to breathe? Average heart beats 65 beats per minute, but it’s God who keeps it beating, we don’t! Neither, can human beings save themselves.*

REFLECTION: *Is God the Creator-God-Lord of your life? Does He have supreme control in your life through a conscious, joyful choice on your part?*

Or..., have you placed someone or something else in His place...like Israel in the Old Testament when they professed to belief in God but worshipped the Baals. Or..., in the New Testament when they professed faithfulness to God, yet crucified Jesus when He appeared in the flesh? How sad!

Today, sports teams, social media, COVID/political attitudes or stances, a job, status, other humans, church membership/office, money or other possessions, etc. can be our modern idols that can displace God as the Creator of our lives.