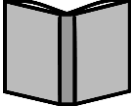









Small Group/ Reflection Notes

Session 1:		Let there be light – Day 1
 Read	Genesis 1:1-5	 Listen again ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you a 'morning' or an 'evening' person? <input type="checkbox"/> What does sunshine do for you? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you ever worked shifts or 'pulled an all-nighter'? How did you feel? <input type="checkbox"/> How real does the 'climate emergency' feel? If you lived in Chad, Africa would it feel any different?	
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> Verse 3: God SAID... What does this say about God & His power/ creativity? <input type="checkbox"/> Verse 4: God saw the light was GOOD. Why is light 'good'? What does it do? <input type="checkbox"/> Verse 5: God created 'day' and 'night'. How do you get the balance of work and rest? What do natural rhythms/ cycles teach us about pace and health?	
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> Close the curtains. Switch the lights off. See in the darkness. Light a candle. Watch what the flame does to the darkness. How does this light reflect God's light in your life, situations, today's culture..? Thank God for His Light.	
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> What 'next step' could you take to reduce or clean your energy consumption? <input type="checkbox"/> What could you switch off? <input type="checkbox"/> What could you use less? <input type="checkbox"/> How could you switch to greener, cleaner renewable energy?	
 Pray	<p><i>Dear God, thank you that you are Light. May your pure Light illuminate my areas of darkness. Thank you that light always overcomes darkness. Help me, as your child made in your image, to walk in your light. Amen</i></p>	
 My question:		



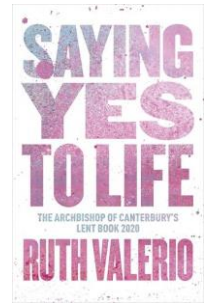
If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one!

Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups

Can't see a small group that suits your availability/ interest? Why not start one!

Email: SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk

Background



Genesis 1:1-2: In the beginning, God...

In ancient times there were many different myths/ stories circulating about the origins of the earth. Some involved multiple gods, dragons, demons... In these myths, when it rained too much (flood), too little (draught), when the earth shook (earthquake) or the crops failed (famine), people wondered if it was because the 'gods' were angry. Maybe sacrificing something/ someone to them would make them happier?

Genesis told a radically different story. It still does. *"In the beginning, God..."* (Genesis 1:1)

What we see around us is stunningly beautiful, incomprehensibly big (galaxies & cosmos), and yet at times unbelievably tiny. All 'this' is full of intricate patterns, rhythms, varieties, detail... And it's all held together in balance, harmony, relationship. For example, to survive, we humans breathe in oxygen (O²) and breathe out harmful-to-us carbon dioxide (CO²). Trees breathe in carbon dioxide, thrive on the carbon, and breathe out oxygen. Trees and humans are made for each other!

All 'this' must have a source – a beginning. It must have come from *somewhere* or *someone*. *"In the BEGINNING, God"*

Whatever/ whoever is The Source must be even more beautiful, big and powerful than all 'this'.

The Source deserves our worship. It's our instinctive response.

Such harmony couldn't have come from multiple, competing 'sources' (gods). There must only be One Source. *"In the beginning, GOD"* – The single, supreme Source. God – Yahweh.

The Source (God) seems interested, involved in all 'this'. God is not distant/ aloof/ unknowable. We can *interact* with God, we can *know* God, we can build *relationship*, even *friendship*, with God The Source

So Genesis is for anyone who's ever asked:

- Is there more to life than this?
- Does it matter how I live my life, treat others, the environment?
- Do I really matter?
- Why am I here?

Though written in a pre-scientific age, Genesis 1 tells a story about God, beginnings, and how we fit in

Genesis 1: 3-5: Day 1 - God said, "Let there be LIGHT"

In 'Days' 1-3 God separates and creates the spaces and in 'Days' 4-6 God fills those spaces. So in 'Day 1' God separates light from dark and creates night and day which the sun, moon and stars fill on 'Day 4'.

Light symbolises: God's presence (Ex.10:23;13:21-22), salvation (Ps.27:1), guidance (Ps.119:105).

God does not just create light, God IS Light – the Source of all light (1 John 1:5)

Just as some light is so bright we can't look at it, it's as if God is unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16).

Yet, because Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12), through Him, we can have relationship with God.

Being made in God's image, we are called to live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8-9).

"God saw the light was GOOD."

Light is foundational to life. We depend on light to grow our food and for Vitamin D. Light enables us to see and enjoy the beauty of Creation. Trees rely on light for their growth, birds navigate by it...

Electricity brings us more (artificial) light. Our 24-7 culture relies on it. It disconnects us from rhythms of natural light. Fossil-fuel power generation causes pollution & global warming – our climate emergency.

Let there be light from cleaner renewable energy e.g. solar, wind, wave...