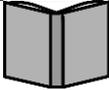




Small Group/ Reflection Notes

23-04-2023		The cosmic story we find ourselves in	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> When have you looked at the night sky and thought, WOW!		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth is in a solar system with our star, the sun, & 8 other planets. There are 200-400 billion solar systems in our galaxy, the Milky Way. There are 100+ billion galaxies... What thoughts/ feelings/ beliefs does this stimulate in you? <input type="checkbox"/> On the one hand, NASA says, despite the scale of the Cosmos/ universe, each one of us is totally unique. Are they right? Do you believe it? <input type="checkbox"/> On the other hand, can the scale of the Cosmos leave us feeling lost, even invisible? How? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> Why do we sometimes feel it is <i>God</i> who is invisible?		
 Read	Colossians 1:15-23	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.15 : Want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus! What was Jesus like? What did He do? What qualities/ character did He display? So, what does Jesus' life show us God is like? <input type="checkbox"/> v.16 : Given the scale of the Cosmos, what does this say about Christ? Read Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1-3 . To what extent are YOU "all things"? What difference does/ could it make to your life that you were created <i>through</i> Him and <i>for</i> Him? <input type="checkbox"/> v.17 : Why is it so hard sometimes to keep our 'stuff' together? How is Jesus the glue that holds all things (inc, us) together? <input type="checkbox"/> v.18 : Why is Jesus the 'firstborn from among the dead'? How does this explain why Jesus' death was not simply the result of back-stabbing Judas, Roman soldiers, scheming Religious Elite, slimy Pilate..? <input type="checkbox"/> v.19 : What is the 'fulness of God'? What difference did that make to Jesus? And to us now who are 'in Christ'? Read again start of v.18 . Whether we believe, feel or deserve it, what does this mean for our gatherings as church? <input type="checkbox"/> v.20 : How does Christ reconcile all things? Why do we need reconciling, and to who/ what?		
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> If the Universe is continuing to expand, with new planets, stars and solar systems, what does this say about God as Creator? <input type="checkbox"/> As well as Creation, why is God also in the business of re-creation? Why is Christ sometimes referred to as 'the Second Adam'? 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 .		
 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"/> The power and presence of God.		

 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Do some star gazing. Download an App from App Store/ Google Play that helps you identify what you see. [Warning: to protect your eyes, never look directly at the sun]
 Pray	
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.