<u>Discussion Guide</u> Series: Origins Wk 1: The Origins January 05, 2025

<u>Big Idea</u>

() Our story & worldview is to begin in the good creation God made and wanted (Genesis 1 & 2), not in the brokenness of the world (Genesis 3).

🖓 <u>Icebreaker</u>

Do you have any goals or aspirations for this new year and how do they honor God?

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read John 1:1 & Genesis 1:1? As what, or as whom, did God exist prior to creation? Did God even need to create? Why did He choose to create?
- 2. It was mentioned in the sermon that St. Augustine of Hippo, in seeking to describe the Trinity, said the following: *"The three persons of God are the Lover (Father), the Beloved (Son), and the Love Shared (Holy Spirit)".* What do you think he meant by this and why did he conclude this upon his contemplation of God?
- 3. Read Genesis 1:26-32, focusing on verses 26 & 27. What is the meaning of Imago Dei? Imago Dei is more about 'who we are' than 'how we physically appear'. With that said, in reflecting God, how are we to be like Him? Fill in the following blanks: Just as God c_____, we are made to c_____. Just as God has good ch_____, we are to have good ch_____. In the end, this set of passages shows us that (fill in the blank): We are made with m____.
- 4. What are you pursuing as a way of finding meaning, that is outside of the image of God in you? What does embracing the meaning God made us with look like lived out?
- 5. Reread Genesis 1:28 & read Genesis 2:15. In these verses we see that have been given, what many refer to, as a Cultural Mandate. What does the living out of this Cultural Mandate practically look like? How are you participating in this task that God has given you?
- 6. Going back to our Big Idea, that our story is to begin in the good creation God made and wanted (Genesis 1 & 2)...is that where your worldview & story starts, or are you more focused on the brokenness of the world (Genesis 3)? What impact can this aspect of your worldview have upon you? Fill in the following blanks: O_____ creation is how God d_____ everything to be.

Concluding Question

Read 1 John 4:16. Who or what do your finances, calendar, and thought life indicate you ultimately love? What <u>one-thing</u> could you change to align those things more with 1 John 4:16?

<u>Prayer</u>

As Revive Wesleyan's many winter ministries prepare to kick-off, pray over them asking that God would draw the people needing to participate in them and that they and the Kingdom will benefit from them.