



# DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

## Week of September 12, 2021: Genesis 1-2:4a

### Life Group Gatherings:

The key to the Life Group gathering is to disciple one another. But this is not as daunting, intimidating, or perhaps even boring as it may sound. It begins with building community, which is best done in someone's home. Here is a recommended schedule for an in-home Life Group Gathering.

- Choose how often you will meet. Weekly is best but not always practical. We recommend either once or twice a month.
- Have a meal together. It doesn't need to be fancy. One way to build community through the meal is to have different people bring different courses.
- While eating, do a check in with one another. The Wesleyan question is "how does your soul prosper", which feels very 18th century. You don't need to  
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### Welcome to Devotions for Life

This is a weekly resource for you to use individually, with your family or in a Life Group. A Life Group is a small group of people committed to witnessing to Jesus Christ in the world and following his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This resource is a tool for doing the devotion component of that rule of life in a small group context. Hence, the "Life Group".



In this resource you will find the Scripture reference for the week, a simple agenda for a Life Group gathering, some questions for reflection and discussion, and some ideas for getting out into the world in acts of compassion and justice.

### The Story: Genesis 1:2-4a

**Context:** This is commonly referred to as the first of two creation narratives. While this is certainly an appropriate way of looking at it, there is another way, which is to say that it's the first part of one broader creation narrative.

ask that literal question, but get to the heart of it which is a couple things. First, simply “how are you?” But also, “what are you doing to tend to your soul?” And third, “what does your soul long for today?” Another way of saying that is “how can we pray for you today?”

- After eating, take some time to pray for one another in whatever form works your group, and somehow addressing the needs expressed in your conversation.
- Conclude the evening with the reading of the scripture passage, using any or all of the questions for discussion and reflection included here. You may also want to think back to the sermon on that text and discuss what you heard in it.

### **Acts of Compassion & Justice:**

- Serve the earth by taking a walk and picking up garbage along the way.
- Take time to learn about the effort to stop Line 3. You don't have to agree. Just learn!

Genesis 1 and the first four verses of chapter two tell the big-picture creation story, while chapter two zooms in to the small-picture creation story. This speaks to the way in which God is not concerned with one or the other, but both the big-picture and the small-picture.

**Reading the Story:** Remember this is all part of one big story. Read it that way. As you read, take your time. Read it paying attention to what jumps out to you. Is there a word or phrase or idea that hits you? Note it. Is there a question you have about it? Ask that question, search it, and wonder about it. Finally, ask yourself, “what is this story calling me to today?”

### **Questions for Discussion & Reflection:**

- What stood out to you in this reading? What words or phrases caught your attention?
- How does the Creation narrative match up with what you know about how the universe and earth was formed? How does it contradict?
- What did you notice about the structure of this passage? (repetitions, reframes, rhythm, etc.)
- What is one of your favorite poems or song lyrics? What about it speaks to you? How factual is the poem or song?
- How might it change the way we read Genesis 1 if we read it not as history or science but as poetry?
- What does it say about God and the Bible if Genesis 1 is proven wrong scientifically
- What does this passage say about how God and Creation relate to one another?
- What does it mean for humanity to live in community with one another?