

Conversation Topic: Creating Out of Chaos

Series: The (Divine) Creative Process

## (1) Read/Listen:

Genesis 1:1-4 NIV / 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

## (2) Reflect:

Read the passage again. Focus on any words, phrases, themes, or memories God is drawing you into. Feel free to sit in this as long as desired or join in discussion.

## (3) Discuss:

What stood out in the passage above? How might it impact your personal or professional life? Are there specific examples you'd like to share?

Below are questions (and our answers) specific to the conversation's scripture and topic, which concludes with a more practical and personal discussion question.

<u>₩ Why did God create? Why do we?</u> It is who He is and it is who we are. He is THE Creator, and as people made in His image, we too are creators. Do you see yourself as a creator? Why or why not?

Why did God create, knowing that creation would bring pain, rebellion, and even the sacrifice of His Son? The answer lies in the nature of God Himself. God is love, and love creates, gives, and pours itself out. Creation was an act of love—an invitation into relationship, beauty, and purpose, even knowing the cost. Through Christ we see the beauty of creation, the brutality of sin, and the fullness of redemption. With God, we overcome fears and doubts that try to pull us away from life, relationships, and creating one moment at a time. What fears, doubts, etc. stop (or have stopped) you from creating?

Would reality be better if God hadn't created? Without creation, there would be no love to share, no relationships to build, and no story of redemption to tell. God's choice to create reflects His desire for life, even knowing the pain it would entail, because love, transformation, and eternal connection far outweighs the risks. As Tolkien wrote in Lord of the Rings, "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door." Yet, it is when we step out into what God has created us for that we experience the fullness of life. This, however, is not an accidental choice that happens day after day. Do you think the world would be better off without you creating good things?

## (4) Go:

What is one way you (or the group) could apply this teaching in your life? Once discussion is over, pray for one another and go with God.



We hope you are encouraged and inspired to be the creator God created you to be this week. Below are a handful of resources to equip you to draw nearer to God based on our discussion.

"In order to be effective messengers of hope, we must begin by trusting our inner voice, an inner intuition that speaks into the vast wastelands of our time. This process requires training our imagination to see beyond tribal norms, to see the vista of the wider pastures of culture."

— Makoto Fujimura, Art and Faith: A Theology of Making

READ: Called to Create: A Biblical Invitation to Create, Innovate, and Risk by Jordan Raynor

**WATCH/LISTEN:** • Art and Faith, with Makoto Fujimura