

# Personal Devotion

Listening to God is something we need to do every day. Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answer to the following question in the space provided or in your personal journal.

## Day 1

Read Genesis 1–2.

Look back over the Group Session and your responses to the Personal Reflection Question. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

### QUESTION

What do you sense that God is saying to you about Himself as the Creator?

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## Day 2

Read John 1:1–5.

In these verses, Jesus is revealed as God’s active agent of creation. He is the living Word. This reminds us of how God spoke in Genesis 1:3 “and there was light.” Jesus as Creator is consistent with other teaching in the New Testament. (Read Colossians 1:15–17 and Hebrews 1:1–3.)

### QUESTION

Compare Genesis 1:1–3 with John 1:1–5. Write down any similarities that you see.

### QUESTION

What does this passage in John say about the identity and divinity of Christ?

### QUESTION

How might these New Testament Scriptures describing Jesus as the active agent of creation relate to Paul’s declaration in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

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## Day 3

Read 2 Corinthians 13:14.

This closing blessing of Paul's letter to the Corinthians is immensely comprehensive. Here we see all three persons of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) as well the three triumphs of God's redeeming work, thus meeting the three greatest needs of the human condition—our need for grace, for love, and for relationship. This is our Creator's will for His creation and the means by which He brings fullness to our life.

### QUESTION

Glance back at Genesis 1:1–3 and John 1:1–3. What is the role of each member of the Trinity in creation?

Just as God invested the totality of who He is (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in our creation, so He has also invested the totality of who He is in our rescue (redemption) according to 2 Corinthians 13:14.

### QUESTION

What specific actions does Paul relate to each member of the Trinity in this verse?

Genesis 1:2 describes the surface of planet Earth as being initially formless and empty, yet God's Spirit was hovering over it.

### QUESTION

How is the Holy Spirit bringing forth new life in your life right now?

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## Day 4

Read Romans 1:18–32.

Paul reminds us that creation reveals two things about God's nature—His eternal power and His divine nature (Romans 1:20). Theologians call this “general revelation” through nature. (See also Psalm 19:1–3). General revelation is God making Himself known to all humanity through things like creation and the conscience. The created world is like a book that can be read, calling us to

thank and worship an awesome God. “Special revelation,” on the other hand, refers to God speaking through specific people with a specific message. A perfect example of this is the book of Scripture by which we can know God’s redeeming work on our behalf through Christ.

#### **QUESTION**

In what ways can we replace worship of our Creator with the worship of His creation?

#### **QUESTION**

List several of the human consequences that Paul mentions in this passage when humanity no longer honors or serves God.

Use this moment to pray for family members and friends who do not know Christ. Pray also for believers to be sent to those nations where there is presently little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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### **Day 5**

Read Colossians 1:18–23.

After identifying Jesus as being the very image of the invisible God and the active agent of creation in Colossians 1:15–17, Paul then goes on to describe Jesus as not only our Creator, but our Redeemer. This reminds us that the whole Bible could possibly be summarized in this one simple statement: The God who created us has acted to redeem us.

#### **QUESTION**

Notice the emphasis on Christ’s blood and physical body in this passage. When you think of Jesus as the Creator, what does this say about the remarkableness of what God did for us when He sent His Son to our world?

#### **QUESTION**

Colossians 1:20 teaches us that God reconciled everything to Himself through Jesus. Based on the rest of verse 20 through verse 22, describe in your own words what you think this means.

#### **QUESTION**

Paul characterized the Colossians as once being far away from God (Colossians 1:21). Does that describe the condition of your life right now?

**QUESTION**

Where might faith in Jesus or repentance from sin need to happen at a deeper level in your life?