

Week 1

Tuesday, April 1st



Pray: Prayer is simply speaking to God. For those who question His existence this seems crazy, yet those who believe in Him see this as an opportunity to have a relationship with the living God. At this time you could ask that God to allow you understanding of what you read and the ability to see the impact on your world.

Read Genesis 1:1 through 2:3. You can find Genesis at the beginning of your Bible (the first book) or online at ebible.com. The Bible is divided into chapters and verses. This was not a part of the original writing but was an addition to help us with our study.

What questions do you have about the text? Write down as many as you have.

Can any of your questions be answered in the text itself?

What is the main point of this account of creation? Why was it recorded for us to read and know?

If you are using ebible.com you can click on the 'study' button and see what commentators have said about this text. A commentary is simply a book written by a scholar to assist those of us who are not scholars of the Bible. This book is simply an opinion and should be read as only an idea.

What about God is communicated to us through this reading?

If you had been God, how would you have communicated this portion of your character?

Action: While walking to class today take a moment to notice all of creation. What do you notice today that you have not noticed in a while?

INTERVARSITY

Week 1

Wednesday, April 2nd.



the GOD
experiment

Pray: At this time you could ask that God to allow you understanding of what you read and the ability to see the impact on your world.

Read Luke 12:22-34. You will find Luke about 3/4 of the way through the Bible. Luke is the 3rd book of the New Testament.

Disciples are followers/students of Jesus. In this time in history it was normal for men to choose to follow a teacher in order to learn all he had to offer. The disciples are considered the closest followers of Jesus.

This reading is a parable told by Jesus. He is using it to communicate a truth through story.

What is the main point of the parable?
What would the disciples understand Jesus to be saying?

How does this apply to us now?

How would you respond to this truth?

Are there ways in which you worry that you should set aside?

Pray: Tell God how thankful you are to be in a place of discovering whom you will follow.
Confess/tell/admit those areas where it is hard for you to not worry.

Action: Go through your room, closet, apartment and see if there is anything that could be used by those less fortunate. Collect them into a box or bag and deliver them to the local Good Will (or other establishment).

INTERVARSITY

Week 1

Thursday, April 3rd



the GOD
experiment

Read the following excerpt from Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), "The Five Ways". Throughout our 30 days we will look at all five ways. Aquinas is a man who studied the Bible and wrote many well thought out articles. One such writing is Summa Theologica, which was composed in Latin. The translation we will use is by the Fathers of the English Dominican Province and is a public domain item.

The
existence
of God can be
proved in five ways

"The first and more manifest way is the argument from motion. It is certain, and evident to our senses, that in the world some things are in motion. Now whatever is in motion is put in motion by another, for nothing can be in motion except it is in potentiality to that towards which it is in motion; whereas a thing moves inasmuch as it is in act. For motion is nothing else than the reduction of something from potentiality to actuality. But nothing can be reduced from potentiality to actuality, except by something in a state of actuality. Thus that which is actually hot, as fire, makes wood, which is potentially hot, to be actually hot, and thereby moves and changes it. Now it is not possible that the same thing should be at once in actuality and potentiality in the same respect, but only in different respects. For what is actually hot cannot simultaneously be potentially hot; but it is simultaneously potentially cold. It is therefore impossible that in the same respect and in the same way a thing should be both mover and moved, i.e. that it should move itself. Therefore, whatever is in motion must be put in motion by another. If that by which it is put in motion be itself put in motion, then this also must needs be put in motion by another, and that by another again. But this cannot go on to infinity, because then there would be no first mover, and, consequently, no other mover; seeing that subsequent movers move only inasmuch as they are put in motion by the first mover; as the staff moves only because it is put in motion by the hand. Therefore it is necessary to arrive at a first mover, put in motion by no other; and this everyone understands to be God."

What are the primary components of this argument?

Do they have a logical sequence and conclusion?

What are some questions that this line of reasoning brought about for you?

How does this fit with your current understanding of how the world works?

Pray: Ask God to allow awareness of this law of nature being worked out as you go throughout your day.

Action: Keep a tally of all the ways you have seen this law worked out today.

INTERVARSITY

Week 1

Friday, April 4th



Read Mark 2:1-12. You will find Mark in the New Testament just before Luke and after Matthew.

Context for aiding further understanding of the passage: Before this story occurs Jesus has been performing miracles of healing throughout the countryside. 'Son of Man' is a name the Jewish people would have understood to refer to the awaited Messiah.

What is the order of events in this passage?

What are the most important bullet points of this passage?

What would the crowd have understood from what Jesus said?

What is communicated about the character of Jesus?

If you had been a part of the crowd waiting for the Messiah, what would you be thinking now?

How would you apply the main point of the passage?

Action: These friends loved their paralytic friend greatly. They gave up much to care for and transport him to Jesus. Their act was incredible and selfless. Can you think of any ways in which you have not behaved this way to your friends or family? If so make and execute a plan for asking forgiveness of them today. Record how this went.

Pray: Ask God to give you recall that you might remember any way in which you have neglected your friends or family. Also, ask for the courage to do the hard thing of asking for forgiveness.

INTERVARSITY

Week 1

Sat. & Sun, April 5th & 6th



Church Service: If you are regularly attending a church, please continue to do so and answer the applicable questions. Everyone else please choose a church from the list provided and answer the following questions concerning the experience. There are many types of churches in our area. This is a gift in that we can see the different character traits of God exhibited in the whole of the church worship experience.

What does the set up of the church (decorations, platform, seating, etc.) tell you about the congregation's understanding of God's character?

How does the structure of the service communicate the character of God?

What were the main points of the teaching portion of the service?

Local churches

the GOD experiment

Artisan Church:
1235 S. Clinton Ave. 14620
Sunday 10AM & 5PM (ASL Interpretation)
artisanchurch.com

Browncroft Community Church:
2530 Browncroft Blvd. 14625
Sunday 8:45AM, 10AM (ASL Interpretation), & 11:15AM
browncroft.org

Father's House:
692 Paul Rd. 14624
Sunday 9AM & 11AM
tfhny.org

Grace Church:
@ Rochester Christian School
260 Embury Ext. 14625
Sunday school 9:15AM, Sunday Service 10:30AM
gracechurchpca.org

Mosaic:
@ MCC, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd. 14623
Sunday 10:30AM
ourfuturetogether.org

North Baptist:
2052 ST. Paul St. Rochester 14621
Sunday 8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM
northbaptistchurch.org

Open Door Baptist:
350 Chili-Scottsville Rd. 14428
Sunday 9:30AM & 11AM
opendoorchili.org

Trinity Alliance Church:
12745 Spencerport Rd. 14606
Sunday 10:30AM
gateschurch.com

Trinity Communion Charismatic Episcopal Church:
759 Winona Blvd. 14617
Sunday 10AM
trinitycommunion.org

Any other Church or on-campus service are welcome