

**Bible Study Series**  
**DREAMTHINK.**  
**BE.DO.**

**Session Two – Stories of Creation**

Creation narratives

Two distinct creation stories at the beginning of Genesis - neither was meant to give a scientific account

Using poetry, describes why humans are the way we are

Bible as divine vs human product

*Marcus Borg*

Bible contains Ancient Israel's stories of creation

-metaphorical and symbolic narratives

There are conflicts between the two Genesis creation stories

“And it was good...”

*Amy-Jill Levine*

Genesis 2 account is messier!

“How do hear the idea of creating order out of chaos?”

-has been set to music many times

The creation of people, and relationship between Adam and Eve, is different in the two Genesis accounts

Be alert to meanings in the Bible that transcend the literal

The story of people in the garden, and God not allowing irresponsibility.

*Culver “Bill” Nelson*

Twain's story of what gives life meaning: Adam saying he'd rather be outside the garden with Eve than inside without her

“Mother earth” as a metaphor for crucified and resurrected Jesus (attributed to Matthew Fox)

Care for the environment - critical for our spiritual lives and for our collective future

We're all kin, all interdependent - the basis of compassion *Matthew Fox*

Believing in both creation and evolution

*Barbara Rossing*

There is no conflict between them

-God and science can be laid side-by-side

Global climate change - most urgent issue today

We need the best of science and theology working together

We continue to experience how the divine reverberates from every corner of creation, today



**SPIRIT PRACTICE**

Tending a garden is just one way to be in touch with a deeper appreciation of creation. Choose one or more of the following that you might do in the coming while:

Spend time in a garden with someone who can rarely get outside.

Help someone begin composting or recycling.

Contemplate how you perpetuate a hierarchical approach to life and work? How does that alter your view of each part of creation?

How might a collaborative approach change your view?

Consider other ways that might be helpful in appreciating creation.

For discussion:

Did you hear new things about the creation stories you hadn't realized before?

What did you think of the images of creation in the art included in the session?

