



# Leaders Notes

## GLUE – Session 1 – Creation

### What's likely to come up...

As a leader of GLUE then you need to be pretty clued up yourself. Be prepared. It is likely that you will be asked a range of questions that arise from the material.

This session is likely to bring up the following questions/topics:

### Is the Creation story a poem or is it literal?

To answer this question you need to understand the context of the creation narrative in Genesis 1. You need to understand the concept of world-views (the lenses through which we see the world) – i.e. pre-modern, modern and post-modern. It might be useful to understand the difference of the Creation narrative in Genesis when compared to other creation narratives. i.e. That God created out of nothing and that God (one) created.

### Fundamentalist Christianity

Fundamentalism arises from a literal understanding of the Bible. This literal understanding comes from applying a modern world-view (i.e. our typical Western world-view) to the Bible. When you do this the Bible becomes 'literally true' or 'literally untrue' (a myth). We assert that applying a modern world-view to a pre-modern text is a recipe for disaster! The writer of Genesis was not a produce of modernity!

### Dawkins and militant atheism

It would be worth understanding Dawkins' basic arguments. Look up the discussion between Dawkins and Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Canterbury). Much militant atheism stems from a modern world-view and is at loggerheads with fundamentalist Christianity which is another modern world-view.

### The paradox of God being one and community.

Genesis 1 brings up the issue of God creating humans in *our* image – in other words the concept of God being both one and community. God is not ultimately knowable by his creation – there is still some mystery to God. We cannot fully describe God verbally or textually – our attempts are not God but a description of God. The Jews asserted that God is One (see the Shema) but at the same time the Jewish writings assert that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit - The Holy Trinity.

### The argument for evolution?

Evolution as a theory precludes God, yet the theory states 'how' the world was made. Genesis 1 does not say *how* the world was made but *who* made the world and *why*. Many evolutionists recognise that there is some outward force (of nature) compelling creation.



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### Times that water features in the Bible

#### **Baptism**

baptism means to plunge, the New Testament describes the baptised believers as New Creation – the link back to water and creation.

#### **Jesus walking on water**

Jesus saying the I AM is here, walking on water then calming the storm – relates to Genesis 1 – Spirit of God hovering over water, water being tamed – i.e. order being brought out of chaos.

#### **Water into Wine**

Asign pointing to what Jesus came to do – to being order out of chaos

### Helpful Reading

A New Kind of Christian, Brian McLaren

The Story We Find Ourselves In, Brian McLaren

Genesis (Interpretation Series) by Walter Brueggemann