



## God: (He Is Here And He Is Not Silent)

Genesis 1; Romans 1:18-23

Week of Aug 20 – 26

### Icebreaker Question:

- 1 | What's something in your house you want to get rid of but can't? (Please no naming your spouse or children!)

### Into the Text Questions:

Read Genesis 1

- 1 | Genesis 1:1 reveals several characteristics of God. Which ones are reflected in human characteristics? In Genesis 1-2, God *calls* the creation into being and then invites humanity to participate in His creative and life-giving acts (2:15). God gives us a vocation to care for and tend all of creation. What are the various roles in your life through which you seek to be faithful to God's covenantal relationship (spouse, grandparent, church member, employee, citizen, friend, etc.)? How do you seek to trust and serve God in your life?
- 2 | Skeptics often demand proof of God's existence. Read Psalm 53:1 and Romans 1:18–20. How would God respond to such demands for evidences of His character and authority? How does the very first verse of the Bible reveal this same response to human demands for evidence? At first it may seem strange to see jealousy as an expression of love. Read Ezekiel 36:1–15. How is God's love for the children of Israel expressed through His jealousy?
- 3 | Why are attitudes like jealousy and anger usually unacceptable for mankind but fully justified for God? Read 2 Corinthians 11:2. Is it ever right for us to be jealous or angry? Read Revelation 1:8 and Psalm 19. What do these passages reveal about God's attitude toward the human tendency to question His authority? Meditate on Psalm 8. How does God's authority relate to man's authority? How should we respond to His authority?

### Application Questions:

- 1 | In Genesis 12, God *calls* Abraham and makes him the father of a new people that will be a blessing all the world. God's plans are different than Abraham's and God calls him into a new way of life, empowered by God's promises. Have there been times in your life where you've felt called away from the familiar life you were leading? How might God be calling you *today* to "be a blessing" for all people?
- 2 | Abraham had a difficult time trusting in the promises. Notice how quickly he loses trust in God's promise of prosperity (12:4-10). Nonetheless, God remains faithful to God's promises, even when Abraham doesn't. When is it difficult for you to trust in God's grace and mercy? When is it difficult to have faith? As followers of Jesus Christ, the church is called to continue being God's blessing in and for the world. How do you think God is calling the church today? What is your vocation as a member of a faithful community?