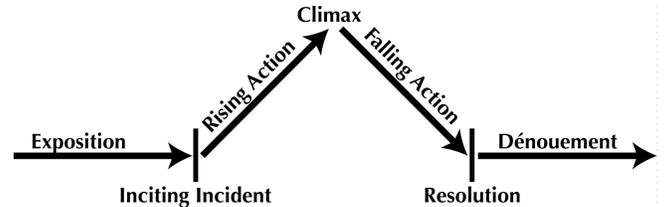




Reflection Guide for  
March 11, 2018

## Act 1 / CREATION: God Establishes His Kingdom

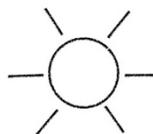
1. What is your favorite story (from a book, movie, bedtime story, etc.)? Why?
2. Do you think reading the Bible can be hard sometimes? What are some possible reasons for this? Be honest.
3. How can understanding the message of the Bible as a story—with characters, setting, plot, conflict, resolution, etc.—help you? (Reminder: Just because we call something a “story,” doesn’t mean that it is fiction, e.g. “once upon a time...”).
4. Read Genesis 1:1-2:3. What do you think is the significance of the refrain, “And God saw that it was good” at the end of each creative day? And finally, “It was very good (1:31)”?
5. How does creation (both the action and the result) reflect God’s character? What do we learn about him?
6. Read Psalm 8. What are some things you most appreciate about God’s creation that makes you want to praise him?
7. Reflect on the significance of the role that God intends for humanity to fill in his creation (1:26-31). If God is establishing his reign in this new world He created, then what place does humanity have in it? Think in terms of privilege and responsibility.
8. Prayerfully consider how you can do one thing this week as a kingly representative of God to be a good steward (manager, caretaker) of his creation (nature and humanity!). Share that with at least one other person.



The significance—and ultimately the quality—of the work we do is determined by our understanding of the story in which we are taking part. If we think of ourselves as merely biological creatures, whose story is determined by genetics or environment or history or economics or technology, then, however pleasant or painful the part we play, it cannot matter much. Its significance is that of mere self-concern. "It is a tale / Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, / Signifying nothing," as Macbeth says when he has "supp'd full with horrors" and is "awearied of the sun."

If, on the other hand, we believe that we are living souls, God's dust and God's breath, acting our parts among other creatures all made of the same dust and breath as ourselves; and if we understand that we are free, within the obvious limits of mortal human life, to do evil or good to ourselves and to the other creatures - then all our acts have a supreme significance.

—from "Christianity And The Survival Of Creation" by Wendell Berry



CREATION