

School of Theology - Follow Up Discussion Questions

1. What did you find striking or challenging about the session?
2. Dave used the image of toddlers let loose in a space station as a parable for humanity's relationship with the earth. How fair do you think that image is? What does it stir in you - guilt, defensiveness, sadness or something else?
3. Dave placed three worldviews on a diagram - anthropocentric (human-centred), ecocentric (earth-centred), and theocentric (God-centred). Where did you place yourself at the start of the session? Did anything shift by the end? What does a genuinely theocentric view of creation actually demand of us in practice?
4. Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:15. What is the difference between "ruling over" creation and "working and taking care of" it? How should these two passages shape a Christian understanding of our role on earth?
5. Dave argued that the broken relationships caused by the fall are not just between us and God, but also between us and each other, and between us and creation. Read Romans 8:19-22. What does it mean that creation is "groaning"? When did you last feel something like grief or solidarity with that groaning?
6. Dave made the case that the gospel is not an escape from this world but the renewal of it, pointing to the Greek word *kainos* (renewed) rather than *neos* (brand new) whenever the New Testament speaks of new creation. Does that change how you think about heaven, hope, or what we're working towards?
7. Dave quoted Jeremiah 29:4-7 and the call to "seek the shalom of the city." How does the full meaning of shalom - restored relationships with God, neighbour, self, and creation - expand your understanding of what it means to be a good neighbour where God has planted you?

Pray together, and if you're willing, include in your prayer something specific: a place, a creature, or a part of creation that matters to you. Let that be part of your worship.