

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of February 19, 2017

Genesis 1:27-28

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>27</sup> *God created humanity in God's own image,  
in the divine image God created them,  
male and female God created them.*

<sup>28</sup> *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground."*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. What do you think God's plan is for creation and how is God carrying out that plan?

2. What is your explanation for the problem humans have with suffering and evil? Is God responsible for suffering? If not, who or what is?
  
3. Recall the temptation that Adam and Eve experienced in the Creation Story. What does this incident tell us about humanity and sin?
  
4. What does it mean in Genesis when the writer says God has given human beings “dominion” over his planet?
  
5. The Bible is about people who refused to let go of their faith in the face of suffering. Give examples from the Bible when people use their faith to confront their suffering. If we are not open to faith during suffering, what are our options?
  
6. The Bible does not teach that followers of God’s will will live in bliss. Share any stories of people who have subscribed to the theology of bliss.

7. How do you think the statement “everything happens for a reason” might be interpreted if you believe people of faith live a life of bliss?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How might the statement “everything happens for a reason” be offensive to a person who is dealing with some type of tragedy in their life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. When it comes to suffering, our choices may cause it and at other times it just happens. Explain the difference between these two situations.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How can our faith allow us to transform our suffering into something good and life giving?