

Covenant Bible Study

Week One Conversation Guide

I hope that this is a helpful guide to you as you encounter your conversation. Add to it or modify it as you need to in order to facilitate the best conversation for you. I am presuming a 75 minute conversation and am including some time guides to help you imagine how the time might go. I welcome feedback.

Opening (10 minutes)

- Use this time to check in with each other and to share how things are going.
- Devotional
- I would suggest that you gather the prayer concerns here. That will help the group to understand the space of those who are participating. Someone should make a list of any prayer requests to divide at the end of the session.

Settling In (30 minutes)

- Review the Conversation Guide to see what will be part of the discussion later.
- Identify anything from your reading that stuck out for you, that you have questions about, or was particularly inspiring.
 - You can either choose to discuss them at this point or see where they might fit in during the larger conversation.
- Share your answers to the questions posed for your consideration:
 - What do you most need from your fellow participants?
 - What are you able to offer?

Encountering another Perspective (10 minutes)

Walter Brueggemann writes about the flood and first covenant in his Genesis Commentary:

We are confronted in this text not with a flood, but with a heavy, painful crisis in the dealings of God with creation. It is popularly thought that the crisis of the flood is to place the world in jeopardy. But a close reading indicates that it is the heart and person of God which are placed in crisis. The crisis is not the much water, which now has become only a dramatic setting. Rather, the crisis comes because of the resistant character of the world which evokes hurt and grief in the heart of God. Franz Delitzsch has seen that the depth of pathos of God expressed here is matched by the extraordinary statement of Hosea 11:8-9. ...The narrative is centered in the grief of God, whose heart knows about our hearts (cf. 1 Chron. 28:9; Jer. 17:10; Ps. 139:23; Rom. 8:27). This daring assertion about God is problematic in every static theology which wants God always acting the same and predictably. But the text affirms that God is decisively impacted by the suffering, hurt, and circumstance of his creation. God enters into the world's "common lot."

- How do you react to his idea? What does it say about God?

Other Items of Interest (10 minutes) – Here is where you can add other topics

Departing (10 minutes)

- Look at the chapter for next week.
- Share any additional prayer concerns and invite people to honor one prayer of another person in the week to come.
- Close with the Lord's Prayer or invite someone to share a blessing.