

# LINKS PLAYERS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY 25, 2013

## WORSHIPING OUR CREATOR

*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Romans 1:20, NIV 1984)*

IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO WORK UP THE COURAGE, a bit like weighing the classic risk-reward scenario on a reachable but treacherous par-5. Yet the familiarity of the group—and the prodding of the Lord—pushed me to do it. With one of our local Links Fellowships I've jumped into the opening chapters of Genesis.

There's biblical support for not stirring up controversies (Titus 3:9), and when you've had so much civil discussion among men and women from a variety of denominational backgrounds, you don't want to insert just any difficult topic into the mix. Oh, the Bible will take us to challenging places as we work our way through its pages, but it's not normally in the mix of Christian character to pick a fight.

So how are we getting it done in our Fellowship? Chiefly this: we're keeping our eyes on the *who*, rather than on the *how*.

Actually, this is the same thing we've been doing in every other passage we've studied during our nearly three years together. Last fall, we moved through Hebrews, looking back from the New into the Old. So it made sense to pick up in Genesis, to start from the Old and see how it points to the New. After all, the tried adage remains true: "In the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; in the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed."

We've called our study this: "Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Genesis." In other words, our goal is to see God. I can't imagine a better way to navigate these waters.

When we focus on the *how*, it isn't long before we're staring each other down. "How can you believe such a thing?" we say sometimes out loud and often in our minds. But when we focus on the *who*, the wonder of it all lands us in the perfect place. We look at what has been made, and we begin to understand what the creation was intended to provoke us to understand: who God is and how amazing his power and his divinity are!

### Opening questions: Stand clear!

What topic do you hate to see come up in family conversation—why? What passage(s) of Scripture would you rather just avoid than discuss with others?

### Celebration of creation

*Read Psalm 19:1-6, 14.* What aspects of creation grabbed the psalmist's attention? What response did he encourage in the final verse?

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*Read Psalm 104.* What did the psalmist notice that are favorites of yours in creation as well? Again, what response do we find as the psalm closes?

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### Missing the point

*Read Romans 1:18-25.* What happened when the people took God out of the equation? How is their error summarized in verse 25?

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### The full measure of God's love

*Read Ephesians 3:14-20.* How does greater attention to the wonders of creation, with the Creator in mind all the while, lead us to "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?"