

July 16/23 - Small Group Questions

Read Genesis 1:1-2, 26-28

1. Elohim means "the powers". We see Elohim manifest His powers immediately at the start of the Bible. He creates the world and judges the world (as in, makes distinctions between created things). Elohim then extends His powers to humankind, giving to Adam and Eve His *tselem Elohim* (image of God). The first human pair exercise their *tselem Elohim* by ruling and judging the earth as gardeners in Eden. In view of this, how do we live out the *tselem Elohim* in us at this present time in our own cultural context?

Read Psalm 82

2. Psalm 82 is a liturgical polemic and poem against the abusers of power throughout history. In the psalm, Elohim condemns lesser elohim for their abuse of power and neglect of the marginalised. The psalm ends with a liturgical prayer for Elohim (who is Ruler and Judge) to rise and judge the earth, for He rules over the nations. In light of this future that God will judge the abusers of power, how do we also pray and live out this final prayer of the psalmist for God to judge and rule?

Read John 10:29-38

3. In this gospel narrative, Psalm 82 is re-enacted by Jesus and the religious leaders. Jesus assumes the place of president Elohim and judges and condemns the lesser elohim, the Pharisees, for their abuse of power and neglect of the marginalised. In the end, how does Jesus, the Son of Elohim, manifest His powers to the world, especially for His sheep?

4. In the image of Jesus, in what ways are we being called to lay aside our powers for the sake of the powerless, to lay down our lives for others in the promise that our lives will be taken up again by God in the resurrection?