

Discussion Questions for Chapter 1

1. Can you recount a conversation over a difficult topic that resulted in a change of heart or mutual understanding?
2. Can you recount a conversation over a difficult topic that resulted in a failure to connect?
3. Is the Bible's diversity of perspectives a liability or an asset to faith?
4. What does the Bible's diversity say about biblical authority? Can the Bible remain authoritative even in its diversity?
5. What do you hope for in this study during the Advent season?

Discussion Questions for Chapter 2

1. Which creation text is your favorite and why? Which creation text speaks with greatest relevance for today?
2. Is there a way of finding common ground among these various creation accounts?
3. How does the creation of Adam as a nongendered human being becoming gendered with the creation of Eve impact your notion of gender?
4. What does it take for us to “make peace” with creation?

Discussion Questions for Chapter 3 (Torah)

1. Do you see Old Testament “law” as a burden or as a gift? Or something else?
2. How do biblical notions of ***torah*** differ from “law” as you understand it?
3. Is Old Testament ***torah*** changeable or “written in stone” for all time?
4. How can “law” (***torah***) be a source of joy?
5. What do you do with certain “laws” in the Old Testament that allow for slavery or command exclusion from worship?
6. What is your source of joy during this Advent season?

Discussion Questions for Chapter 9 (God)

1. Does God ever change? What reasons are there for God to change God's mind according to certain biblical texts?
2. What is the relationship between God's mercy and God's justice?
3. According to 1 John 4:8, "God is love." How do the biblical texts discussed in this chapter deepen or nuance this claim?
4. How would you describe God's character in light of the Christmas story in dialogue with God's self-revelation in Exodus 34:6-7?