

Introductory Session - Sep 20th Adult Forum

Materials List

- Journal 1/participant
- Writing Implement 1/participant
- Pleasing sound

Each session of this faith formation experience has multiple parts. This introductory session is a way to experience each of the parts.

Opening Litany

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you

P: Because by your holy word you have created the world

Prayer

Creator God, You gave attention from the very beginning and You continue to give attention to your creation. Help us to grow closer to you as we read Your book of creation in our everyday lives. In Jesus' name, the One who was, who is, and who is to come, Amen

Bible Reading

Genesis 1 - Genesis 2,2

Silence

Readings on Topic

From Sometimes by Mary Oliver

4.

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

Jarod K. Anderson “Field Guide to the Haunted Forest”

“The Whole”

All living things are the same living thing,
A branching tree spreading from a shared past.

This unified creature grows in four dimensions,
and the illusion of separation we see here
on the budding branch-tips
appears because we can't view time
the way we see our own vital hands.

It's as real as the moment mitochondria moved in to stay.
And maybe, in the end, we'll feel it like warm coffee on the tongue,
like skin against skin.

I wish I could wander back through my ancestors
like a steppingstone path.

To Ireland. To Africa.
Past organisms that were never named by humans.
To the sunlit waters where life began to feel its own strange power.
To the forest of hands that lifted me up into my own simple life.

I wish I could know the whole,
so I could love it more completely.

“Lifespan”

A firefly lives two months.

There are bristlecone pines standing today that have lived 5,000 years.

The vital dignity of each of these species is not measured in time.

Both are perfection.

Treat your time likewise.

Your moments deserve the same careful attention as your years.

General info on fireflies <https://xerces.org/endangered-species/fireflies/about>

Our adult flashing fireflies live only 2 months, but larvae live in the ground for up to years. They glow as larvae.

Invitation to Reading the Book of Creation

- Every person can read the book of creation
- It doesn't have to be complicated, take a long time, or be done a certain number of times a day/week.
- You can read the book of creation anywhere.
- You don't have to be an expert.

Further Readings - get to, not have to

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/2025/09/pay-give-attention-crisis-productivity-love/>

Journaling Prompts

About journaling: It is a tool for you. Sharing is a get to, not a have to. Any amount of journaling is good, any style of journaling is good.

- How do you give attention to the created world?
- What makes it easier/harder for you to give attention to the created world?