

1. What does your name mean? Has it affected how you look at yourself? For those of you who have children, why did you pick those names for them? Do you have a favourite name for God?
2. Elohim appears over 2500 in the Bible, and means “strong one”, “majestic”, “creator”. Eloi is the Aramaic equivalent. As well as the first verses in the Bible, the name appears in the Shema, the prayer at the core of Jewish faith, (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) and the ten commandments. Why do you think Elohim was used in those passages rather than the more personal Yahweh?
3. Read Hebrews 11:3. What does this tell us about creation? Why is it important to remember that God is our creator? (Depending on your group, you might like to explore how this belief is very different from other theories, such as the big bang and panspermia. Two great sites are Answers in Genesis <https://answersingenesis.org/> and CMI, <https://creation.com/en/> )
4. Read Gen 18:14 and Luke 1:37. When have you seen God work in what seemed to be an impossible situation?
5. How is your understanding of Gen 1 enhanced by knowing that Elohim is a plural word? How would you describe the doctrine of the trinity to someone who has never read the bible?
6. In the passage we see God speak into being, pronouncing goodness, separating or setting things apart, and calling by name. How does this compare with your own journey of faith? Elohim wants you to know him and rest in him. How does this make you feel?
7. In your prayers, you might like to bring before Him the impossible situations both in the world and in your own lives and lay them at his feet.