

Breath of Life

Life Verses Small Group Devotional — Week 1

*“In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.” — Job 12:10, NIV*

Read Genesis 2:4–7.

Life is amazing, although its building blocks are surprisingly common. Humans are made of the same elements found throughout Earth and the universe, such as oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen. Even DNA, the chemical language of life, is found in all life on Earth and is built from these same common elements. What is ordinary becomes extraordinary.

In this second creation account, humans are described as being created from the dust of the ground. It is both accurate and humbling to acknowledge that the elements that make up our bodies are readily available in the soil, the seas, and the air we breathe. We are dust.

Yet something extraordinary happened. Together, those elements became alive. The ancient author describes this moment as the Creator breathing into the human’s nostrils the breath of life. To have breath is to have life, to be a living being.

Often, we can mistakenly believe that only someone or something great can produce something great. Yet these verses remind us of how the special is crafted from the common, the sacred springs from the mundane, and the natural gives rise to the supernatural.

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Use these questions to discuss and explore the Scripture and devotional reading.

What are some ordinary things that we take for granted or dismiss as not good enough?

What are some amazing things that no longer appeared impossible and magical once you learned how they worked?

Why do we sometimes find it difficult to see the potential for positive change in a person or people group?

How can it be harmful to individuals and communities to view and treat any person or people as insignificant, not good enough, or expendable?