

Redeemer Church Leeds Book of the Term: Spring 2026

THE LANGUAGE OF RIVERS AND STARS

Reading Christian books enriches our faith – but discussing them with others can totally transform it. Sharing insights and wrestling with ideas together brings fresh perspectives we can't gain alone.

That's why we have a Redeemer 'Book of the Term' – an opportunity for a wide range of members of our church family to read and learn from the same book together.

You could use this discussion guide in a DNA group. DNA groups are small groups of 3-4 people (normally from the same City Group) who meet regularly with a shared commitment to help one another:

- **Discover:** engaging and exploring God's word of truth together
- **Nurture:** supporting one another as apply the gospel to our lives
- **Act:** helping each other bear fruit wherever God has placed us

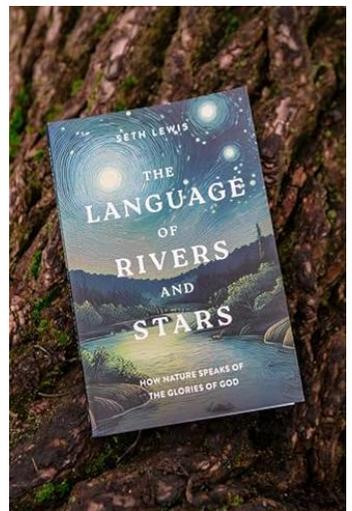
Talk to your City Group Leader if you'd like to belong to a DNA group.

Whether in a DNA group or over coffee with a friend, we hope these discussions grow your faith and increase your capacity for wonder.

The Language of Rivers and Stars

Most of us will have felt closer to God while walking in the Yorkshire countryside or gazing up at the starry sky.

The Language of Rivers and Stars helps us interpret God's world through God's word, learning to hear his voice in the beauty around us. It's an ideal choice as our book of the term: it combines accessible theology with everyday experiences we can all relate to and discuss – from insights into the Bible to our personal encounters with God in his world.



DISCOVER

- Share a time nature made you feel ‘vitaly alive’ (see p. 12). What was it about that moment?
- Seth Lewis calls the sun ‘one massive, burning ball of meaning’ (p. 25) – a hieroglyph pointing to God. Have you ever thought of creation speaking a language?

INTRODUCTION & CHAPTERS 1-4

NURTURE

- Lewis claims the Bible is our ‘Rosetta Stone’ for interpreting creation. Do you find this idea liberating or limiting for your enjoyment of the world? Where might you need to adjust your expectation?
- Of Lewis's steps for hearing God’s voice in nature (discover, interpret, respond – see pp. 51-56), which most excites you? Which daunts you?

ACT

- Discuss how, before you next meet, you might each spend ten minutes outside paying attention to one aspect of creation. Consider arranging a time to go on a walk, hike or bike ride together (perhaps with non-churched friends). Or simply head outside right now! What do you think God is saying through what you see?

DISCOVER

- **Sky:** Lewis says the sky is ‘God's never-ending newsfeed’ (p. 70) – overwhelming and beautiful. When did you last feel overwhelmed by creation? What did this stir in you?
- **Sea:** In the Bible, the sea represents chaos and danger, yet we need it to survive. What ‘seas’ in your own life feel both necessary and threatening?

CHAPTERS 5-8

NURTURE

- **Light:** Lewis writes that we must ‘open our eyes and receive what is given from another source’ (p. 63). Where do you find yourself trying to generate your own light to walk by rather than receiving God's?
- **Sky:** ‘We *need* to be overwhelmed’ (p. 72). How is being overwhelmed healthy? How does this challenge our society’s emphasis on control and comfort? And what does this say to you personally?

ACT

- **Land:** Lewis says we’re to use creation’s resources for God’s priorities – as artists, builders, caregivers and gardeners. Each identify one way your work could better reflect God's priorities for his creation. Use this as a point for prayer for each other.
 - Before you meet again, choose one element (light, sky, sea or land) to observe intentionally. What might God be saying to you through it?
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DISCOVER

- **Seeds:** Lewis says, in seeds, God “packs life into small packages.” What's the smallest act of gospel faithfulness you've seen produce unexpected growth – in yourself or someone else?
- **Stars:** The vastness of space could make us feel insignificant, yet Psalm 8 says God cares for humanity. How do you hold these two truths together?

CHAPTERS 9-12

NURTURE

- **Times & Seasons:** What season are you in now, and what is it revealing about your faith? Where would you value prayer from others?
- **Sea Creatures:** ‘A hidden life devoted to the Lord can be as deep and glorious as the sea.’ (p. 121). Share something you're doing that feels unnoticed or unappreciated. How does knowing God sees these things change how you view them?

ACT

- Before next time, go stargazing one night, watch a nature documentary or research a deep-sea creature you'd never heard of before! You could do it together! Or each commit to planting a seed or bulb and watch it grow. What is God saying to you through what you see?
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DISCOVER

- **Birds:** Lewis says birds live in 'complete dependence' yet are perfectly free. When have you experienced freedom through depending on God rather than controlling everything yourself?
- **Animals:** Animals sense realities we can't perceive, reminding us there's far more to creation than meets the eye. What invisible realities (spiritual, relational, eternal) do you tend to forget about in daily life?
- **Ourselves:** 'If all of creation is the orchestra of praise, we are the choir' (p. 145). What does it mean that only humans can put creation's praise into words? How does this shape your view of being human?

CHAPTERS 13-17

NURTURE

- **Birds:** When we trust God's provision like the birds, we can shift attention from our own needs to the needs of others. Where do you struggle to believe that God will provide for you? What can others at Redeemer pray for you?
- **Wonder:** Nothing is ordinary – even here in Leeds. Even the grass deserves careful attention! What 'ordinary' thing around you might be speaking of God if you just slowed down to notice and hear?

ACT

- **Rest:** Sabbath moments remind us that 'there is far more to life than physical existence.' What might this look like for you practically?
- As we finish this book, which one idea or image will you carry with you? How has it changed the way you see God, yourself or the world?