

NATURE SPEAKS

Time: 35 Minutes

God's invisible qualities – *ROMANS 1:20*

RESOURCES

- Romans 1:20 written in large print on poster with the following four phrases highlighted in different colors:
 - God's invisible qualities
 - have been clearly seen
 - being understood
 - from what has been made
- The Fibonacci sequence (see backstory) written on a large poster board
- Seashells on a platter—one per participant
- Sticky notes per participant
- Writing utensil per participant
- Optional objects (instead of seashells): leaves, trees, rocks, flowers, clouds, nature colors around you, and other nature items. (Adapt procedure to fit objects chosen.)

BACKSTORY

Fibonacci numbers appear often in nature. Sunflowers, for example, have seeds arranged in spirals—one set turning to the left and another set turning to the right. If you count the number of spirals in each direction, they are almost always two numbers from the Fibonacci sequence.

So what are the Fibonacci numbers? They are a sequence of numbers that start with 0 and 1. From there on, the next number is just the sum of the last two numbers (i.e. $0 + 1 = 1$; then, $1 + 1 = 2$). So if you put the sequence together, it looks like this: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, etc. What does this show about God?

PROCEDURES

1. Read aloud the phrases from Romans 1:20 four times, each time emphasizing a different phrase.
2. Ask a volunteer to restate (in different words) the meaning of the verse. Ask if anyone has anything to add.
3. Invite participants to take one shell.
4. Say:
 - *Notice everything you can about your object. What can it help you understand about God's invisible qualities? Write or draw what you observe on sticky notes.*
 - *Talk with a partner about what you noticed.*
 - *Let's praise God together for these qualities. Finish the following phrase: God, you are _____.*
5. Invite everyone to chorally respond with the phrase: "We praise you, God."
6. As you close, invite participants to put their shells back on the platter and post their notes around the platter.

Additional note: See if participants discover that seashells often show a Fibonacci sequence.