



LIVING THE WORD

God's Story @ Home

Family Faith Formation

2021 – 2022



Family Guide

Fall Quarter

September 12 to November 21, 2021

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Living the Word: God's Story @ Home (Narrative Lectionary, Year 4)

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Lesson #4-1

GOD'S GOOD CREATION

Genesis 1:1–2:4a



Key Verse:

God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good.
Genesis 1:31

The Point:

God declares that creation is good.



INTRODUCTION

As we begin our program year, we celebrate beginnings: the beginning of creation, the beginnings of life on earth, and the beginning of humanity's relationship with God. This, the first of two creation stories found in Genesis, sets forth a description of each "day" (metaphorical period of time), always ending with the litany-like response of "And God saw that it was good." God created earth, all of its vegetation and elements, and animals, and created and blessed humanity, and gave them the responsibility to care for the rest of creation. The word that is often translated as "have dominion over" can be more accurately understood as "having responsibility for" or even "serving." Our responsibility to care for creation

is as servant leaders, rather than dominators. In the story of creation, on the seventh day, after creating all that is, God rested, and established the expectation that we, too, rest from our labors regularly.

The Point

God declares that creation is good. Our fundamental understanding of God is based in our understanding of God's creating power. Not only did God create all that is, but God saw that it was "good," and then gave humanity the responsibility and privilege of caring for God's workmanship. We are blessed not just with the abundance of God's creation, but also simply because we were the ones created to care for it.

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

INTRODUCTION

BLESSINGS ALL AROUND

Create poetry about creation's blessings.

15 MIN. † Mural paper
 † Markers
 † Tape

LEARNING THE STORY

GOD'S GOOD CREATION

Create a dramatic retelling of the creation story.

20 MIN. † Bible

ACTIVITIES

STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

List ways to care for creation.

10 MIN. † Mural paper
 † Markers
 † Tape

REMEMBER THE SABBATH

Share Sabbath practices.

10 MIN. † None

PRAYER



GOD'S STORY @ HOME



INTRODUCTION (15 MINUTES)

BLESSINGS ALL AROUND

Create poetry about creation's blessings.

Supplies:

- † Mural paper
- † Markers
- † Tape

Preparation:

1. Place a sheet of poster paper and markers on a table where it is accessible to everyone.

Instruction:

1. **As we get into reading our story today, and over the next few weeks, we will notice a recurring theme: Blessings. God has blessed us by providing an abundance of resources for us, and has also blessed us by giving us the responsibility to care for them. We will hear story after story of God's blessings.**
2. **Today, we will begin our focus on blessings by writing poetry together. We will work together to write a poem on this piece of poster paper. Each person will contribute a line about how an element of God's creation—animals, plants, mountain, or ocean, for example—blesses them.**
3. **Feel free to help each other craft lines, if people want help, but do not try to organize the poem as a whole. It will come together from the thoughts of each person who contributes a line.**
4. When all have finished, read the poem out loud.

LEARNING THE STORY (20 MINUTES)

GOD'S GOOD CREATION

Supplies:

- † Bibles

Preparation:

1. Decide how to divide the story into sections. There are seven days to be pantomimed. You may choose to work on each day together as a family instead of having individuals do each day.

Instruction:

1. Hand out Bibles to each person.
2. Assign a day (or more) to each person, or work on each day together:
 - a. Day One: Genesis 1:1-5
 - b. Day Two: Genesis 1:6-8
 - c. Day Three: Genesis 1:9-13
 - d. Day Four: Genesis 1:14-19
 - e. Day Five: Genesis 1:20-23
 - f. Day Six: Genesis 1:24-31
 - g. Day Seven: Genesis 2:1-4
3. **Our story today paints a vivid picture about creation and the amazing acts that God did creating all that is. We will take each day of creation to read or dramatize. Come up with a creative way to present your day to us. One person can read while others pantomime, or you could paraphrase the text and take turns speaking. Or, you could come up with another way to creatively tell your part of the story.** Please be sure to give everyone a role in the dramatization.
4. Give everyone time to work, and then present in order.
5. After the story is told, discuss the following questions as a group:
 - a. **Why do you think creation is described as happening in the order that it is?**
 - b. **What does God think about each thing that is created?** *[It is good.]*
 - c. **What stands out to you in this reading?**
 - d. **What do you do to rest from your work?**

ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

REMEMBER THE SABBATH

Share Sabbath practices.

Supplies:

† Nothing

Instructions:

1. **Our reading says that on the seventh day, God rested from the work of creation. God blessed the seventh day, and called it holy. The Ten Commandments remind us that God expects us to honor the Sabbath day, the day of rest. Some traditions have very strict rules about what people can and cannot do on the Sabbath, in order to honor God's commandment to keep it holy. Each individual and family should find their own way to honor the Sabbath. What do we do? What do you not do that you would like to?**
2. Share how you honor the Sabbath. Confess if you do not honor it the way you should or you would like, and suggest a change that you would like to make.

ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

List ways to care for creation.

Supplies

- † Mural paper
- † Markers
- † Tape

Instructions:

1. **God instructed the first humans that they were to take care of the earth. We have inherited that responsibility, and have a lot to do to care for the plants, animals, natural structures, and natural resources that God has given to our care. Let's brainstorm a list of ways that we can care for each of these.**
2. Lead a discussion of how we, as individuals, can care for the earth. Divide the conversation into the four topics listed above, and take notes on the poster paper.
3. After the brainstorming is finished:
 - **Is there any one thing on this list that you would like to begin doing?**
 - **What on the list would like our congregation to begin doing?**
 - **What can we do to get started?**

PRAYER

We have learned today about God's amazing blessing of creation! Let's review the days of creation. I will share a statement about each day, and you will respond with, "And God saw that it was good!"

Leader: **On the first day, God created heaven and earth, light and dark, night and day,**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Leader: **On the second day, God created water and sky,**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Leader: **On the third day, God created earth and sea, plants and trees,**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Leader: **On the fourth day, God created sun, stars, and moon,**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Leader: **On the fifth day, God created swimming creatures and flying creatures,**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Leader: **On the sixth day, God created animals of the land, including humans, and gave humans all of creation to care for,**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Leader: **And, do not forget, on the seventh day, God rested and expects us all to rest!**
All: And God saw that it was good!

Encourage everyone to hold hands. Begin and end the prayer, but leave enough silence in the middle for people to participate.

Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Loving God,

Thank you for the amazing glory of your creation. Thank you for creating us to care for the earth and for each other. Thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed us. Hear now a word from each of us that states a part of creation that blesses us.

Invite individuals to add their blessings here. **Thank you for these and for the ways we do not even recognize that you bless us. In Jesus' name. Amen.**