

Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

While the story of Adam and Eve delves deeper into our humanity, in Genesis Chapter 1 we are introduced to God's grand design and our place in it. We are reminded that all God creates is indeed good, and humanity being created in the image of God is very good. As a result, however, humanity has a responsibility to tend to and care for the earth God has crafted. A key element of this stewardship is the concept of Sabbath, or rest. Rest is introduced as a critical component of our sharing in God's creative work.

Theology Connection:

In this creation narrative, and it is a creation narrative not a scientific extract, we are introduced to the fundamental foundations behind creation. All that we see is good, being a gracious gift from a compassionate God. God's good intention is to be in a mutual relationship with humanity as we are made to share in God's character and tend to his work. Thus, we are given the responsibility of nurturing creation, reflecting the same love toward others as God has expressed toward us.

Application:

In today's text we see the justification for 'a day of rest.' For the Jews the day began at sundown. Not only was this a time of refreshment, recreation, and restorative relationships, but it is a time for rest. Having fully rested the day begins in acknowledgement of this gift of grace. In other words, we do not earn our time away from work, but it is the time off that prepares us to live fully into our vocation as a partner with God.

The Text: Genesis 1: 1-5, 24-2.3

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God, he created them;
male and female, he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

ADULT

We often can get caught in these debates about God's creative work on one hand and evolution on the other. First of all, I believe we can agree that we continue to evolve and that we continue to participate in a regenerative creative spirit at work in the world. More importantly, the bible as a whole, and the Book of Genesis in particular were not intended to be read as a science manual or an instruction book. Think of them more as poetry. Poetry speaks to a deeper truth than mere facts will ever address. While science may want to teach us how, poetry (and scripture) wishes for us to explore the why. Genesis is attempting to give us some clues as to why are we here. How do you answer that question, and how do you live into your answer?

YOUTH

Please read Genesis 1:1-5 and 24:2-3

All creation displays God's design, power, and goodness, but only human beings are said to be made in God's image. What does that mean to you?

Why is it important for us to recognize God as our Creator?

How does our knowledge of God as Creator affect how we live?

What are common conceptions of God today?

Let us pray:

Dear God, thank you for the book of Genesis which tells us of the origin of everything. Thank you for creating us in your image. Please help us live a life a purpose, meaning and honor your image. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

CHILDREN'S

Did you know that a long time ago there was nothing? No trees, no people, no buildings, not even sound or smell! Darkness was everywhere, that's all there was. That's what it was like before God decided to make our world. God created our entire world in six days. He made something different on each of the six days and then on the seventh day God was finished and rested.

Day 1: God said, "let there be light!"

Day 2: God separated the water above the earth from the water on the earth, placing the sky between the two.

Day 3: God names the dry land 'earth', and made plants of every kind to grow from it.

Day 4: God made the light of the day, the sun. He also made the light of the night, the moon and stars.

Day 5: God created the animals that live in the water, as well as the birds that fly in the air.

Day 6: God made animals of all shapes and sizes! He also created people like you and I. He formed the first man out of dust from the ground!

Day 7: So, everything that God created was finished. He took this day to rest from all of His work. God blessed the 7th day and made it a holy day.

Memory Verse:

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth."

Pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank You for blessing us with all of Your amazing creations. Please help us to care for this beautiful place that You have made. Amen.