

Week 3: Creation, Part Two

Subject Matter

This lesson is week 3 of a 24 week unit. (If the curriculum is being shortened, this lesson would be week 3 of 15.)

The students have finished a week of learning about Creation according to reformed theology, as well as Scripture. This particular lesson is a continuation of the previous lesson, looking at the perfection of God's creation through our own eyes and our abilities to name and describe God's creation.

Main Idea

God created everything and declared every created thing was very good! When God made human beings and breathed life into us, God had a special purpose in mind for human life: to love God, love one another, and take care of the entire beloved creation. As part of God's creation, we should take time to stop and recognize the truly awesomeness of all of God's creation, including the vast diversity of creation living together in the Kingdom of God.

Using the Creation Story in Genesis 1, as well as Lily Brown's Paintings, students will reflect on creation through painting which will be used as visuals in a worship service, through sermon illustrations or bulletin covers. Students will hear the stories and independently reflect on God's creation through painting their interpretations of the Scripture and God's creation.

Lesson Goals

By the end of this lesson, the students will be able to :

- Interpret an understanding of the Genesis creation story from Scripture
- Begin to recognize the beauty of God's creation in the world around us
- Recognize God's pleasure and pride in all of creation, that is present whether we notice or not
- Create a work of art that is representative of personal interpretation of Scripture, which will be used in a future worship service and shared with the congregation

Space, Setup & Materials

- Tables and chairs with enough seating for all students
- Several sheets 18x24 white paper, enough for each student to have at least 2 sheets
- Watercolor paint trays and brushes for each student
- A copy of *Lily Brown's Paintings* by Angela Johnson
- Bibles
- Learners will have their own notebooks

Learning Style & Multiple Intelligences

- Intrapersonal
- Kinesthetic

Preparation

Before any the class begins ask either three or six of the students to participate by reading aloud when the scripture reading is shared at the start of the lesson. Choose the number of readers based upon the size of the class, not having more than half of the class participate as readers. Give them an index card with a section of verses for them to read printed on the card, and ask them to read these when we do a group reading and their verses are up in the story. Ask for any clarifying questions prior to the start of the lesson.

Card verses:

Genesis 1:3-5, Genesis 1:6-8, Genesis 1:9-13, Genesis 1:14-19, Genesis 1:20-23, Genesis 1:24-31

Opening (5 minutes)

- Welcome
- Announcements & Topic Introduction
- Morning Prayer

Hearing the Story (15 minutes)

- Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1-2:3 aloud to the class. Pause for a minute of reflection following the reading.
- Read the story through a second time, this time as a group reading. The teacher should serve as the narrator, starting by reading Genesis 1:1-2, and ending by reading Genesis 2:1-3. At the completion of the second reading, ask the students to sit and reflect quietly, allowing the images to sink in as they begin to think about this story in light of what they have learned the previous week about the Goodness and Perfection of God's creation.
- After a minute or two of quiet, read Lily Brown's Paintings to the group.

Responding to the Story (30 minutes)

- Give each student two sheets of the paper, a cup of water, a paintbrush and a tray of watercolor paints. Instruct the students to take the next 30 minutes to reflect on God's creation. Give a few hinting thoughts, but allow this to be a meditative, introspective look at the past week of study.

One word hints: beauty, perfection, responsibility, companion, image (of God), creature, human, good, light, earth

- Remind the students that they will be sharing their paintings with the congregation in worship through sermon illustrations (displayed on the screen) or through bulletin artwork. They do not have to put a name on the front of the painting, but do soon the back so it can be returned after use.

Cleaning & Closing (10 minutes)

- Ask for a volunteer to close the group in prayer, giving thanks for God's creation.
- Remind the youth that they need to stay and help clean up from the day's lesson.