



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#19 – What Makes Something Very Good? Genesis 1:31-2:1

PICTURES NEEDED

- 19-1 Earth from space
- 19-2 Beautiful nature scene

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What were people and animals given to eat at the time of their creation? What does this mean they didn't eat? How do plants produce food? Where do plants store food? How do we know God is the one who supplies our needs? Besides food what do we need to survive? How does God supply what we need for life?
- **The Big Question Review:** What does God give to all living things? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 145:15-16
God provides for the needs of all life.

¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Questions: What is the source of everything we need?

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

In six days God created the world and all that is in it. **(picture 19-1)** What did God do at the end of each day of creation? At the end of each day, God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good. After God had given the commands to the man he created to fill the earth and rule over it, God surveyed his creation and proclaimed it “very good.” Genesis 1:31-2:1 says, ³¹*God 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.*

What does it mean when God says his creation was “very good”? God had finished the work of creating. He had a plan in mind when he spoke matter and life into existence. When God brought his plan to completion, it worked the way he designed it to work. His plan had been to create a beautiful and perfect place for men to live in and to fill it with a vast array of complex living things.

What was God’s purpose for creating people? God made people to enjoy the wonderful world he had created and he designed man to live in a right relationship with him and reflect his image in the way they interacted with the other parts of his creation and bring glory to him. At the time of creation, everything was perfect and worked just the way God wanted it to. It was “very good.”

(Let students give their answers for the questions below.)

What was very good about light? Provides the light and heat needed for life.

What was very good about the sun? Continual, stable source of light for earth, marks the seasons and passage of time

What was very good about the stars? Stabilize the universe so life on earth can exist, give guidance in travel

What was very good about water? Necessary for life, most abundant resource on earth

What was very good about dry ground? Place for plants and animals to live

What was very good about plants? Source of food for animals, make O₂ from CO₂

What was very good about sea creatures? Provide abundant food, give life to the oceans

What was very good about insects? Source of food for animals, pollinate flowers, feed on and break down waste, etc.

What was very good about birds? Keep insects, reptiles and rodents under control, pollinate flowers

What was very good about animals? Fill the world with interest and beauty, provide food and enjoyment, useful for work

What was very good about man? Created in image of God to worship and glorify him
Very good means that all of creation was the best it could be. It was perfect and couldn't be improved upon in any way. It did exactly what God wanted it to do. It reflected the majesty and wisdom of the one who created it.

What does God want from us when we look at his "very good" creation? God wants us to look at his creation and respond to him as God, recognizing that we and everything in the world belong to him. He is the one and only God, worthy of all praise and honor. Many of the psalms in the Bible are expressions of gratitude for who God is. They acknowledge the greatness of God and all he has done. Psalm 100 says,

¹Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. ²Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

During this study we have been examining how creation speaks of God. How should we respond to what we have learned? Once we understand all that God has done we should not remain silent. We are to grow in our understanding and share what we know about God and his creation with others. We need to study science and marvel at the design and intricacy of God's creation.

How do most people respond to God? We live in a time when people have exchanged the truth about God for a lie and have become blind to the majesty of God and his great deeds. People may know a lot of information but they have very little wisdom or understanding since they don't see God through the majesty of his creation. **(picture 19-2)** Looking at this picture it is hard to understand why people don't see the hand of God in creation.

What happens when people reject God and refuse to see his hand in creation? People who reject God put themselves on a path of ever increasing sin that leads to destruction. They don't see God as their authority.

How should we respond to people like that? We need to pray for people and share the truth about God so that people overcome their spiritual blindness and experience the joy and delight of knowing and worshiping the one true and living Creator God.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** When God was done creating what did he say about his creation? What makes something very good? Because of all God has done how should we respond to him?
- **Thought Questions:** If good means that something works the way it is suppose to, according to a good design, what would be the meaning of evil? (Evil is anything that doesn't work according to God's good design. Like rust on a good car can end up destroying it.) Why can evil only exist where there was something good in the first place? (It takes what is good and breaks it down so it doesn't work in the way it should.) When people are good, what do they follow? (God and what is true and right.) When people are evil, what do they follow? (Their own desires. They are opposed to God.) What does it mean to suppress the truth? (You don't believe it and try to discount it. You ignore it and pretend it isn't true.) How do people suppress the truth about God? (They believe the lie about evolution. They try to discredit Jesus and Christians.)
- **Prayer:** Thank God for all he has done in creating you, the world, and all that is in it. Pray that you would learn to worship God as he deserves and that you would reflect his image in the way you live. Pray for those who don't recognize the almighty God through his creation and are blind to his truth.
- **The Big Question: Who is the Creator God?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Psalm 100:2-3** God is the one who made us and we belong to him.

²Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Question: How are we to worship the Lord? Why are we to worship the Lord? What does it mean to be the sheep of God's pasture?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: God said that his creation was very good. It was very good because:

1. It was planned and designed by God to do good things.
2. It was a good and beautiful place for people to live.
3. It worked the way God wanted it to.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** Psalm 100 Word Search

Instructions: Find the underlined verbs in Psalm 100 in the word search puzzle that show how we should respond to God: shout, worship, come, know, enter, give, praise

★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Our Approach to God

Read Psalm 100 again. Divide the group into pairs. Each pair is to come up with synonyms for each of the underlined words in the Psalm. Explain that a synonym is a word that they could insert for the underlined word and keep the meaning the same. After this make a list of all the synonyms they came up with and discuss the meaning of each action in Psalm 100. You can also have the students write out a personal prayer that incorporates the actions in Psalm 100.

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⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

- Shout for joy to the LORD – yell, cry out, raise the roof, let loose with (Let your appreciation for God come out exuberantly. Don't hold back.)
- Worship the LORD with gladness – glorify, exalt, bow down before, revere, honor, esteem (Submit to God with a heart full of delight and reverence.)
- Come before him with joyful songs – approach, draw near, move toward (Draw near to God with songs and thoughts that would please him.)
- Know that the LORD is God – understand, recognize, realize, see (Recognize who God is. He is the Creator and Sustainer of life. Nothing exists apart from God.)
- Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise – come in, go through, pass through, move through (Come into a relationship with God that begins with gratitude and praise him for who he is and all he has done.)
- Give thanks to him – offer, bestow, present, award, grant (Recognize that what you are able to offer God as a gift is gratitude. Express your appreciation for what he has given you.)
- Praise his name – acclaim, laud, extol, glorify, exalt (Acknowledge everything that God is and the wonderful things he has done both for you and all people.)

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: Who is the Creator God?

Reading 1: Acts 17:16-31 God is the one in whom we live and have our being. What did the Athenians like to do at the Areopagus? How did Paul introduce them to the one true God? What is the one true God like?

Reading 2: Psalm 104:1-9 God is clothed with splendor and majesty. What makes God very great? What does it mean that God is clothed with splendor and majesty?

Reading 3: Psalm 145:1-13a God is full of abundant goodness. Why is God worthy of praise?

Reading 4: Psalm 147 God is great and mighty in power. What does God know about the stars? What does God do for the humble? Who does God delight in? What does God have control over?

Reading 5: Jeremiah 32:17-19 God's name is the Lord Almighty. What does it mean that God's name is the Lord Almighty? What do a person's deeds determine?

Reading 6: Psalm 100
Make up movements to go with each verse of Psalm 100 and then memorize the entire psalm.