

saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. God crowns the creation week with a seventh day of rest in which he looks back in satisfaction on the goodness of what He has done. It is important to remember that all we see in our day-to-day life is not good in the same way today. This world and each one of us is marred by sin. Though we still see glimpses of the goodness and beauty of creation, it is marked by the ugly scars of sin and death. One day, when Jesus returns, He will make all things new. The goodness of creation in the beginning will be restored forever in the new heavens and new earth!

Discussion Questions

- Have you taken time to sit and think on the goodness of God's creation? What aspects strike you as good?
- Why are things not as good as they once were? Can you think of examples?
- Atheists try to disprove God by showing how evil or broken the world is. What is the problem with their argument?
- Take some time to thank God in prayer for all that He has done in His goodness.

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In Isaiah 6:3 the seraphim declare "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!*" God is the author of history and the primary character in His story. This means all of creation was performed to bring glory to God. The creation of man exemplifies this focus. Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. You and I were made in God's image to show forth His character in this world. Our purpose, as the Shorter Catechism says, is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The great tragedy of our lives is when we don't glorify Him. In our rebellion we refuse to honor God as our creator. Where we ought to delight in His good works, we instead spurn Him. We forget to thank Him. We grumble about His provision in our lives. We decide to rebelliously go our own way. The joy of the gospel is that God doesn't abandon us in our sin. He sent Jesus Christ to rescue us. Jesus lived a life of holiness before God. He died in our place, for our sins, so that we could be made new. If you believe in Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive your sins, then you are a new creature. You have been born again and are part of the new creation that God is making even now. Have you believed in Him?*

Discussion Questions

- How does creation glorify God?
- What about man's creation in Genesis points to his special place in God's plan to glorify Himself?
- How does meditating on God's creation lead us to worship Him? How has this knowledge affected your own worship?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, November 26th, 2023)

Baptist Catechism Question #12

Q: What is the work of creation?

A: *The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever seen a movie poster or billboard? Front and center, larger than life, stands the main character of the movie. This is who the story is all about. When you look at the poster you know who you are going to see when the movie begins to roll. The Bible tells us in the very first verse who is the main character of God's Word and all of history. It's not you or me or any other created being. It's God himself! Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Notice, God is there before anyone or anything else even exists. He starts everything else going. All of creation comes from Him and is therefore dependent on Him. Not only is He the main character to get the story going, but the whole story from there on out is all about Him too! 1 Colossians 1:16 speaking Jesus says, *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.* Sometimes we read the Bible like we look at family photos. We look for ourselves first. Yet, if God is the main character of the story then we must look for Him first. When we look first to God then we can see ourselves rightly. We can see our sin better. We can also see our salvation in Jesus more clearly.

Discussion Question

- How does seeing God as the main character of the Bible change the way you read it?
- Do you see God as the main character in your life or yourself? What is the problem with seeing yourself as the main character?
- If you were to see God as the main character in your life how might that change the way you live?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What do you think of when you think of power? Do you think of large machines? Trains, trucks, bulldozers, airliners? Do you think of electricity created by power plants, dams, wind turbines? Do you think of explosive power? Guns, rockets, grenades, nuclear bombs? Power is measured by the work accomplished, either to move, build, or even destroy. One of the most remarkable displays of power is seen on the very first page of Genesis, when God creates all things. God's amazing power is seen in the brief moment of time in which He brought into existence all created things. His overwhelming power is seen in the lack of effort required on His part. God did not exert himself in strenuous labor to bring about creation. He merely spoke and all came into being. Psalm 33:9 *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.* We call this speaking "divine fiat". Such is the power of God's Word. God's power is seen in the expansiveness of the creation He made. The universe is composed of innumerable stars collected into innumerable galaxies the stretch out beyond our imagining. His power is seen in the energy he has bound up in even the smallest bits of matter. The energy bound up in an atom, when released, can explode in the power of an atom bomb. God's power in creation is a great comfort to God's people for He is surely able to save us!

Discussion Questions

- What are some of the things God created in the beginning? How do these show God's power?
- When we doubt God's ability to help us, what are we saying about His power?
- Why is God's power a comfort to His people? What about God's power comforts you?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In 2021 Lego released their largest set to-date. Including over 10,000 pieces the set was a replica of the Colosseum in Rome. When you look at the finished product it is a work of artistry and beauty, much like the original colosseum, nor the Lego replica, came about through someone sitting down and starting to put building blocks together. The beauty of the final product is a result of careful planning and deliberation by the architects and artists. With wisdom and skill they set about crafting plans that eventually came to fruition in the final work. If wisdom was required for these works, how much more did creation of the universe require the infinite wisdom of God. Proverbs 3:19 *The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;* When we read the first chapter of Genesis we see that *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters* Genesis 1:2. We see that God's initial creation was an unstructured form, much like the blank canvas and paint before the artist begins. He then with skill and wisdom begins to both form and fill the different parts of creation day-by-day. His wisdom is manifest as he creates an earth teeming with life. Ecosystems are created. Galaxies are set spinning and the Solar system is balanced with perfection. The wisdom of God is on display.

Discussion Questions

- How is God's wisdom seen in the way the world fits together?
- In what ways does the modern idea of evolution seek to blaspheme the wisdom of God?
- How should God's wisdom in creation lead you to trust His providence and plan for your life?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

As you read through Genesis chapter 1 you will note many repeated elements. We already saw how God repeatedly spoke *And God said...* and it was. Another element you will see repeated is the conclusion *and God saw that it was good.* Six times in the first chapter of the Bible God concludes his creative work with this same statement of goodness. Here God indicates the complete perfection of His work. There is no flaw in all the myriad of his works. Each and every creature is crafted to perfection. This statement also points to the utter delight that God takes in His creation work. This delight comes to a height at the end of the chapter when God makes man in His image. With a superlative finality he declares in verse 31 *And God*