

APPLICATION

Focus on the rhythms God creates within this session.
Find the patterns of separating and filling.
Find the repetition of words and statements.

- Why do you think God decided to make creation in a pattern? Why does he make different things on different days?
- Why do you think God created light first? (before the sun)
- Why were the Sun and Moon created? What are their functions? Why are these functions good for us?
- How do verses 1 and 26 set the foundation for God as a triune being? Does Genesis 1 introduce the trinity?
- How should or would you respond if someone stated that they don't believe God did it this way?
- What is most challenging to you about the creation account?
- What stood out to you most in this week's sermon?

Read Genesis 1:3 – 2:3

Inductive Bible Study

- Bold the words "formless" and "void" in your Bibles.
- Put brackets around each instance of "And God said."
- Underline the affirmations of "good" at the end of each day.
- Circle the word "us" in verse 26.
- Underline or Highlight verse 31.
- Lastly, write in "partitioned" or "formed" or "separated" on Days 1, 2 & 3 on the picture on page three of this guide. Write in "filled" on days 4, 5 & 6. Write in "rested" on day 7. Compare these days.

For Parents: Ask your kids this week what they think is good (pizza, tv, cats, etc.). Focus on this concept of goodness. Ask them why such and such is good. And listen to their response. Draw their attention to the fact that things are good because of how they are used, how they help us, and how they are enjoyed. Go around the house and figure out how things are good. Try to make a game out of it!



7 Days of Creation • Session 3

"In the beginning, God created the heavens, and the earth. The Earth was *formless* and *void*..." In this session, we are going to take a deeper dive into the creation of *the Earth and all that's on it*, as it went from *formless* and *void* (empty) to *formed* and *filled*. The seven days of creation are written specifically to tell us how the Earth became the thing it is; being land and water, ground and sky, illuminated with light, alive with life, and ordered with seasons and cycles. The seven days of creation are also written in such a way to tell us how the Earth: the sea, ground, and sky got filled with important things like animals, humans, and stars. So, these seven days of creation are both an account of how the Earth became the way it is, and how it got filled with living things. The Earth, formed and filled from "formless and void", is what Genesis 1:3-2:4 is all about!

Our God inspired this account of creation and crafted it in such a way that it will be intelligible to generations of readers. If we would only stop and look, we might see what it has to tell us. It speaks this way so that children and adults, early man and modern man, and both the wise and simple can understand his awesome creative power. The creation account is not complicated, yet it is profound!

Genesis 1:3-2:4 is a narrowing focus on the Earth; not the whole universe, not all matter, not all the elements, not every material or

process, but the actual Earth we stand on and live in because it is good for us. It is about how that Earth went from formless and void to *partitioned out* the way it is and filled with what we find in it. Lastly, the days of creation account is structured in an orderly pattern, and this is how God does his creating. He could have done it any way he wanted but he found it good and satisfying to do it this way.

MAIN IDEA: God created our world and fills it with living-things. He calls it all good! God can do this in your life too!

I. God Spoke

God has only to speak and things came into being. This demonstrates the sovereignty of God in a marvelous way. It reminds us of the importance and authority behind all of God’s words. If a single word from him can create universes, thunderstorms, and vanquish all who stand against him, then we should take his Word (Jesus) and his words (the Bible) very seriously! For the same power that brought creation into being, rests in the person of Jesus and his words spoken to us in the scriptures. He spoke things into existence and then **called it Good!** Which means creation is good. It’s not bad and evil like some ancient cults thought, or like some modern people think even today. Rather it is good! It is good for us, and it is good we are in it. This does not mean creation isn’t dangerous and harsh sometimes, and it does not mean that creation is static or harmless. Creation is simply good. Now we will see in a few weeks that creation has also been subject to human sin in a powerful and mysterious way. When Adam and Eve sinned and fell, not only did they hurt themselves, but they splintered creation’s good order and harmony. Humans were supposed to steward and enjoy creation, but instead, harm it and the environment now harms humans through disasters, disease, physical pain and toils. Yet, this state is not how creation started.

II. 7 Days of Creation are a Rhythm for us to follow

When Christians begin reading the creation account, the question always comes up, “How long was each day?” Were these seven 24-hour periods? Were they longer time spans? Why did God communicate the creation of the Earth to us in days? Christians can

get caught up in these debates and miss the whole point of the seven-day creation account. Let’s try to steer clear of bickering about if it really happened in a week and focus on *why* God creates in seven days.

The Hebrew word for “day” is Yom. It is a good word to use, though it may not be a scientific word. It’s a good word because it denotes a regular consistent amount of time. Particularly an amount of time humans are familiar with, and do work in. Thus, God communicates himself in a way we would understand. So, what else do we learn from the days? What does the text of the Bible tell us?

- a. God created by separating and filling. The first three days God does separating/dividing/partitioning of two things. The next three days he fills in the void with life and life-giving things.
- b. He does this because the Earth was formless and void. Verse 2 sets the foundation for the first six days of creation to match.
- c. We see a pattern emerging. Each day starts with “Then God said...” and each day ends with “and there was evening, and morning the “x” day”. God works in a planned orderly fashion.
- d. We see a ramping up in goodness. God only calls stuff on the Earth and stuff useful to Earth-dwellers “good”. This means that creation is good. What God does is good and good for us.

These seven “days” tell us what God is like. In other words, without God, our world is formless and empty. It is dark and chaotic, yet God is constantly speaking into the world. He speaks and order follows. He speaks and life fills the void. He speaks and flourishing and goodness happen. He didn’t just do this in the beginning, he does this still!

