

GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR
SERIES: GOD IS THE MESSAGE - I AM THE MESSENGER

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

Psalm 145:5-9; Matthew 7:11; James 1:17; Psalm 100:5; 107:8-9; 119:68; 92:15

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:31

"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

BIG IDEAS

- God is the author of life.
- God created mankind to be in right relationship with Him.
- All of creation exists to glorify the good Creator.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 1:1-31

KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ that brings salvation to sinners.
- Salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Jesus followers have been trusted with the gospel in order to share it with others.



Every student should strive to...

- Share the gospel each month with at least one person who does not know Jesus.
- Practice sharing the gospel using multiple different tools or methods.



Every student should feel...

- Humbled that as believers we have been entrusted with the glorious gospel of our Savior.
- Satisfied in Jesus as the only true Savior



Every student should want...

- To grow in awareness of the false saviors they are tempted to put their hope in.
- To have a softened heart and love for people who are lost
- To take advantage of opportunities to share the gospel with people in their lives who need Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:31

"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

All things are from God.

"And God saw everything that He had made..."

- Nothing exists apart from God because He is the beginning of everything. He has always existed and He has no beginning or end. He is the source of all life because He is the only Creator. He spoke the world into existence and breathed life into man's lungs.
- Not only did God create everything, He sustains life on earth. Because of His power, life continues, and He allows the world to continue to exist. Everything in the world and in the heavens is from God. He is the author of every story and the beginning of everything.

God is involved in His creation.

"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good."

- When God spoke the world into being, He did so for His glory. God is not an absent Creator. This means He did not create the world and then step away from it. Instead, God is actively at work in His creation always. After God finished creating, He looked on it and declared it all very good. He continues to be a part of His creation and to interact with it according to His will.
- God created all things for Himself and He desires for man to know Him and to be in a relationship with Him. God involves Himself in the world, controlling all things and allowing all things according to His will.

God is good and perfect and all that He created was good and perfect.

"...and behold, it was very good."

- God is perfect and perfectly holy and righteous. God is sinless and He does not make mistakes. Because God is good and perfect all that He does is good and perfect. When He made the heavens and the earth, they were good and perfect. God said as much when He declared them very good.
- The heavens and earth weren't very good because of themselves, but because they came from God and God is good and perfect. The heavens and earth were broken by man's sin, yet God remains good and perfect. He is the good Creator. The way He interacts with His creation is good and right always.

GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

BIG IDEA #1: GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE.¹**[THIS]**

Webster's dictionary defines "author" as one that originates or creates something; or the source of something. Genesis 1 reveals the author of all creation is God when it says that God created the heavens and the earth. God is the only God; there are no others and because He is the only God, He is the beginning of all things. All of life has its beginning in Him. Not only is God the beginning of all things, He is the ruler of them as well. God authors, or determines every person's life. He controls all things and is sovereign over all that exists. God allows man to have choices within the boundary of His will. This means that though we do make choices, we never do anything outside of God's control or power. Everything we do is done under the umbrella of His sovereignty.

[THEREFORE]

How can you start a discussion with your friends about how creation points to a Creator?

John 1:3 teaches us that all things come from God. As you try to discuss the origin of life with your friends, you can begin by asking your friends their opinion about the beginning of life. Talking about God and pointing out how powerful He is by pointing out creation, such as thunderstorms, the sun, the ocean, etc., can help you start a conversation about the beginning of life. Acts 7:50 and Isaiah 45:7 reminds us that God is indeed the author of all life. By using creation to talk about the beginning of life, you can help your friends think about how people and the world came into being.

How can you tell others about God's rule over all things?

God is sovereign, or rules over everything. Nothing happens outside of His power or control. As you seek to discuss this truth with your friends, you can point out the way that the conditions on earth are just right for human life to exist and to flourish. In Daniel 4:35 and Job 42:2, we are reminded of God's great power and control over all things. When you give examples in your own life of God's power and control, you can help your friends see that God does rule over all things.

[THIS]

All of life is under God's authority. This means that God decides the beginning and end of things. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and He set life in motion. God is involved in creation and our lives. He is the author of our stories. He knows our rising up and our sitting down. He knows our thoughts, the desires of our hearts, and our plans. This is true for every person, because He is Ruler over all things, and everyone is under His power and authority. For those who have saving faith in Christ, God works especially in their hearts to sanctify them and make them more like Christ. Because we are all made in His image, even those who do know Him as Savior feel love towards others and even a sense of morality. Because His image is on all people, they reflect these things about Him.

[THEREFORE]

How can you talk about how our desire to love others and to fight for their good points to a loving Creator?

We love because God loves us. 1 John 4:19 reminds us that the image of our Creator is on every person. We have a sense of morality, a right or wrong, because of our Creator. We love others and feel loved because of our Creator. These desires point to God and show us that the origin of life is more than just an accident or surprise event.

1. Genesis 1:1: God is the beginning of all things. All life comes from Him and He controls all life.

GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

BIG IDEA #2: GOD CREATED MANKIND TO BE IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.²**[THIS]**

When we examine Genesis 1:26-27, we see that God created humans different from the rest of creation. People bear God's image; they are a reflection of Him in the world. God not only made people in His image, but He placed a greater value upon them than upon the rest of creation. God gave man dominion and power over the earth and all that is in it. It is for man that God sacrificed His only Son, not the natural world. It is for man that Jesus died on the cross that redemption might be possible. Mankind's purpose is greater than just to reflect God in the world because He sacrificed His Son to redeem mankind.

[THEREFORE]

How can you talk to your friends about human value and worth and where it comes from?

In Psalm 8:5, we see the psalmist describe man as being a little lower than heavenly beings and being crowned with honor and glory. Throughout Scripture, we see that people are of greater value to God than other created things. 1 John 2:17 shows us that the world itself is passing away, but people who believe in Jesus for salvation will live forever. Eternal life is offered only to humans. As you discuss God's view of people with your friends, showing them the value you place on people helps to show them the value God places on human life.

[THIS]

Because people are made in God's image, they have a special purpose. They are created to glorify God like the rest of creation, but they are made to be in a relationship with God. Humans are made for community and are created to interact with one another and with God. To be in a right relationship with God we must be reconciled to Him. By placing our faith and trust in Jesus for salvation, we become redeemed people. We then can live at peace with God and grow in our relationship with Him.

[THEREFORE]

How can you talk to your friends about purpose, specifically what it is and where it comes from?

In John 1:10-13, we see that humans can be reconciled to God when they have saving faith in Christ. Having saving faith is the first step in having a right relationship with God. Growing in knowledge of God's Word is a step toward having a right relationship with God. As you seek to help your friends know how to have a right relationship with God, you can lead first by example and second by sharing the knowledge you gain from God's Word with them.

How can you discuss with your friends the difference between a right relationship with God and just being spiritual?

Often, we can mistake a belief in God or a supernatural power as saving faith, but the Bible teaches in Matthew 7:21-23 that there is a difference between attending church, doing religious things, thinking there is a God and actually having a right relationship with Him. In order to have a right relationship with God, we must have a heart of repentance and faith that salvation is from Christ. You can share this difference with your friends by sharing the gospel with them and by reminding them that having a right relationship with God is only possible by believing in His Son.

2. Genesis 1:27: God created people in His image, as a reflection of Him to be in a relationship with Him.

GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

BIG IDEA #3: ALL OF CREATION EXISTS TO GLORIFY THE GOOD CREATOR.³**[THIS]**

At the end of the creation story, God declares His creation very good. We know that creation was very good because we know that God is good. We know God is good because He is holy and righteous. There is no sin in God which means all that He does is right and true. He never has wrong or misplaced motives. His heart is always pure and every decision He makes and every way He interacts with His creation is good because He cannot do bad things. He is also sovereign over everything and because He is omniscient, He rules perfectly over His creation. In His wisdom, He created the heavens and earth perfectly and gave mankind all that it would ever need. God also shows His goodness as Creator in providing a way of salvation to mankind when we could not save ourselves.

[THEREFORE]

How can you discuss with others some of the ways that creation reveals that God is a good Creator?

Romans 1:20 and Job 12:7-10 teach us that creation does reveal certain things about God. In order to learn from creation, we must look with eyes to see the way that God has revealed Himself in the natural world. We can see God's goodness as Creator when we take notice of sunrises and sunsets. When our friendships bring us joy, we are experiencing the goodness of God the Creator. We can help others see this by pointing out that God is the Creator and the things we enjoy in creation are from Him.

[THIS]

God made all of creation for one main purpose—to glorify Himself. All things are created by God for God. The physical, natural world exists for God's glory. People exist to bring God glory with their lives by obeying Him and worshiping Him as the one true God. Because all people are made in His image, they all reflect Him in some way. We can look at humans and see the creative powers of God and give Him glory. As followers of Christ, we bring God even more glory by living holy lives obedient to His Word. We are not made for ourselves, but for God. We are not created to make ourselves known or not only to be known, but instead, to know God and make Him known throughout the world. This is our created purpose.

[THEREFORE]

How can you help others learn how to glorify God by seeking to glorify God with your own life?

Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 12:2 teach us that in order to please God, we must live obediently to Him. We can help others seek God's glory by showing them what it looks like to be obedient to God in all things. We can also teach others how to glorify God by pointing out practical ways to bring God glory, such as obeying our parents, serving others, sharing the gospel with friends.

How can you discuss with others some of the daily distractions that keep you and others from seeking God's glory in all things?

As you evaluate your own life to discover what distracts you from seeking God's glory, you can help others see some of the same distractions. Often, we get distracted by sin or we learn what is right to do, yet we do not do it. Ephesians 4:1-6 and Romans 12:1 help us understand the way we should live and how being concerned with the things of the world can distract us from that.

3. Psalm 66:4: Creation is made to glorify and worship God. Its purpose is God's glory.