

GOD MADE EVERYTHING GOOD

THE STORY: CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD MADE EVERYTHING GOOD

Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 42:5; Revelation 4:11; Psalm 100:5, 107:9, 119:68, 145:9; Matthew 7:11; James 1:17

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

- Life is a good gift from God.
- Work is a good gift from God.
- Family is a good gift from God.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 2

All that God made was perfect and good. When He made man and woman, they were good. He created them and gave them a place to live and work to do. Their work was good because work is a good gift from God. God also made them a family. Family is a good gift from God and it is His plan and design for the world.

THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

BIG AIMS



Every student should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



Every student should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



Every student should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



Every student should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

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.

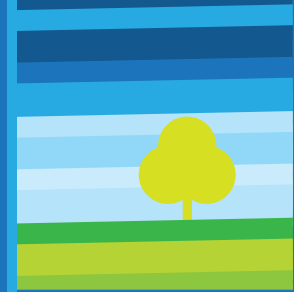


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GUIDE 3

THE STORY: CREATION

GOD MADE EVERYTHING GOOD



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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.

God is always good.

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

- God is good in every way. He is holy and righteous always. God has no sin and never does wrong. He is the supremely holy being. No one or thing is holy or righteous like God.
- Nothing can be righteous or holy apart from God. Good comes from Him because all things come from Him. He alone is perfectly good and righteous.

Everything God does is good.

“...it was very good.”

- Because He is good in every way, everything that He does is good. This means when He created the heavens and the earth, His creation was good. His design for the world was good and He created it perfectly.
- God does not change, so when He created man and woman, they were good and perfect. God’s design and purpose for them was good and is still good.

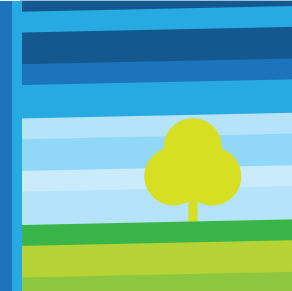
God’s design and purpose for creation is good.

“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.”

- God’s design for the world is good. The way the world functions and works is because of God’s design for it. We have morning and evening because God designed life to work that way. The sun rises and sets the way it does because of God’s plan and design. All of life functions as it does because of God’s good plan and design.
- God’s purpose for life is good. He made man and woman to live in families as part of His good purpose for them. He created work for them and gave them a place to live as part of His good purpose for them.

THE STORY: CREATION

GOD MADE EVERYTHING GOOD



BIG IDEA #1: BIG IDEA: LIFE IS A GOOD GIFT FROM GOD.¹

[THIS]

Genesis 2:1-2 shows us that creation was the work of God and it was good. God is the source of all things and because He is good and perfect, all that He creates and gives is good. Because God is the source of all things, life is from God. We cannot give ourselves life or give life to someone else. In the beginning, it is God who created man and woman. God made people in such a way that they can procreate and give birth. Every life is a gift from God. It is through His sovereignty that every life continues and is sustained. He is the source of all power and it is only through Him that life exists.

[THEREFORE]

How does the knowledge that life is a gift from God shape our view of life?

In Genesis 2:5-7, God creates man and breathes life into him. Prior to God giving life to mankind, we see that God created everything else and even controls all things. It had not rained yet because God did not allow it to rain yet. When we live with the understanding that life is from God, we will cherish life and treat it as a gift.

Read Genesis 1:31. How does God's declaration of life's goodness help us treat others with value and worth?

Loving people is a big part of living a Godly life. In John 13:34-35, Jesus teaches that we should love others as He has loved us. When we understand that life is a gift and not something we do for ourselves, we can value it and others as we should. 1 Corinthians 16:14 reminds us that all we do should be done in love. Ephesians 4:2 shows us that love enables us to live with others. When we value others' lives, we can love them as God loves us.

[THIS]

Not only is life a gift from God, it is a good gift. In Genesis 1:27-31, God surveys creation and finds it to be good. When God looked on the world He had created, He declared it was good. Because God is sovereign over all and the Creator of everything, He is the standard that determines what is good. If God calls something good, we should shape our beliefs and thinking to be aligned with His, and live like we believe His gifts are good. We can approach life as the good gift it is because God has said so. We can value every life because we know it is a good gift and something to be valued and cherished.

[THEREFORE]

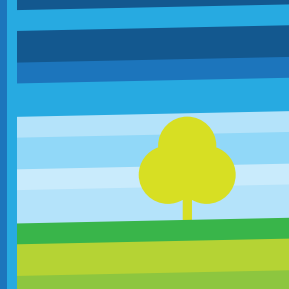
Do you view your life as a good gift from God? Why/why not?

In Lamentations 3, we are given a picture of man's sinfulness and God's faithfulness. Though we all are sinners, God pours out His grace on us. Just as Psalm 8:4 reminds us, God is steadfast and faithful and man does not measure up to Him, yet God cares for man and sacrificed His Son for Him. Our life is a good gift from God.

What attitudes or behaviors can we put on to give God praise for His good gift of life?

James 5:13 teaches us that in any circumstance we can and should give God praise. When we put on this attitude because we understand that God has given us life, we will praise Him in any situation. Psalm 150:1-6 teaches us how to praise God for our lives and all of His gifts. An attitude of praise and thankfulness helps us appreciate the good gifts of God.

1. Genesis 2:1-2: All that God made was good. He saw all that He made and declared it good and then He rested.



BIG IDEA #2: WORK IS A GOOD GIFT FROM GOD.²

[THIS]

In Genesis 2, God places the first man, Adam, in the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was the home God prepared for Adam and Eve. God placed them in their home and gave them work. God assigned the care and cultivation of the land and animals to the first man and woman. God gave them dominion over the land and tasked them with ruling over it. This was all before they sinned and broke God's good creation. Work was a gift from God. It was not something that man decided for himself, but instead was something that God gave to him as part of his created purpose. Work enables people to use their gifts and talents for the glory of God. It leaves people with a sense of purpose and accomplishment. These are all part of God's intentional plan for mankind.

[THEREFORE]

Read Genesis 2:15. How is work part of God's purpose for mankind?

King Solomon concluded in Ecclesiastes 3:13 that the end purpose of man is to glorify God in everything. This purpose applies to man's work. Paul emphasizes this purpose in 1 Corinthians 10:31 and we see it again in 1 Peter 4:11. Work was given to us by God and its purpose is that we might bring God glory through it.

[THIS]

Work is sometimes, if not, often, viewed as a negative thing, but work is a good gift from God. Work involves serving God with our gifts and talents, working a public job, or doing chores at home. God gave work to us before sin entered the world and broke His good creation. This means that work is not in and of itself bad. After sin entered the world, work became more difficult, but it is redeemable and for those who follow Christ, it is a good thing because it helps us fulfill our created purpose in bringing God glory. Work gives us a sense of belonging and enables us to use our natural talents for God's glory. Work can also help us further the kingdom of God by placing us around lost people. Even the work we do when no one is watching helps us glorify God by working for Him and Him alone. Our view of work should be that it is a good gift from God.

[THEREFORE]

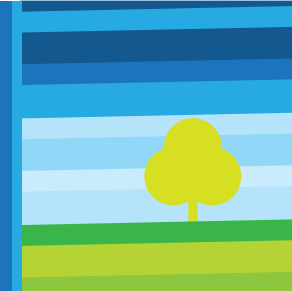
What makes your work feel more like a burden than a good gift from God?

2 Thessalonians 3:11 describes those who are idle and not workers as busybodies. This leads to the conclusion that idleness can lead to sin and not to glorifying God. Proverbs 24:33-34 shows us that work leads to our own profit and enables us to live full lives that glorify God.

How can you glorify God in your daily work whatever that may be?

In Titus 2:7-8, Paul exhorts older believers to live in such a way that no matter what they do, nothing bad can be said of them. Colossians 3:23 teaches us that all that we do should be done as if we are working for God alone. When we do our very best no matter whom we are working for, we bring God glory because we show the world around us that we are working for a higher Master and a greater purpose.

2. Genesis 2: In this chapter, we learn that God gave work as a good gift. We have work today as a good gift from God.



BIG IDEA #3: FAMILY IS A GOOD GIFT FROM GOD.³

[THIS]

God created Adam first and placed him in the Garden of Eden. God then took a rib from Adam and created Eve, the first woman. God's plan was always to create Eve as a companion for Adam. God's creation of Eve revealed His purpose for mankind and the world. By creating a woman as man's companion, God created the first family. Prior to Eve's creation, man was alone and God declared that his aloneness was not good, meaning it was not God's plan for man. God made Eve and she and Adam became the first husband and wife. Genesis 2:24-25 shows us that they were joined together as one flesh, meaning they became husband and wife. This is the very first example of a family. God created the idea of family and gave family to us as a gift from Him. It is part of His purpose for mankind.

[THEREFORE]

Read Genesis 1: 26-28 and 2:18-25. What do these verses reveal about God's design for family?

In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus explains God's design for family. God created people to be male and female and for them to join together in family units beginning with a husband and wife. Family is from God and is His idea. When He created Eve, He revealed His divine plan for family. Genesis 2:24 shows us that God gave family as a gift to mankind. He created a man and woman with the intent that they join together as part of His purpose.

[THIS]

Marriage and family are God's ideas. He created them and gave them to mankind as a good gift. Marriage and family bring people together and connect them in community. God made us to live connected to one another and family is God's way of joining people together. Family is a good gift from God and is a way that people can fulfill their created purpose. God's design for family is the only way that family functions as a good gift. When we individually live to bring God glory, we will live in our families in a way that brings God glory and adds to the well-being and fullness of life for each person in the family. Even though family is a good gift from God, our satisfaction can only be found in a relationship with God.

[THEREFORE]

How has a family member been a good gift from God in your life?

Exodus 20:12 teaches us that those who honor their mother and father receive a blessing from it. This shows us that living in a family can bring blessing to our life. Psalm 133:1 shows us that dwelling in unity with one another, particularly in our family unit, can bring us joy and blessing. Proverbs 22:6 teaches us that our parents can give us wisdom and instruction that benefits us for life.

How can we sometimes take for granted God's good gift of family?

Ephesians 6:1-3 shows us that when we honor our father and mother, there are blessings that come from our obedience. When we do not honor them, we are taking for granted God's good gift of family. Ephesians 6:4 shows parents how they can take for granted God's gift of family. Proverbs 13:24 also shows the ways in which family can be taken for granted and not experienced fully as God purposes.

3. Genesis 2:24-25: God created Eve and gave her to Adam and his wife and companion. God made the first family.