

The Creator and his good world

Lesson Overview

Hear the Creator's repeated verdict of goodness and the completion of His work. Use biblical reasons to explain why His world deserves grateful care and He alone deserves worship.



Passage

Genesis 1:1–2:3



Focus statement

God made a good world that belongs to him, so we should worship its Maker and receive his gifts with grateful care.



Age-focused objective

Use the repeated verdict of goodness and the completed work to explain why caring for creation differs from worshipping it.



Memory verse

The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.

Psalms 19:7, CSB

Before the class

Read Teacher preparation, then rehearse this guide with your selected resources.

Choose, then print. Select one illustration and either activity A or its replacement B. Print single-sided A4 portrait at actual size. Print Printable Resources, pages 1–3 and 5, once for the teacher. Add page 4 if choosing illustration A.

Student copies. For activity A, print Student Pages, page 2 once per learner or supported pair. Page 1 is optional lined notes: print one per learner who wants it, kept separately from shared activity work. Activity B needs no activity copies; the optional notes page remains available.

Have ready. No cutting is needed. Each learner or pair chooses one commentary space. For illustration B, have one blank sheet and one already folded paper shape. Keep a spare blank sheet for any covered words or later reveal, and a Bible or the supplied readings available. Learners may speak, point or dictate; personal notes need not be handed in.

How the lesson unfolds

The world receives existence from God, displays His purposeful goodness and reaches the completion He declares. Those movements ground worship, gratitude and care.



The world receives its existence

Genesis 1:1–5. The opening places the world in dependence on its Maker. Follow His action into the purposes and goodness He gives.



God gives order, life and goodness

Genesis 1:6–31. The lights serve and humanity receives responsibility within a good world. The final verdict prepares us to hear the completion of His work.



His completed work calls for grateful worship

Genesis 2:1–3. Completed work and blessing ground grateful reception. Bring the difference between Maker and gift into the response task.



Give the creation display a commentary

Choose the main reinforcement or its replacement: compose a creation commentary or explain a fitting response. Bring the explanation back to the passage and its fitting response.



Remember, respond and pray

Invite learners to thank God for one created gift and consider one way to receive it responsibly within their actual control. A quiet response is welcome; no pledge or report of household behaviour is required.

Transition

Recall that Paul told the Athenians that God gives life and breath and needs nothing from human hands. Welcome newcomers with that truth. Ask, “What makes something worth caring for even when we do not own it or earn money from it?” Hear one example without requiring a possession or travel experience. Explain that Genesis will give a reason rooted in its Maker. Pray for grateful understanding.

Lesson

1. The world receives its existence

Show Printable Resources, page 1. Let learners name something visible in the present-day landscape. Then turn to Genesis for its claim about the Maker; the picture does not prove or reconstruct a creation day.

 READ ALOUD

- ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.
- ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
- ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.
- ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

Genesis 1:1–5, CSB

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

The opening begins with God. The heavens and earth receive their existence from Him; He is not one more thing they produce. He speaks, light comes into being, and He judges it good. That verdict gives us a starting point for valuing the world. We do not have to make something useful to ourselves before it can matter as part of His work.



Ask

Who gives the world its existence and its verdict of goodness?



Listen for

God creates and calls the light good.



If needed

Point to the actions in verses 1, 3 and 4.

2. God gives order, life and goodness

Show Printable Resources, page 2. Point to the created lights as servants, then the repeated verdict and given responsibility.

Summarise verses 6–13: God separates the waters, establishes the expanse, gathers the waters so dry land appears, and brings forth vegetation. We now hear the appointed work of the lights.

¹⁴ Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years.

¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.” And it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars.

¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth,

¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

Genesis 1:14–19, CSB

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

²⁹ God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you,

³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26–31, CSB

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

Between those readings, God creates sea creatures, birds and land animals, blessing living creatures with fruitfulness. The lights mark times and give light; however important they are to us, they are creatures with a task. Human beings receive a distinct calling as male and female made in God's image. Our rule is given, so we care under the Maker's authority. Food is also His provision. The final verdict embraces everything He has made: very good. Its worth is received from Him before we decide what we can gain from it.



Ask

How do the lights and the final verdict help us distinguish appreciation from worship?



Listen for

The lights serve within creation and are made by God. The world is good because of His work and judgement, so we value it and worship its Maker.



If needed

Ask whether the lights make God or God makes the lights. Then ask who declares the whole work good.

3. His completed work calls for grateful worship

Show Printable Resources, page 3. Follow completed work, blessing and grateful response.

 READ ALOUD

- ¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.
- ² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.
- ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Genesis 2:1–3, CSB

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

God's creative work reaches completion, and He rests from that work. This is completion, not recovery because His strength has run out. He blesses and sets apart the seventh day. The account has shown purposeful work reaching its intended conclusion. We therefore receive the world gratefully. Its goodness does not make it God, and its being created does not make it worthless. The fitting response is care for His gifts and worship of Him.



Ask

What does God's rest say about the work, and what does it not imply about His strength?



Listen for

The work is completed; God is not exhausted.



If needed

Point to "completed" and "finished" in the reading.

Christ and our response

SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

The present world also contains real suffering. Genesis will next show human dignity and then the rebellion that damages our life under God. Knowing our Maker does not remove our guilt. John identifies the eternal Word through whom everything was created with the Son who became human. Jesus died for sinners and rose bodily. We turn from sin and trust Him for forgiveness; careful treatment of nature cannot save us. His resurrection gives hope for embodied life and God's final renewal, while we care faithfully now.

Choose one illustration. Use this in place of an additional example while drawing the teaching together. Let the passage govern what the comparison can establish.

Illustration A: A world we did not make

Show Printable Resources, page 4. Return to the landscape with a new question: "Would this part of God's world still deserve grateful care if no one could sell it or claim it as their own?" Let learners name one feature and give their reason from God's repeated judgement that His creation is good. The image offers a shared example; Genesis establishes its meaning.

Connect and limit: Genesis 1 names God as Creator and repeatedly calls His work good. This stylised landscape supports observation; it cannot establish the order of the creation days or an earth age.

Illustration B: Making from something already given

Place a blank sheet beside a folded paper shape. Ask what the maker needed before beginning: paper, hands, ability and time. Compare that dependent making with the first sentence of Genesis.

Connect and limit: Human making uses gifts already received. God's creation is not a larger version of a craft project, and the demonstration does not depict God or explain His method.

Application

Choose one of the following approaches. The replacement uses the same passage and conclusion; do not run both.

Option A: Give the creation display a commentary

Give each learner or supported pair Student Pages, page 2. Revisit the three teaching displays. Ask for a short spoken or written commentary that explains what one display establishes and why a response follows. Model the operation without supplying a finished caption: “Name what the text says, then explain what follows for us.” Learners choose their own words rather than match supplied answers. Allow pointing, dictation or a shared explanation.

Invite different learners to comment on the three displays. Another learner may strengthen a reason by pointing to a phrase in Genesis. Ask why using a created gift carefully differs from worshipping it. Conclude that existence, goodness and completion direct gratitude towards the Creator. The Lord’s work is not a measure of our value by productivity, and grateful care does not purchase salvation.

Option B: A reason for gratitude

Invite each learner to select one created gift named in Genesis 1, quietly or aloud. Ask what purpose or benefit the passage associates with it. Gather two explanations, then ask how gratitude could become careful use rather than worship of the gift.

Draw it together: Check the actual verses rather than accepting an attractive general claim. The lights are useful without being gods. Conclude that the Creator’s goodness calls for worship and responsible care; our care cannot repay Him or save us.

Close

Remember the verse and check understanding

Show Printable Resources, page 5. Read the complete verse below once and say the reference. Learners may listen, point or join. Creation’s witness and the Lord’s trustworthy instruction belong together. His testimony makes those who are still learning wise.

 READ ALOUD

⁷ The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one’s life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.

Psalms 19:7, CSB

Explain, then remember. With the poster visible, choose one significant phrase and explain how it answers today’s question. Give quiet thinking time before hearing a willing explanation. Return to the exact words and invite the class to say the complete verse and reference together, looking at the poster as needed. Learners may listen or point; understanding comes before unaided recall.

**Ask**

Why does the world deserve care but not worship? Use a repeated verdict or the completed work as your reason.

**Listen for**

God made it good and completed His purposeful work; it belongs to Him. The world receives existence and purpose, while its Maker deserves worship.

**If needed**

Point to Genesis 1:31 and the beginning of chapter 2. Ask who gives the verdict and who receives goodness.

Respond and pray

Student page 1 offers optional lined notes and private reflection. Learners may listen, think, sketch or write; nothing personal needs to be handed in.

Invite learners to thank God for one created gift and consider one way to receive it responsibly within their actual control. A quiet response is welcome; no pledge or report of household behaviour is required.

Praise God for His powerful word and good world. Confess proud or careless use of His gifts, thank Him for the saving Son and ask for humble gratitude and responsible care.

Teacher reflection after the lesson

Record actual class time and which biblical explanation helped. Note whether learners could give the intended reason, which questions remain and how the activity supported participation. Keep personal information out of shared records. Accurate answers, completed work and recitation do not establish saving faith.

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