

**ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
FAITH QUEST**

CREATION

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES

“Why is the sky blue? Where do babies come from? Why do dogs bark? These are all questions that every young child asks. Preschool thru Grade School children are constantly discovering God’s creations as they explore the natural world. And we can help them discover the loving creator God who made it all.

In the beginning, there were no blue skies, no cuddly babies or barking dogs. There was nothing at all. But then God began to create. God spoke and out of nothing came the sun, the moon, the earth, the mountains, the valleys, the plants and the animals. God’s loving hands created everything around us.” (from http://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/guides/god_made_our_world.htm)

As we focus on Creation, remember that it is “not a story of a process, but a story of who God is. God is powerful, mighty, creative, and good!” (Slatton, “Even Before the Beginning, God...”)

Genesis is the first of five books of Bible attributed to Moses. The stories found in Genesis were written down by Moses (and given to Moses) as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. (The other four books in the Pentateuch (Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy) were accounts of the Israelites’ escape from captivity in Egypt, their experiences in the wilderness, and the laws and instructions given to Moses by God.) The Genesis stories show God’s love and faithfulness to His people as he cares for all He created. God valued the world. He saw that it was good, and He trusted it to us. God did not create the world and then abandon it.

“Genesis means ‘beginnings’ or ‘origin,’ and it unfolds the record of the beginning of the world, of human history, of family, of civilization, of salvation. It is the story of God’s purpose and plan for his creation. As the book of beginnings, Genesis sets the stage for the entire Bible. It reveals the person and nature of God (Creator, Sustainer, Judge, Redeemer); the value and dignity of human beings (made in God’s image, saved by grace, used by God in the world); the tragedy and consequences of sin (the fall, separation from God, judgment); and the promise and assurance of salvation (covenant, forgiveness, promised Messiah).” (Life Application Study Bible notes.)

Take some time to read Genesis 2: 4b-25. Note that a different storyteller tells another version of the creation story, with more focus on the creation of humans. The stories don’t conflict, they just have different emphases.

In the Movie Workshop in particular, the children are asked if they think God created the world because He was lonely. The answer is “No!” If necessary, remind the children that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has been there for always: “God has always existed in perfect community. The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father in the communion of the Spirit.” -- Prof. James Torrance

NOTE: The first chapter of Genesis is written in a poetic, liturgical form. It is not meant to be science. It is a statement of faith. Be prepared for questions about evolution v.creation!

Resources:

Slatton, Garnett. “Even Before the Beginning, God...” Sermon on Genesis 1; June 22, 2003; River

Community Church, Prairieville, Louisiana.

Slatton, Garnett. "Image Is Everything." Sermon on Genesis 1:27-28; June 29, 2003; River Community Church, Prairieville, Louisiana.

Slatton, Garnett. "One Is Not Enough." Sermon on Genesis 2:18-23; July 20, 2003; River Community Church, Prairieville, Louisiana.

"God Made Our World" teachers guide: http://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/guides/god_made_our_world.htm

Life Application Study Bible notes. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1986.

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