

CLEAR THE AIR

Burning Issues Confronting Christians Today



Should Christians Care About Creation Care?

GENESIS 1:20-28, 2:15

STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask the GG to think of various ways they can be good stewards of God's creation by taking good care of it. What are some ways that we can avoid abusing the world's resources?

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

His Glory and My Good

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WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

- 1. GG members will be reminded that they were created in God's image and likeness, and their lives should, therefore, reflect him.
- 2. GG members will realize that God entrusted human beings to manage and care for animals.
- 3. GG members will be intentional in taking care of the earth, its resources, and its ecosystems.

INTRODUCTION

When God created the earth, together with all the living creatures in it, God set apart human beings as His regents to take care of His creation. As such, we are responsible for protecting and safeguarding the planet, its resources, and everything living in it.

God created animals on the earth (vv. 1:20-25)

God created the animals on the earth—those that live in the water, those that fly in the air, and those that live on land. God blessed them so that they would fill the earth.

- 1. What kind of creatures did God create on the fifth day of creation?
- 2. What kind of creatures did God create on the sixth day of creation?
- 3. Count how many times the phrase "according to their/its kind(s)" is repeated in this short passage. What does this tell you about the animals that God created? What were they patterned after?
- 4. What did God see and declare after His act of creation? What does this tell you about the animals that God has created?
- 5. How did God bless the animals that He created?

God created human beings with a specific design and for a purpose (vv. 1:26-28; 2:15)

Unlike the animals, God created human beings in His image and likeness. They were given dominion over the animals, and God made them workers and caretakers of the earth.

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WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

- 1. What pattern did God use in the creation of human beings? Compare this with how God created the animals.
- 2. What authority did God give to human beings? What does this tell us about our relationship with animals?
- 3. Why do you think God specified the genders of human beings in the creation account?
- 4. How did God bless human beings, and how does this blessing compare with His blessing to the animals?
- 5. What was God's purpose for placing Adam in the Garden of Eden? What does this say about our responsibility regarding the earth and its resources?

Application

God created us human beings as distinct from animals because we alone were created in His image and likeness. Take a moment to praise God for how He created us. God created us in His image and likeness for a purpose: to rule over animals by taking care of them and to work and care for God's creation. How can you practice being a caretaker over animals and God's creation today?

PRAYER ITEM

Dear God, I thank You for creating me in Your image and likeness. Please work in me so that my character and my life will reflect You. I ask for Your wisdom and guidance so that I can take care of Your creation and not abuse it. Teach me to be a good steward of Your creation. I pray for all this in Christ's name. ■



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