

The Goodness of Creation

Read the following Scripture passages from the Book of Genesis and answer the questions that follow.

Original Goodness of Creation

Genesis 1:1–23

Have you ever planted or taken care of a garden? What changes did you observe in the plants as they grew?

What could this sort of experience show you about the wonder of creation? _____

Why do you think this Genesis account says, “God saw how good it was” (Genesis 1:12)?

Genesis 1:24–31

What does it mean to be created in the image of God? _____

Describe in your own words what, according to this Scripture passage, humans are created to do with the earth. Describe what it means to “have dominion” over the earth. _____

Genesis 2:19

Why did God ask humans to name the animals and other creatures he had made? What might this tell us about our place in creation, relative to other creatures? _____



Original Sin

Genesis 3:1–24

What is the symbolic significance of Adam and Eve's realizing they were naked? _____

Why was eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil so significant? _____

Do Adam and Eve take responsibility for their actions? How do they explain their choice? _____

What does this passage reveal to us about humans and sin? _____

Genesis 4:1–16

What new level of evil does this event represent in the world? _____

How would you answer Cain's question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). Do we all bear some responsibility for one another's well-being? _____

Genesis 11:1–9

What might a world speaking the same language symbolize? _____

What does the human desire to build a city that has a tower with its top in the sky represent? _____

In the story, why do humans lose the ability to communicate? _____

In this and other Genesis stories, God "comes down" to see what is going on. How do you think that God is intimately involved in human life? _____

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