

DAY 6

God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:10 NLT

What’s one thing you would call “good”? Maybe your best friend, or an ice cream sundae, or having a three-day weekend. In Genesis 1, we see what God calls good, and it’s actually a pretty long list. What’s on it? Well, every single thing in creation. Here, “good” means that everything in the world around us is exactly how God imagined it to be. It means that God loves it. And when we love God, we love the things that God cares about, too. We love and care for the things God calls “good,” including all of creation.

Ask your small group to read Genesis 1 together this week. Think about all that God called “good” as you read and consider how you can care for those things in the world.

DAY 7

The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth’s foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths. Psalm 24:1-2 NLT

This verse is a powerful reminder of creation and the God who made it. When we wonder about God or struggle to see God working in our world, we can remember the truth of this verse. We can know that God is in every detail of creation, including our lives!

So, work on memorizing this verse this week. Write it down somewhere you’ll see it often, like on a mirror, a sticky note, or even on your hand each day. Each time you notice it, try to memorize more and more of it.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

TRENDING: CARING FOR CREATION / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 NLT

Sometimes, when things seem too big to imagine, we just don’t try to imagine them at all. Creation can be like that. We know that God created everything, and yet sometimes, we don’t realize how big of a deal that really is. It’s hard to imagine or even understand! But the reality is, it’s true! The water droplets in misty air, every blade of grass, each one of our human cells—everything we can see and beyond was made by God. Isn’t that incredible?

Take a walk outside today, even just for a few minutes. As you do, pay attention to the beauty in the world around you. Notice the things God created and designed and remember the Creator as you do.

DAY 2

God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. John 1:3 NLT

Have you ever been to an art museum? If you have, then you know just how amazing the works of art on display can be. There are thousands of unique pieces of art designed by creators who put their heart into each one. Well, taking a look at the world around you—God’s creation—can be a lot like that. Because the world is made up of millions of masterpieces created by God. When we look up, we can see the stars God hung in the sky. When we spend time with friends, we can connect with the people God made. When we notice anything beautiful in the world, we can see God’s masterpieces on display.

Ask a friend which of God’s creations they’ve noticed in the world around them today!

DAY 3

Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands.
Psalm 102:25 NLT

Have you ever felt small? Not physically small, but rather, like a small part of the world. Maybe it feels like being unnoticed or unimportant. If we're honest, we'd all probably admit we've felt that way a time or two. When we do, it's important to remember that we are all part of a big story—the biggest story! The story that God started writing long ago when the world was made. We are part of the story that started with creation. And when we remember that, we can be confident knowing that we matter a lot in this world.

Pray today that you would remember that you have a big part to play in the story God's writing with the world. You are part of creation!

DAY 4

For the Lord is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the Lord," he says, "and there is no other."
Isaiah 45:18 NLT

Do you have a list of things you have to do each day? Homework to keep up with, chores to do, friends to see, practices to attend. With all the things on your to-do list, trying to add just about anything else can feel difficult to do. That can make caring for creation—looking after the world God made for us—hard to want to do! But remember, the Earth is God's. God made every single thing we see and made us to be a part of it. When we see caring for creation as something God chose us to do, it makes it feel less like a chore and more like a privilege.

So, what's one way you can do something specifically to care for the world around you this week?

DAY 5

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Psalm 19:1 NIV

Written by Danielle, age 13 from Burke, Virginia, USA

When you look out the window, what do you see? Depending on where you are in the world, it might be mountains, or forests, or cities and street lights. It can be easy to take it all for granted. I know I do, at least. When I was younger, my parents had to force me to go on hikes in the woods with them. I thought it was boring—where was the excitement in looking at trees?! But really, all those trees were created by God. God designed every leaf on the branches that I saw. Sometimes, we are so caught up in our daily lives that we forget that the world around us all came from God. God created everything for a special purpose. The trees, the grass, and every star in the sky are all part of God's amazing creation! Isn't that so incredible?

Today, take a break from the busyness of your daily life and spend a minute outside in God's beautiful creation.

Take some deep breaths.
Smell something random.
Listen to the sounds.
Feel the heat of the sun, the brush of the breeze, or the bite of the cold.
Take pictures of the things you notice.
When we slow down to notice and appreciate these things, we begin to treat creation like God's masterpiece.