



origins

sermon series

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- The Common Doxology*

Big Idea:

Genesis tells the why of creation, not the how. It's a poem, a song about a historical event. The Christian doctrine of creation is that this world is good and the purpose of nature is to be a community. We can take joy in cultivating and enjoying the physical world.

Connect:

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better" - Albert Einstein

1. Think about a time when you enjoyed an outdoor nature setting. What did you enjoy most about that setting?
2. What is your favorite type of recreation? How is this activity a blessing to your mind, body, soul & spirit?

"Any patch of sunlight in a wood will show you something about the sun which you could never get from reading books on astronomy" - C.S. Lewis

3. If you had no information about God other than the observable world, what would you guess was true about the Creator God?

Engage:

Deep inside, our instincts tell us that there's something bigger going on in the universe. We're not simply random bunches of molecules that assemble for seventy years and then die, eventually forgotten. Even the natural world around us suggests that there is a master Creator... a big God. And within his big purpose for his creation, we experience our greatest sense of purpose when we find our places in the story... his big story.

1. When have you sensed that there is something bigger than you? Give examples.
2. Read Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1-3 & Colossians 1:15-17. How would you express the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit & Creation?
3. Read Genesis 1:26-28. What does it mean that we are created in the image of a Creator God?

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in" - George Washington Carver

4. Read Psalms 19: 1-4 & Romans 1:18-20. What can we learn about God from God's Creation? What can't we learn?
5. Read Romans 8:22-23. How do we understand God's continuing role in His Creation? What does the future hold for God's Creation?

Apply:

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars" - Martin Luther

1. Theologians say you can learn about God through two books: the Book of Scripture & the Book of Nature. Brainstorm ways "read" the Book of Nature, to deeply enjoy it, and through it learn about and connect with God. Which will you do, with whom and when?
2. Paul said that the creation story is more concerned with the "Why" than the "How" questions, and the purpose of creation is "singing." Do you agree or disagree? Why prevents you from joining the "song"? What is one practical step you can take to join in the "song of creation"?

"Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush aflame with God; but only those who see take off their shoes, the rest sit around and pluck blackberries." - Elizabeth Barrett Browning

3. What would it look like for you to see and take your shoes off?

Pray:

1. Read Psalm 19, 146 or 148 together as a prayer. Give thanks for the beauty and majesty of Creation and for God's power as Creator in your life.