

This midweek study will explore how God's creation is good, although distorted because of sin, and how we can preserve the goodness of that creation. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for students.

Essential Doctrine: The Goodness of Creation

In Genesis 1, God repeatedly affirmed that all of His creation was good, even “very good” (1:31). It is good, in God’s judgment, because He created it for a purpose that it fulfilled—to reflect and display the good character of the Creator. Therefore, sin and evil should not be seen as a foundational part of the creation but rather as a corruption of it. While the creation has been marred and distorted as a result of sin, it is still good in the hands of God and serves His purpose of proclaiming His glory in the world. God’s people should affirm and seek to preserve the goodness of God’s creation (Gen. 2:15).

1 God affirms creation as good (Gen. 1:31).

Notice that not only does the word *good* approve creation as “good,” but God also says that creation is “very good.” Creation exceeds expectations and goes beyond the status quo. Creation is surpassingly amazing!

- ▶ *In what ways do you notice creation as being a very good gift from God?*

Read Genesis 1:31.

- ▶ *Why do you think God claimed that creation was very good?*
God’s creation isn’t just the earth and sky, it includes you as well. Humanity is the apex of God’s very good creation.
- ▶ *How does it make you feel that when God deems the world “very good” it includes you, too?*
- ▶ *How does this affect your thinking when you are tempted to doubt God created you as unique and special?*

2 Sin and evil are corruptions of creation (Gen. 3:22-24).

Option: Find a large, clear bucket and fill it with water. Show the students how it is full of crystal clear water—no imperfections. Take a few drops of motor oil and drop it in the water. Ask the students about the purity of the water now. Most wouldn’t want to drink the water, because the motor oil has corrupted the purity of the water.

Explain that sin has corrupted the overwhelmingly pure and good creation that God has made. But while there is sin and evil in the world, it doesn’t make it irredeemable. It our job as believers to share the love of Christ to the ends of the earth.

Read Genesis 3:22-24.

- ▶ *What were the consequences of sin immediately after sin entered the world?*
- ▶ *What does this say about how God perceives sin?*
While sin has a debilitating effect on creation, God still has mercy and wants our repentance.
- ▶ *How did God show humans mercy even when they first brought sin into the world?*

3 God’s people should seek to preserve the goodness of God’s creation (Gen. 2:15).

Read Genesis 2:15.

Preserving the goodness of creation is both physical and spiritual. We are to care for our planet as well as those in the world whom God has called believers to reach with the gospel.

- ▶ *What are some ways we can fulfill the cultural mandate to be the best stewards of the planet as possible?*
As we are given a cultural mandate to care for the earth, we are also given a Great Commission to reach those who are still in bondage to slavery and sin.
- ▶ *How does sharing Christ with others help preserve the goodness of God’s creation?*
- ▶ *What does being responsible stewards of our planet and being missionary minded say to the outside world?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *In what ways do you show that you believe creation is “very good” in your life?*
Challenge students to realize that God affirms creation as good, but sin and evil are corruptions of creation and God’s people should seek to preserve the goodness of God’s creation.