

**January 29, 2012**

**Creation**

**Grace Bible Fellowship Bible School Hour**

1. Prayer
2. Go over the handout
  - a. Not all of the organizations listed are evangelical. EEN and Plant with Purpose are.
  - b. Some other resources but this is pretty comprehensive. "Green Bible" that highlights more than 1,000 verses.
3. Go over what we will do today, digging into Scripture. Go through Scripture and set the basis for our tackling of what it means to be good stewards in light of what it says about environment/creation.
4. I don't see this as an either evangelism or environment, but as a "both/and." Will help strengthen our evangelism, and is a matter of obedience.
5. 1 minute discussion with person next to you: When you hear about the word environment, what do you think about and how does it make you feel?
6. Feedback

**1. God created the earth**

(It was good, with the Spirit, Father, and Son)

1. Genesis 1
2. John 1:1-5
3. Colossians 1:15-16 (In Christ all things created)

(Stop after first passage, talk about crafting, working on it, stepping back, seeing it was good. Also, shows special relationship of God with animals: he "told them" to multiply. Will pick up on this next. Plants for food. Finally, shows that it was God, three in one. The "Spirit" was hovering. Then, go to other two passages that show Christ.)

**2. God has a special relationship with all of his creation**

(It reveals him, in a relationship with him, he cares for it deeply)

1. Psalm 19:1-4 (Reveal Him)
2. Romans 1:19-20 (Reveal Him)
3. Psalm 96:11-12 (Respond to Him)
4. Psalm 104:24-30 (Respond to Him)
5. Isaiah 43:20-21 (Honor him)
6. Mark 4: 37-31 (Obeys him)
7. Genesis 9:8-17 (Covenant with them)
  
8. Matthew 6:26-29 (Takes care of them)
9. Isaiah 11:6-9 (Relationship with each other (lion and lamb))
10. Ephesians 1:8-10 (Will redeem them)
11. Colossians 1:19-20 (Will redeem them)

(Comment as feel led after each passage or several passages. Don't quite know whether the wind, waves, rocks, and others have some kind of sentient nature, but all of this points to God's special relationship with his creation. Genesis 9 shows clearly that the covenant was with animals as well, shows God's deep love for them. Stop after Genesis 9 and give them a couple of minutes talking to the person next to them about what they think about this.)

### **3. We have a special relationship with it as well**

(We are put in charge of it, for our sake, its own sake, God's glory)

1. Genesis 2:15 (To take care of it, to guard it)
2. Psalm 8:3-8 (We are made to rule over it)
3. Genesis 2:19 (Names the animals, getting to know them, putting a stamp on them, we are to enjoy it (cool of the day))
4. Leviticus 25:3-5 (The land is to rest: taking care of the land)
5. Leviticus 25:23-24 (We are stewards, it is ultimately God's)

(If God loves his creation that much, covenants with them, and we are put in charge of it, we are called to also love it.)

### **4. There are consequences of not being good stewards**

1. Isaiah 24:3-6 (Laws transgressed lead to problems with the earth)
2. Hosea 4:1-3 (Lack of obedience leads to beasts, birds, and fish dying)
3. Revelation 1:18 (Those who destroy the earth will be destroyed)

### **5. How are we to be good stewards?**

1. Being obedient, using it as a witness and to enjoy it as per God's gift
2. As individuals, church, and nation
3. At the local, national, and international level
4. Hot topics: Climate change, Animal Rights, Conservation, Pollution
5. Conclusion: we are to love creation, and in all issues bring glory to God

(Brainstorm how, as individuals, what steps we can take to be good stewards. Just mention the hot topics and the various levels, the complexity of how damages and disasters are linked in with human sinfulness)