

Chapter 3: Creation: God's Gift of Love

God created the world to share His love with us.

Chapter Summary

The Book of Genesis reveals that God is the Creator of Heaven and earth. He created everything out of nothing by merely speaking it into existence. God created what is visible and invisible because He loves us. All that is visible is the material universe that can be seen and touched through our senses. God has given human persons dominion over the world around us. This means that we can use it to our own benefit, but we must also be good stewards of the earth. Heaven, angels, and grace are some of the invisible things God created. Even though we cannot see them with our eyes, we know that they exist through faith.

More for Parents

As parents, it is important to teach our children to be good stewards of the earth. This means that we have dominion over the earth and we must care for it. Some, recognizing our dominion, have abused their power and harmed the earth through pollution, waste, and animal abuse. Others, however, have gone to the opposite extreme, emphasizing the good of the earth so much that they see no meaningful difference between humans and the rest of creation. We must resist both extremes by teaching our children through word and example that being good stewards means living out both their dominion over and responsibility for the earth and its resources.

Virtue in the Family

God entrusted us to care for His gift of creation as stewards. A virtuous person of character recognizes these responsibilities and appreciates God's gifts in creation.

Good Stewards of Creation

- Prayer activity
 - Go outside and reflect on the following Scripture: "Let the earth bless the Lord. . . . Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth . . . seas and rivers . . . [and] all birds of the air" (Daniel 3:52, 54, 56, 58).
 - What other things in creation bless or give glory to God?
 - What can we do as stewards to protect these things in creation so they can continue to glorify God?
 - Agree on one action you can take as a family to be good stewards this week.
- Take the family on a walk in a park. Try to look at everything as though seeing it for the first time to encourage wonder and awe. End your walk with a short prayer. Have everyone thank God for one thing he saw.
- Start a flower bed or vegetable garden with your children. Be good stewards together by caring for the plants daily. Have your children think of the garden as all of creation and their role as stewards of it.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **angels**
- **Creator**
- **Heaven**
- **saint**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.

