

Discipleship Guide
Lesson 2
God Is the Creator

"I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. . . ."

As a result of studying this lesson, the student should
(1) know that God is the Creator;
(2) look to God to create life in him or her today.

Comment

Many of us were encouraged to take piano lessons and go to art school and design important scientific experiments for that 8th grade Science Fair. It seemed as though creativity were part of who we were as Jews, and now that we've become members of the community of faith, it doesn't go away. God gave us the capacity to think and to reason and to be intuitive. It is a reflection of his nature that we are like this. He was and is the Creator today.

The Creation Accounts

Reading

The student should read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and answer the following questions:

1. What was the extent of God's creation?
2. What existed before the creation?
3. What was God's verbal response at the conclusion of his creation?
4. What was the responsibility of mankind with respect to the rest of creation?
5. How does God refer to himself --what pronouns? (see 1:26-27)
6. Who was made in God's image?
7. What did God "create" and bless on the seventh day?

Reading

Chapter 2 of the Book of Genesis gives a more detailed account of the creation. The student should read Genesis 2:4-25 and answer the following:

8. What was the condition of the male before the creation of the female? What did God say about this?
9. What was Adam told to do and not do in the Garden?

Comment

God revealed himself as the Creator at the very beginning of the Bible. He did not prove his existence by some philosophic method, nor did he have Moses, the author of this book, explain why we need to believe in him. We read, "In the beginning God created." The text presumes we are to bow in humility to him. The impact of God as Creator echoes throughout the rest of the Bible, where we see allusions to this creative act of God (see Ecclesiastes 12:1; Isaiah 40:28; Malachi 2:10; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16).

Our Response to God the Creator

Comment

Whereas all of creation including the animals in some way testify to the existence of the creator, man alone is different from the rest of creation. He was made in the image of God. This means he was given a moral structure to know and to be able to do what is right. Unlike the other animals, he was not following his instincts. Man alone was to avoid and refrain from certain things, not because he had found them harmful, but simply because God had forbidden something to man. Mankind and each individual person has a choice and the choice is to do what is right, to be what is right and to seek what is right and for this reason, man has rights with God and that right is to make choices.

As we learn to see God as the Creator, we can learn to trust him in all our existence. After all, if he is able to create the world out of nothing (the Latin for this is *ex nihilo*), then he is certainly able to handle difficulties in our lives. Understanding God as Creator gives us a confidence for today.

Reading

The student should read Colossians 1 and answer the following questions:

10. How is Y'shua, the beloved Son of God (or Son of God's love) described?
11. What was his role in creation? (verses 16-18)
12. As a result of the preeminent Son of God demonstrating himself in Creation and reconciling the world to God, what is our responsibility?

Comment

This comment is intended to tie together the concepts of father, creator, and almighty. No child exists without the agency of a father. And if a child doesn't know who his or her father is, that child-turned-adult sees the results of the father's creative act and wonders who he might have been. So it is with us as we see God's creation all around us and stand in awe of the Creator who gave us this world and its life. When we stand by the seashore and see our insignificance compared to the awesome power of the waves, or when we look up into a star-dusted night and realize our small stature compared to the expansive universe, we begin to understand that this Father-Creator is also almighty (omni-potent). Colossians 1 says, "by [in] him all things are held together." With that declaration we understand that the expansive universe is also a consistent one.

Reading

The student should read again the first chapter of the Gospel of John and answer the following questions:

13. What two primary components of our created world are “in” him who was “the Word” from the beginning?
14. God sent John the Baptizer so the world would give what response to their understanding of God as Creator?
15. How does John twice address Jesus?

Opinion Question:

What characteristics of a godly person do I need God to create in me?

Comment

The characteristic of God demonstrated in the awesomeness of his creation is *holiness*—*kadosh* in Hebrew. God being holy means he is set apart and separate from his creation. He is morally perfect in all that he is and does. When the prophets of Israel encountered God, they declared the holiness of God (Isaiah 6:1-4). It is with the ultimate respect that we approach or communicate with God. Yet God, in his mercy, made us able to approach him—as a child approaches a tender, loving father.

Memory Verse: John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”