

PICTURE THIS!

The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!
September – December 2016*

Week #4 – Creation!

Picture It!



Caption It!

In Creation, God shares Himself and displays His glory, inviting all into 'the dance' of His being.

Save It!

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:20

Picture It!

1. Creation requires a Creator!
 - a. The word Creation suggests a Creator. The Bible teaches that God is the creative source of all that has been made in the universe. This is why the trinity symbol for God is at the top of the Creation diagram.
 - b. All three members of the Trinity were involved in Creation!
 - i. God – Genesis 1:1
 - ii. The Father – Genesis 1:26
 - iii. The Son – John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2; Colossians 1:16
 - iv. The Holy Spirit – Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30
 - c. There are three aspects to God’s creative work:
 - i. He created – God created matter out of nothing.
 - ii. He made – God made matter into something new.
 - iii. He instituted – God established order and set it in motion.
 - d. The curved red arrows of the Trinity symbol remind us that God is a relational being who sacrifices for the good of the other. God did not create out of need, but to share Himself and display His glory.

2. Creation Reveals God’s Glory!
 - a. The gold coloured arrow represents God’s glory. It reminds us that in Creation, God is sharing Himself and displaying His glory.
 - i. The downward direction of the arrow reminds us that God has put his glory on display **in** Creation.
 - ii. The upward direction of the gold arrow reminds us that God intends that His glory would shine **out** of Creation.
 - b. Because God’s glory is revealed in Creation (Psalm 19:1), Creation displays God’s attributes and qualities (Romans 1:20).
 - i. The immensity of the universe points to the immensity of God
 - ii. The power and energy built into Creation point to the omnipotence of God (He is all-powerful).
 - iii. The diversity of Creation points to the creativity of God.
 - iv. The complexity of Creation points to the knowledge of God.

3. People are the Pinnacle of Creation!

- a. The man and the woman are shown above the trees and the river because human beings are the most glorious of all that God has made. People have been made in God's image (Genesis 1:27)! All of Creation reflects God's glory but only people have been made in God's image!
- b. To be made in God's image means that God has made humanity like Himself in a variety of ways:
 - i. We are people, not merely objects.
 - ii. We are made for relationships with God and with other people.
 - iii. We are capable of loving and being loved.
 - iv. We are capable of understanding right and wrong.
 - v. We are creative and productive.
- c. As we live out these God-like qualities, we put God's glory on display in ways that the rest of Creation cannot.

4. In Creation, God Shares Himself with all that He has Made!

- a. The Creation diagram has two trees with a river between.
 - i. The first tree represents the Garden of Eden where God walked and talked with Adam and Eve.
 - ii. The second tree represents the tree of life in eternity (Revelation 22:2) where God will dwell with His people (Revelation 21:3). Eternity will be even more magnificent than the Garden of Eden.

5. Creation was Made to Flourish with Life!

- a. The trees and the river in the diagram remind us that God's Creation was made to flourish with life. God's creation included:
 - i. Perfectly healthy plants and animals without sickness or blight.
 - ii. Animals that did not kill and devour one another.
 - iii. Ecosystems that maintained perfect health and balance without pollution or natural disaster.
 - iv. Human beings that were healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally and relationally.

6. Creation Fulfills the Eternal, Sovereign Purpose of God!

- a. The flowing river in the diagram reminds us of the rivers at the beginning and end of time. The river also reminds us of the flow of history and that God is in control. God's Creation is 'flowing' toward His eternal plan and like a powerful river, nothing can stop it.

Panorama!

God is the source of all that has been made. He created the universe to share Himself and put His glory on display so that all created beings (people and angels) would see His glory and join Him in 'the dance' of love and sacrifice.

Selfie!

I am part of God's Creation. As a human being, I am the most important part of God's Creation because I have not just been made by God, I have been made in the image of God! This means that, above everything else in Creation, I am made to display the glory of God. As a human being, my job is to manage God's Creation in a way that will showcase the glory of God in the world. I can do this most effectively through loving, selfless sacrifice for the good of Creation and especially for other human beings.

Instagram!

The universe has been made by a generous God who chose to share Himself, not a selfish God who created out of a personal need. Creation not only assures us that there is a Creator God, it provides us with clues about what God is like.

Key Story!

Jesus questioned about paying taxes to Caesar – Luke 12:13-17

- Jesus confirmed that taxes should be paid since Caesar's image was on Roman coins.
- Jesus said that Caesar should be given what is His, and God should be given what is His.
- God has placed His image on people!
- Therefore people should live their lives for the glory of God

Key Questions!

1. If God exists in a perfect relationship of three persons who share perfect, selfless love, why did He bother to create a universe and everything in it?
2. Which persons of the Trinity participated in creating all things? Use Bible verses to support your answer!
3. Why did God create so many kinds of birds and flowers, etc. What does that teach us about God?
4. What do the two trees represent in the Creation picture? What does the river represent?
5. What does the gold arrow represent in the diagram? Why does it curve down and then up again?
6. How are human beings different from everything else that God has made? What does that say about how God views people? What does He expect from us?
7. Describe some of the ways that God's glory can be seen in what He has made? What can we learn about God through His Creation?
8. What things did God institute in Creation before Adam and Eve sinned in Genesis 3? What should our attitude be toward these institutions?
9. In Creation, God gave people the job of managing the world that we live in. Does that still apply to Christians today? If so, how can we manage the world in a way that puts God's glory on display?
10. Read Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Do you agree that eternity will be even more magnificent than the Garden of Eden? If so, why?

