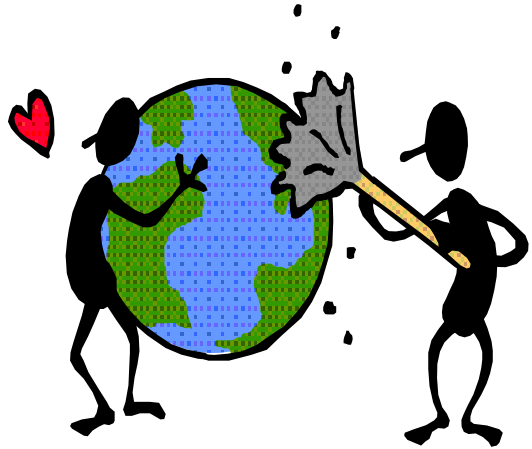


Lesson 3.1—How Does God Take Care of Me?

Introduction: Describe what it is like to be a care-provider for someone(s).



1. How did God make the world in which we live?

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day. 6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day. 9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so.

11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.

20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”

24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so.

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” 29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

From the God's account of the general creation of the world we learn:

1. *God created all things out of nothing using the power of his Word. (See also Heb. 11:3)*
2. *God created all things in a logical, orderly way.*
3. *God created all things with perfection. (See also Deu. 32:4)*
4. *God created all things in 6 normal, 24-hour days. (See also Ex. 20:8-11)*
5. *God created all things in a way that revealed his love and kindness for mankind.*
6. *God created all things for the benefit and use of mankind. (See also Psa. 115:16)*
7. *All three persons of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were involved in creation.*

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” 18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

From the account of the creation of man we learn:

1. *Work is part of God's perfect creation, a blessing for the people he has created.*
2. *God created the basic structures of human society: Marriage and family*
3. *God created a basic unity of all mankind: all people descend from one man.*
4. *God created people to be interdependent, to need others and rely upon others.*

Days of forming	Days of filling
1. light (3)	4. lights (14)
2. water under the expanse... water above it (7)	5. every living and moving thing with which the water teems... every winged bird (21)
3. a. dry ground (9) b. vegetation (11)	6. a1. livestock, creatures that move along the ground, wild animals (24) a2. man (26) b. [every green plant] (30)

2. Why is it important for our faith that we believe in the Biblical creation account?

The Conflict between creation and evolution:

Area of Conflict	Answer of Biblical Creation	Answer of Evolution
What is Man?	Man is a special creation of God. (Psalm 139:13)	Man is a highly developed animal.
Original Sin	Though originally moral, we are now so infected by sin that it's inherited. (Gen. 3 and Psalm 51)	"Sin" is a remnant of our animal past.
The Fall	A real, historical event changed us from perfection to depravity. (Gen. 3)	The Biblical account is actually a fall "upward" when man gained a sense of responsibility for his actions.
Actual Sin	Sin is a violation of God's commands and it offends him. (Isaiah 59:2)	The concept of sin was developed by people as they recognized behaviors which are harmful.
God's Law	God has written his law on human hearts and revealed it in his word. (Exodus 20)	Man is answerable to no one. There are no absolute standards of right and wrong.
Death	Death is the penalty for sin. Death is the reason we need a Savior. (Romans 5:12)	Death is a natural and necessary part of the cycle of life. Death has always been part of our world.
The Vicarious Atonement	Sin and Death made it necessary for Jesus to die as our substitute to give us eternal life. (Hebrews 2:14-17)	Man's behavior is natural. So is death. Man needs no Savior.
The Age of the Earth	God created a mature world which was fully functional and able to support man. This gave it the appearance of being older than it was.	Scientific measurements indicate that the Earth and our Universe are billions of years old.

3. How can people be convinced of the truth of the Biblical creation account?

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone-- 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Belief in the Biblical account of creation is a matter of Spirit-worked trust in God's word. Most people will not be "reasoned" into it.

4. How does God continue to be involved with his creation in our lives today?

Psalm 145:15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. 16 You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

God continues his creating work by providing us with those things that we need to sustain our lives. (Providence)

Psalm 121:7 The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life; 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

God protects us from harm.

5. What does God use to provide for and protect us?

Psalm 104:13 He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work. 14 He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-- bringing forth food from the earth: 15 wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.

Romans 13:4 He (the authority) is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Usually God uses natural means to provide for us and protect us.

Mark 8:1 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2 "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." 4 His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" 5 "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. 6 He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. 7 They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. 8 The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 9 About four thousand men were present.

Psalm 91:9 If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge-- 10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Sometimes God may use miracles to provide for us or protect us. This is not his usual way of dealing with us.

6. Why does God provide for us and protect us?

Deuteronomy 9:6 Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Romans 11:35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”

God doesn't take care of us because we have earned or deserved it.

Deuteronomy 7:8 It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Lamentations 3:22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

God's great love and compassion for us are the reasons he provides for our needs.

Luther's Small Catechism on “How Does God Take Care of Me.”

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.