

# VISION 2020



## TODAY'S THEME

### DAY 1 | To see CREATION as God sees.

Today we explore the story of creation, a story of God's love, loyalty and imagination. Genesis, Chapter 1, brings us a 6-day creation story, followed by a day of rest. As we dive into the story, we learn that God saw everything and proclaimed, "It is good!" So now, we look for the good in all things and take care of creation.

## WORD

Look! The Genesis 1 creation story is pretty lengthy. This is a summary. Check out the full story in your Bible.

**Genesis 1 – 2:3** [New Revised Standard Version, NRSV]

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered it.

**[Day 1]** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **first day**.

**[Day 2]** And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **second day**.

**[Day 3]** And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **third day**.

**[Day 4]** And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **fourth day**.

**[Day 5]** And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **fifth day**.

**[Day 6]** And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, male and female. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **sixth day**.

**[Day 7]** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. God blessed the **seventh day** and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## WONDER

The Bible is the story of God at work in the world; it is full of truth, love and life. God invites us to enter the story with a sense of wonder. This wonder is marked by curiosity, rather than a need to know the right answer. So let's wonder together!

### Wonder Questions after the Story

- I wonder why God chose to create things in a certain order?
- I wonder what order you would choose?
- I wonder what does it mean to you that humans were created last?
- I wonder what it means to you that God rested?
- I wonder how it feels to hear God declare, "It is good!"?

## FAITH PRACTICE

Faith practices are actions and activities that help us grow in our faith and to feel God's presence in our lives.

**Be Still at Lutherhill** | Today, we explore God's good creation as we sit in stillness and enjoy nature. Follow us to Lutherhill for a moment of stillness with the video clip, 'Be Still at Lutherhill'. Enhance the practice by adding Centering Prayer, a method of meditation used by Christians focused on silence and stillness.

You can take this practice wherever life finds you! Try it in your own backyard, or at your neighborhood park.

# VISION 2020



## FAMILY DEVOTION

Gather around the dinner table for a family devotion. Each day's family devotion has the same flow, start the meal with a camp grace, then make space to wonder together with the questions provided, read scripture and close in prayer. If you're feeling bold, you can continue with the Digging Deeper section to learn more about the scripture.

### CAMP GRACE

Each day we'll suggest a Camp Grace to kick off your meal and devotion. Feel free to use the one we suggest, or pick another from the Camp Grace list on our website. There are also sample videos led by Lutherhill's alumni summer staff. Today's Grace is:

**Batman** | Duh nuh nuh nuh, duh nuh nuh nuh, Thank you Jesus;

Duh nuh nuh nuh, duh nuh nuh nuh, For the food, Jesus; Duh nuh nuh nuh, duh nuh nuh nuh, Amen, Jesus

### WONDER TOGETHER

- I wonder how you like to learn about God?
- I wonder what you have created before?
- I wonder what is your favorite thing that God created?
- I wonder what is your favorite way to relax after you are tired?

### WORD | GENESIS 1 – 2:3

Read from your family Bible, from the printed version on this handout, or watch the Vision Story together.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of creation, we give you thanks for all that you have made. From the smallest creature to the biggest mountain. Help us to be people who seek, find and joyfully declare, "It is good!" In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Genesis is the first book of the bible and the first book of the 39 books of the Old Testament. The first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) are called the Pentateuch (penta means 5 like pentagon). These five books are the same in the Jewish and the Christian Bibles. The first thing God does in the Bible is create.

Sometimes, children (and adults, too!) are confused by the seven-day creation story told in Genesis 1. Can it really be true? And if it isn't true does that make the Bible flawed or my faith untrue? Lutherans believe stories in the Bible may not be all historically factual, but they all contain truth about God. Some stories, like the Genesis story of creation can be interpreted metaphorically rather than literally. Human experience of time can be very different than God's experience of time. The importance of the story is less about fact and more about the God's truth.

And in this story, our truth remains that God lovingly created all things. After each creation God declared, 'It is good!' Affirming that all of creation – light and dark, land and waters, birds and fish, animals and humans – are all good! And then, after everything it created, God took a break and enjoyed.

In this story, we find an invitation to enjoy God's creation, to be creative and to rest when the work is done. When we understand all things to be created by God, we come to understand that our duty and delight rest in care for God's good creation!