

**First Christian Reformed Church
Life Group Spring 2024**



TERRAIN

Week 1 - Apr. 7, 2024

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15

Welcome

We live in a peculiar time and place in human history. The United States is the richest, most prosperous country in the history of the world. Through most of human history, famine and starvation was a major threat to human life. Now, in the United States, we have so much food that obesity is a real threat to our health.

Which begs the question, what happens when we use God's gifts carelessly? What happens when we use God's gifts in a way that honors him?

We hope to answer those questions and more in the following weeks as we search the scriptures to discover God's will for us as we use his gifts in the following areas:

1. Terrain (God's creation)
2. Tasks (work)
3. Time
4. Treasure
5. Temple (our bodies)
6. Transmission (the gospel)
7. Talents

Join us as we learn how the Lord would have us steward the gifts he's given us!



Preparing for Life Group

1. If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
2. Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
3. Read the scripture focus for the study.
4. Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.

Confession Corner

Q & A 79

Q. Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood, and Paul use the words, a sharing in Christ's body and blood?

A. Christ has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that just as bread and wine nourish the temporal life, so too his crucified body and poured-out blood are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.¹

But more important, he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance,² and that all of his suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and made satisfaction for our sins.³

¹ John 6:51, 55

² 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26

³ Rom. 6:5-11

What We Believe

1. Read Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15. Verse 26 says that humanity is to have dominion. What is dominion? What did God give humanity dominion over?

2. Our text says that God made humanity in his image. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Why did the Lord create plants and trees?

What responsibilities did the LORD give Adam in Genesis 2:15?

Stewarding Terrain

Ways YOU can steward God's creation!

1. Reduce - look for ways you're producing unnecessary waste.

2. Reuse - cut down on waste by reusing what you can.

3. Recycle - separating your plastic and glass only takes a few seconds!

4. Volunteer - adopt a highway or plant some trees.

5. Efficiency - use energy efficient light bulbs and drive vehicles with high gas mileage.

6. Drive less - make one trip instead of many.

God Speaks to Us

Cross References

Gen.1:26 - Ps. 8:5-8

Gen. 1:27 - Mt. 19:4

Gen. 1:28 - Ps. 127:5

Gen. 1:29 - Ps. 145:15-16

Gen. 1:30 - Ps. 147:9

Gen. 1:31 - 1 Ti. 4:4

Gen. 2:15 - Gen. 2:8

1. What land has the Lord given you to steward? If you don't have land, can you still steward the land? If no, why not? If yes, how?

2. Name three ways the earth is being used poorly in your area. What can you do about it?



God Speaks to Our Families

1. What activities can parents, grandparents, and mentors do with young people to give them an appreciation of God's creation?

2. What activities can parents, grandparents, and mentors do with young people to give them an appreciation of God's creation?



“The custody of the garden was given in charge to Adam, to show that we possess the things which God has committed to our hands, on the condition that, being content with the frugal and moderate use of them, we should take care of what shall remain ... let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses.”

- John Calvin

God Speaks in Worship

1. Read Psalm 19:1-6. What is creation doing?

2. Read Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 79. How does the Lord's Supper incorporate God's creation into our worship?

Further Reading

The Bible has a lot to say about God's creation. Check out these scriptures to learn more about God's sovereignty over his creation.

- Genesis 9:11-13
- 1 Chronicles 29:11
- Psalm 19:1-4
- Psalm 29:1-2
- Psalm 65:5-13
- Isaiah 65:17-19
- Matthew 6:26-29
- Mark 4:37-41
- John 1:1-5
- Revelation 21:1-5

The Gospel Call

1. Is caring for the earth a way to care for people? If no, why not? If yes, how?

2. How can you care for the environment before your Life Group meets again?

