

“In the beginning ... God created the heavens and the earth. “ Genesis 1:1

The main point of this passage and of the Creation Story in general is not to answer the question of how life began. A professor during my freshman year in college helped me understand that Genesis 1 is not science which asks how but it is theology which asks the question of who and why? Science is still trying to figure out the how question and there are many intriguing theories worth exploring using all the tools God gave us when we were created. The Creation Story shares our ancient ancestor’s deep theological conviction that “In the beginning... God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).” So what difference does that make? It makes all the difference in the world because we learn in the rest of the story that God delights in the creation repeatedly announcing, “It is good...very good.” God creates a good place, a beautiful garden, in which we humans have all that we need for life including a relationship with God, the creator, the master gardener. God loves us so much that God entrusts to us the care of the earth. Why are we humans here? We are here to care for the creation, each other, and the God who gave us everything. We now can join in writing, and living, and telling the story. And it starts with “In the beginning ... God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).”

Reflection Questions:

- In what ways can I care for creation?
- What chapter would you like to add to God’s story?

Family Activity:

Using crayons, markers, paper and pictures, create a short family history. Each family member creates a page with his or her chapter.

Or go for a family “creation walk” and notice all the amazing things that God has created giving thanks as you go.

Teenage Activity:

Using your smart phone, create a photo album with the theme “God created...”

Adult Activity:

Draw a family tree on a large piece of paper using crayons, markers and pictures. Roots are your ancestors branches are your family of origin – fruit are your offspring.

Prayer:

In the beginning, God you blessed (me, our family, or us) with/by....