

“What Would Jesus Say About Creation?”

Theme: What Would Jesus Say...

Family Activity

Gather as a family somewhere in your home where you can make things fairly dim. (Gathering after dusk may help this.) Have a flashlight ready. Now, take turns picking something in the room and try to describe it with the lights off. Then, shine the flashlight on it and try to describe it again.

- How did your descriptions change once you used the flashlight?
- Did the light help you see things that you couldn't see without it?
- Do you think Jesus can help us see the world differently? How so?
- How might seeing the world differently influence the choices we make?

Monday, June 3 – Read John 1:1-18. There's a lot of talk here about Jesus being “light”. What is light? Is light the thing we actually see? Or is it the thing that illuminates things so that we might see them more clearly? What are some ways that we can look at the world in a fresh way when illuminated by the light of Christ?

Prayer: *God, we recognize that our eyes rarely see things perfectly. Help us to perceive your light today and to look at even one thing through the lens of Christ.*

Tuesday, June 4 – Read Genesis 1:1-5. The text today is the Genesis account of “the beginning” through the first day of creation. How is this text similar to yesterday's text? How is it different? Is there any way that yesterday's text from John shapes how you understand today's reading from Genesis?

Prayer: *Creator God, we are so grateful for the outpouring of love that you showed in creation, and how you continue pouring out your love through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Help us to reflect your light and participate in your work of restoration today.*

Wednesday, June 5 – Read Matthew 5:14-16. This passage takes us further into our reflections on the light of Christ. If Jesus is described as the light of the world, what does it mean that we are described with the same language? What's the relationship between “good deeds” and the illumination of your divine presence and activity? Is there any significance to us being described as the light *before* good deeds are mentioned?

Prayer: *God, to be honest, I find it a little intimidating to be described as the light of the world because I'm just not sure I can live up to the example of Jesus. Help me today to receive the identity that you offer, and as I live out of that, may your divine light shine through me.*

Thursday, June 6 – Read Luke 9:28-36. Have you ever seen anything (besides lightning itself) that you would describe as being as bright as a lightning flash? Why do you think they describe Jesus' face and clothing this way? Have you ever had a profound spiritual experience where you thought (like Peter), “Gosh, I wish I could just stay here forever”? If you have had such an experience, what was it like to “come down the mountain” and back into everyday life?

Prayer: *God, sometimes we experience your light, but we don't know how to respond or how to go back to our ordinary days. Help us to carry your light with us in such a way that we can share it with one another.*

Friday, June 7 - Read John 3:16-21. This passage starts out with what may be the most popular verse in the Bible, but it doesn't stop there. Part of what we see here is that encountering the light of Christ is not always comfortable. Have you ever had a cut or a scrape on your skin? What does it feel like to wash it out? Every one of us has places in our lives that need healing, but the healing process is not always comfortable. Still, it's always important to remember that "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." Even if experiencing the light of Christ stings at times, it is rooted in God's love and not condemnation.

***Prayer:** God, every one of us has places in our hearts that we would rather keep in the dark, but we want to put our trust in you and allow your light to permeate every part of our being. Give us grace and courage as we experience your healing and restoration so that we can continue to live into the fullness of life and being that you have for us.*

Saturday, June 8 – Read Revelation 21:5-6. The voice speaking in today's text is the voice of the risen and ascended Christ. Christ's "making everything new" should not be seen as something that will only happen in the far-distant future. Christ is making things new even today. As people who are the light of the world and the present incarnation of the risen Christ, how might we participate in that restorative creation? Is there anything that you witness or experience in your daily life that you feel especially called to join in Christ's restorative efforts?

***Prayer:** God, we are unspeakably grateful that you are restoring all of creation even now. Help us to be attuned to your work in the world, and give us the grace and courage to join in your work of restoration in ways big and small.*