



Stewards of the Earth

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, ՚ev Vortvo, ՚ev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, who by your visible light has given joy to all your creatures, and by the divine light of your commandments has enlightened all who believe in you. Strengthen us also, O Lord, to keep your commandments this day and at all times, that having been enlightened in mind, we may do your will and receive your heavenly gifts with all your saints, through the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, dominion, and honor, now and forever, world without end. Amen.

Collect from the Armenian Matins Service

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following true/false questions by writing “T” or “F” in the space provided.

1. _____ It is sufficient for a Christian to know God’s law.
2. _____ In James 1:22-26 God says when we learn the Law and then forget all about it we are like a man who looks into a mirror, then immediately afterward forgets what he looks like.
3. _____ Proverbs 15:1 says it is fine to yell at someone who has made us angry.
4. _____ Proverbs 12:23 tells us that a wise person says everything that comes into his or her head.
5. _____ King Drtad did a lot of harm to Christians before he made Armenia the first Christian nation.

In the Beginning

The very first thing God tells us about in the Bible is the Creation. Below is an outline of that first week.

Day 1

Created light (day) and darkness (night)

Day 2

Separated water vapor in the sky from water on the ground

Day 3

Separated seas from dry land, created plants, trees, seeds, fruit

Day 4

Created sun, moon, stars

Day 5

Created creatures that live in the water and birds

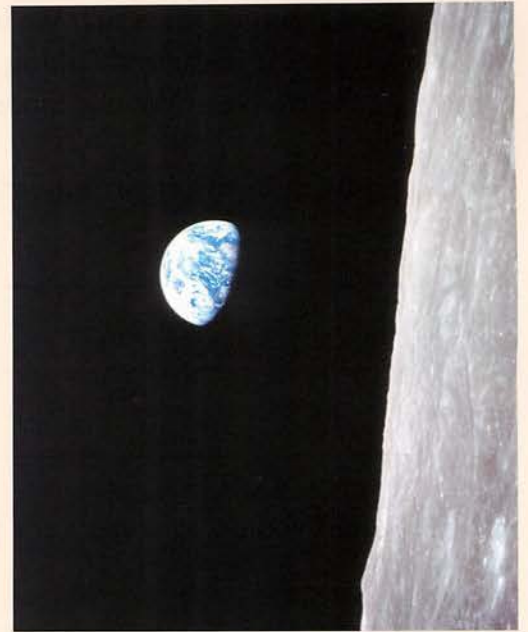
Day 6

Created other land animals and human beings

Day 7

Created the Sabbath for rest

Read Genesis 1:27-30. Who was put in charge of all that God had created?



In that brief Bible passage, God informs us that we are responsible for caring for the earth and all that is in it. God's original Creation was perfect. As each step of Creation unfolds in Genesis 1, we see the phrase "and God saw that it was good." Everywhere we look we see the truth of this in the beautiful world he made.

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen? _____

What do you like about it? _____

What care does this place require? _____

What is your favorite animal? _____

Why? _____

God and the Environment

Since God put humans in charge of the earth, does that mean we can take what we want from it and leave it a mess? Read Genesis 2:15 and find out. In this passage, the words "take care of it" let us know that God intends for us to nurture and protect the things he has given us.

God has placed this wonderful world in our care. Due to the entrance of sin into the world through humanity, however, the entire creation



suffers. One result of sin is that we have abused the environment in many ways. Sinful humans like to do what they want without thinking about how it impacts anyone or anything besides (and sometimes including) themselves. We use more food, air, water, and energy than we really need.

What problem in the environment concerns you? _____

Why? _____

What would you do to correct the problem? _____

God has some pretty tough talk about his world and how we treat it. In Revelation 11:18, he speaks of “destroying those who destroy the earth.” As Christians, we avoid God’s punishment because his Son Jesus already made payment for our sins on the Cross. It is our job to honor him and love him, and one way we do this is through careful stewardship of his world.

Looking Out for Number One

Read the parable of the Dishonest Steward in Luke 16:1-13. Answer the following questions by circling the correct answer.

1. Jesus says that those who are faithful in little things are
 - a. also faithful in big things
 - b. like Pontius Pilate
 - c. never going to make any mistakes
 - d. likely to become rich

2. The steward was afraid of losing his job because
 - a. he would be killed by his master
 - b. he was afraid God would be angry
 - c. he had no other skills and was afraid to beg
 - d. it was against his religion

3. In verse 9, Jesus is telling us
 - a. it doesn't matter who our friends are
 - b. we should be as careful and dedicated in spiritual matters as we are in our work
 - c. go out and preach the Gospel among unrighteous people
 - d. making friends with unrighteous people is like making friends with animals



We are all stewards – of the environment, of the talents and resources God has given us, and of our own bodies. Human beings are the creation that is dearest to God’s heart. Otherwise why would he have sent his only Son to save us from our sins? It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the body God has given us, because that is where his Spirit lives within us. We must treat our own bodies with the same care and dignity that he gave us at Creation. God doesn’t want us to do things to ourselves that will make us sick and keep us from being all he wants us to be.



List three ways we can be good stewards of our bodies.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Our Armenian Way

Soorp Nersess Shnorhali

Սուրբ Ներսէս Շնորհալի

St. Nersess Shnorhali (1102-1173) was one of the most outstanding catholicoi of the Armenian Church. He was a great church leader for the Armenian Church. And he was also a pioneer in trying to grow closer to other Christian churches, notably the Greek Church. He wrote many prayers and hymns, including the 24 prayers he wrote to be said at every hour of the day (you know one very well: “Oh Jesus wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom...”). Of the many amazing hymns he composed, there is a beautiful one about creation, called *Norasdeghdzyal* (Newly created). Here is the first verse.



ՆՈՐԱՍՏԵՂԾԵԱԼ

NORASDEGHHDZIAL



Նո-րա-ստեղ-ծեալ Բանն Յա-նէ - ից — ի սկըզ-բա - նէ:
 No - ra - sdegh - dzyal Pann Ha - ne - eets ee sguz - pa - neh.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about stewardship. He/she read in the Bible how God expects us to treat his Creation. The students considered this information as it relates to the environment, and they also evaluated how they should care for their own bodies. At the end of class they learned about St. Nersess Shnorhali and his song about Creation, *Norasdeghdzyal*.

Family Faith Activity

God has given humankind responsibility for his beautiful world. Try to do one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Genesis 1 and 2.
2. If you have a pet, chances are the animal's care usually falls to one person. This week, let each family member participate in caring for their pets.
3. Plant a tree in your backyard or at your church.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and plan a few family walks together.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ___ and tried at least one activity as a family___.

Signed_____



Faith Word *Stewardship*

The care and management of something with which someone has been entrusted