



STORIES **AND** RITUALS

Meaningful **MENTORING**

LESSON 2

Stories & Rituals: Meaningful Mentoring

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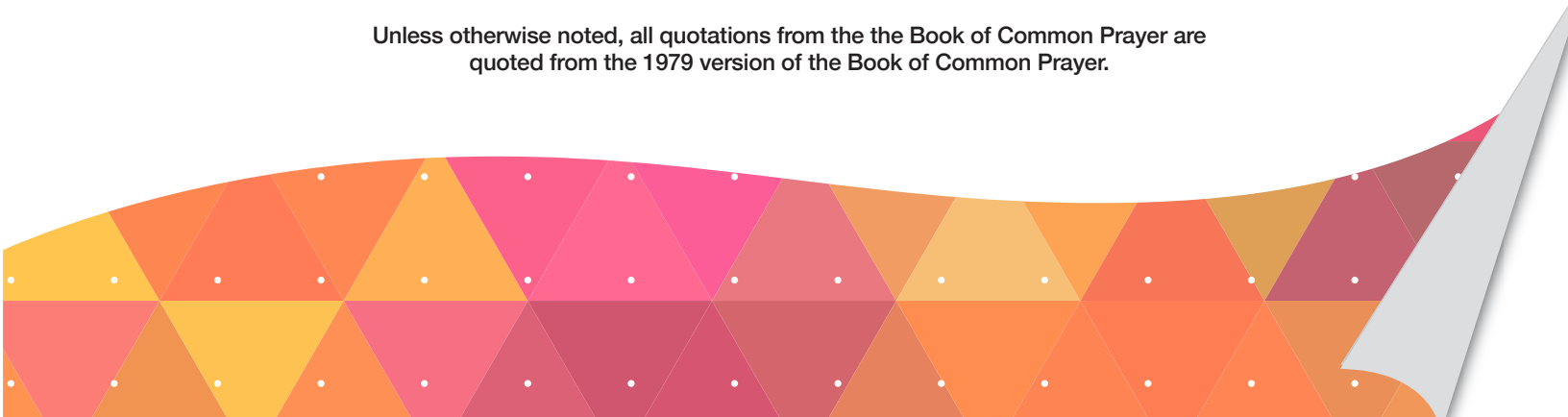
Editor

Victoria Hoppes

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MEANINGFUL MENTORING

Take a Hike

Lesson Focus: Connectedness with Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

Lesson Goal: To search for God's presence by taking a walk in creation.

Activity: Take your mentee on a hike.

Duration of Lesson: 60-90 minutes

Materials Needed

- Lesson Sheet 2.1 (Hike Script)
- Lesson Sheet 2.2 (Hike Reflection)
- Pencils or pens
- Camera or phone with the ability to take pictures

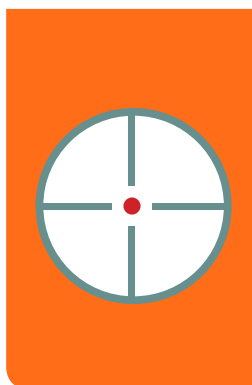
LESSON OVERVIEW



The Story and the Ritual

This lesson will provide both yourself and your mentee the opportunity to stop, pray, and reflect in the presence of God. In this lesson, you will take your mentee on a hike while reading and reflecting on the creation story as told in Genesis.

The hike activity will invite your mentee to read aloud the story of creation and take photos of places and things that represent the Scripture read. This experience will allow both of you to meditate on the beauty and wonder of God's creation while you spend time in the presence of each other.



What's the Focus?

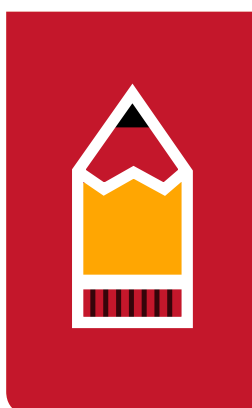
The Bible is full of powerful stories and Scripture verses that speak to the connection of human beings with God's creation. Human beings are stewards of the earth. When we immerse ourselves in God's creation, leave our "daily" lives behind, and turn off our minds to the tasks ahead, we find ourselves in God's presence and surrounded by God's love, grace, and power. You are guiding your mentee on a sacred journey through the story of creation (Genesis 1 & 2) and providing them the opportunity to create a sacred time and space while reflecting and interpreting the story for themselves.



What's the Point?

God is all around us. We can often go days without appreciating the beauty of God's creation. This is especially true in a digital era where cell phones, computers, video games, and other devices distract us. The advent of these new technologies prevent us from being truly present with God and with other people.

The intention of this mentoring session is to help both you and your mentee find a quiet place in your life to be with God and spend time in prayer. By experiencing this reflective hike with your student, you will provide them with examples of what it means to pause in the midst of busy and be present in the moment and how to set aside distractions and genuinely love God and love others. Furthermore, allowing your student to lead the activity will provide them (and you) with the opportunity to see the view of the world and God's creation through your student's lenses. As you do this activity, step back and allow your mentee to take the lead and make mistakes. This is about their interpretation of the Scripture, not only yours.



Preparing for Your Lesson

Find a public place where you and your mentee can engage in the hike. Public parks or hiking trails are good locations for this meeting. If desired, take your own walk through the area if you are unfamiliar with it. Connect with your mentee to arrange for transportation to and from the location (if you are transporting your student, follow all Safe Church guidelines and procedures).

Make one copy of Lesson Sheet 2.1 (Hike Script) and two copies of Lesson Sheet 2.2 (Hike Reflection) to bring with you. Look over both sheets and familiarize yourself with the material.

THE LESSON

- Meet with your mentee on your designated date and time. If you are traveling to your hike location together, follow all necessary Safe Church policies and procedures (*see the Suggested Safe Church Guidelines supplement for sample policies and procedures*).
- Use a camera or phone to take a photo of you and your mentee before you begin your hike. This photo should be representative of the place you chose to hike.
- Give your mentee the copy of Lesson Sheet 2.1. Tell them that today they will be leading you in the activity. Ask them to read the introduction.
- Walk around and soak in God's creation and connect your surroundings with the reading.
- Ask your student to read the first reading on the Lesson Sheet.
- Take five to seven minutes to find a place in your current environment that represents the reading. Walk around and find a picture that represents the first reading to you and your mentee.
- Once you find it, take the picture. Be sure that both you and your mentee are in the picture. Indicate that this picture represents the first reading by holding up one finger.
- Ask your student to read the second reading. Repeat the process of finding and taking a picture.
- Continue through each of the other five readings, repeating the process of finding and taking pictures. By the end of the hike, you should have seven pictures, each representing one of the days of creation.
- If you have time, read though the additional Scripture readings found on Lesson Sheet 2.1. Find and take photos to represent these readings, too.
- Once you have finished your hike and have all of your pictures, complete Lesson Sheet 2.2 (*Hike Reflection*) together.
- Close your time together in prayer. Thank God for the opportunity to spend time in the wonder of God's creation.
- If possible, plan the next date and time you will meet and write these times in the space provided on Lesson Sheet 2.2. Also set a date that can serve as a "Plan B," or backup, meeting (*just in case something happens and you can't meet on the first date you picked*).
- If you are transporting your mentee home, follow all necessary Safe Church policies and procedures.

WRAPPING UP

Take a few moments to reflect on your mentoring experience. Ask yourself the following questions. You may wish to write your answers down in a journal

1. Was your mentee able to list the days of Creation in order as you completed the Hike Reflection?
2. Were there particular moments in this mentoring session that impressed you or surprised you?
3. Where did you see God during your session?
3. Based on your conversations and experience, do you have any new insights on your mentee? What are these insights?

If necessary, report any new insights, issues or concerns to church leadership.

LOOKING AHEAD

Your next mentoring session will take place at a coffee shop. You and your mentee will get to each other even deeper over a cup of coffee. Once a date is set for your next meeting, find a coffee shop at which you can meet. Pick a place where you will be able to have a conversation together.

LESSON SHEET 2.1

Hike Script

INTRODUCTION:

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1-2 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

FIRST READING:

DAY ONE: Light

Genesis 1:3-5 *God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness "night."*

SECOND READING:

DAY TWO: Water

Genesis 1:6-8 *God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "sky" And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.*

THIRD READING:

DAY THREE: Land and Vegetation

Genesis 1:9 *God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters "seas." And God saw that it was good.*

Genesis 1:11-13 *Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation; seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.*

FOURTH READING:

DAY FOUR: Sun, Moon, & Stars

Genesis 1:14-17 *God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. God also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth.*

Genesis 1:19 *And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.*

FIFTH READING:

DAY FIVE: Animals

Genesis 1:20-23 *God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning—the fifth day.*

SIXTH READING:

DAY SIX: People

Genesis 1:24-25 God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female God created them.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

Genesis 1:29-30 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.

SEVENTH READING:

DAY SEVEN: Day of Rest

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

Genesis 2:3 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day God rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

ADDITIONAL (OPTIONAL) SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 19:1-4 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament[a] proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

Psalms 24: 1-2 The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Psalms 1:3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalms 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

Matthew 6:26, 28-29 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Job 12:7-9 But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

HIKE REFLECTION

After your hike, reflect on the following things:

Lesson Sheet 2.1

List the days of creation (without using your script):

Day One: _____

Day Two: _____

Day Three: _____

Day Four: _____

Day Five: _____

Day Six: _____

Day Seven: _____

Where did you find God on your hike? _____

Did you find a place to pray? Where? _____

Which day of creation is your favorite? Why? _____

How do you and your family observe the Seventh Day? _____

How do you think God answers prayers? _____

Next meeting:

Date:

Time:

Location:

“Plan B” meeting:

Date:

Time:

Location:

