

Friday MORNING: It was very good

INTRODUCTION

- As we greet this day knowing that it is our last work day, we might feel excited that it's almost done, we might feel sad that it's almost done or ... we might even be feeling both things at the same time.
- The scripture story for today is part of the creation story.
- God, in the story, has been hard at work -- creating, creating, creating.
- Let's see what God does as God draws nearer to the end of this particular stage of creation ...

READ Genesis 1:23-27, 31

23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

ASK (answers in parenthesis)

- In verse 25, after God has made all sorts of animals, what does God do? (God looks at it. And God sees that it is good).
- In verse 31, after God has made humans, what does God do? (God looks at EVERYTHING. And God sees that it is *very* good)
- Why do you think what God sees in verse 25 is good, but what God sees in 31 is *very* good? What's different? (Two things are different: 1. Humans now exist. And 2. It all fits together – like a team, like a body -- the whole of creation is greater than its individual parts)

TELL

- Just like God in the story, we've been busy creating, ... and our stage of creation is almost done as well.
- And just like God in the story, after every day, we've been looking at and seeing what the day held. And we've seen some really good things.
- **So our challenge of the day** is to look at the whole week – to see in your mind how all the days of this week stack on top of each other. Remember where we started and compare it to where we have arrived. See in your mind the awkwardness of Sunday and Monday, remember the tiredness of Tuesday and Wednesday and then join all of this week's memories with your current experiences of today to see how all the individual days are adding up to a very good week.

CLOSING PRAYER *Recommended format:* Adult Leader asks for prayer requests and then leads the prayer (start to finish) in a pretty succinct matter that mentions the named prayer requests, maybe mentions something from the scripture story and then asks/invites God's help and guidance and blessing into the work day. Amen.

Friday EVENING: It was very good

DECOMPRESS

- We're going to go around the circle, now, and share with each other one thing that you did today that you keep thinking about, that surprised you or that made you uncomfortable.
- When it's your turn, start by saying your name.
- RECOMMENDED FORMAT: Adult leader starts. Then proceed around the circle. Everyone is expected to share. If someone can't think of something, pass them by and then come back.

REFLECT

- This morning, we read and briefly discussed the story where God nears the end of creating Creation.
- We noted a number of things that God did in the story: 1. God looks back on each day, just like we've done each day this week. 2. God sees that it is good. And 3. At the end of the *week*, when God looks at EVERYTHING, God sees how it all comes together and that is VERY good.
- Our challenge for the day, then, was to look at the whole week – to see in your mind how all the days of this week stacked on top of each other. We were to remember where we started and compare it to where we have arrived. We were to see in our minds the awkwardness of Sunday and Monday, to remember the tiredness of Tuesday and Wednesday and then join all of this week's memories with our current experiences of today to see how all the individual days added up to a very good week.
 - So what did you see?
 - RECOMMENDED FORMAT: This is meant to be more of an open discussion format. No need to go around the circle. And people might respond to what is shared. Other questions/topics might be raised. As the leader, there might be experiences that you'll want to raise and ask for responses about.

TELL

- Thank you, everyone, for sharing the different things that you've seen this week and how it all came together to make this week very good.
- I want to share another perspective with you.
- I know that God is with us as we look back at the week. And I know that God has been with us throughout the week.
- I am very thankful for the ways in which we've invited God into our thoughts and actions this week.
- And I know that God has been seeing what we've been seeing this week, that God has been *helping* us to look and see what's been happening every day.
- Which means ... that God sees what we're seeing and agrees with us that this week and this trip was very good.
- Let's close with (song and) prayer.

MUSIC/SINGING (optional)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recommended format: Adult leader will start the prayer, and then say something along the lines of, "At this time, God, we lift to you our joys and concerns both outloud and silently." This then provides opportunity for everyone in the group to pray. When it feels like enough time has passed, Adult leader then closes the prayer. NOTE: The introductory part of the prayer by the Adult leader can be pretty succinct – some naming of joys and thanksgiving. The closing part of the prayer can be a place where the Adult leader can lift up the concerns of the group that were raised in the sharing time. The closing part of the prayer can also be a good place to give thanks to God for the individuals in the group.