



S2.Lesson 4: Language – Creation/Naming of Animals

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout; tv or laptop to show movie clip; movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html; Pictionary cards; easel and paper pad with one or two decent markers (if not available, copy paper with a pencil will work too)

Opening Prayer

TELL

- We're going to watch a short clip from the movie, Akeelah and the Bee.
- The girl, Akeelah, is studying for the National Spelling Bee.
- Because this is a big-time thing, she actually has a spelling coach.
- In the clip we're going to watch, Akeelah and her coach argue about the best way to study for the Spelling Bee.

Watch Movie Clip from Akeelah and the Bee

ASK

- So what are the two sides of the argument that Akeelah and her coach are having? (rote memorization vs understanding the power of the words)
- At one point in the clip, the Coach says, "W.E.B. Dubois, Martin Luther King Jr and JFK used words to change the world." Let's just agree, for the moment, that this statement is true. How is it, then, that words change the world?

TELL

- Let's read two stories from the Book of Genesis.
- As we read these two stories, look for how words are being used.

READ

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. 5 God separated the light from the darkness and there was evening and there was morning, the first day. 6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called

Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Genesis 2

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field.

ASK

- In the first story, Chapter 1 verse 3, what is the verb in the sentence? In other words, what is God doing in verse three? (speaking)
- According to verse 4, how does God separate the light from the darkness in verse 5? (by calling the light Day and the darkness, Night)
- In verse 6, what is God doing? (speaking...God "said")
- And again in verse 9 and 11, what is God doing? (speaking...God "said")
- At the end of verse 12, how does God see creation? (Good)
- From just reading the text, what is the tool that God uses to make Creation? (Words)
- In the second story, verse 20, what does Adam do? (gave names)
- So he spoke, right? Just like God spoke.
- Again, how did God separate the light from the dark? (by calling it Day and Night)
- And so, how does Adam separate the cattle from the birds (by calling them different names)

TELL

- Simply put, language is the "naming of things."
- This means that when we name things, we are separating things from each other.
 - For example, once we "identify" a bird as a blue jay, then we can pick a blue jay out from other birds. This means we have separated the blue jay bird from the other birds.
- In the stories that we read today, language is a tool that God uses to create.
- And, God gives that tool to Adam, to humans, to us!
- So if we asked the author of Genesis the question, "How is it that words change the world," that author would probably say something like, "Because that's what words are supposed to do! Just like a hammer is made to hit nails, so is language made to change the world."
- Thinking about words in this way could maybe make you nervous. Because with great power comes great responsibility, right?
- Next week and the week after, we'll talk about how our relationship with God and how we use language are closely related. We'll look at what happens when we use words without paying attention to God and what happens when we use words when paying attention to God.
- But for now, we'll practice our naming of things by playing a game of Pictionary on the easel.

EXPLAIN Activity

- There will be two teams.
- One team picks a draw-er.
- The draw-er is given a word to draw (from a pictionary card)
- The one team has one minute to guess what the draw-er is drawing.
- If the one team guesses correctly, they get 1 point and it's the other team's turn.
- If the one team doesn't get it, then the other team gets 10 seconds to yell out their thoughts or ideas. If they guess it, then they get the point and its their turn.
- We'll play until we run out of time.

DO Pictionary Activity

CLEAN UP

CLOSING PRAYER