



**Divestment Bible Study Series
Part I: Creation**

Read Genesis 1:1-23

With your group or on your own, take a minute to reflect on God's words to you through the Scripture.

Consider

1. What characteristics of God do you see revealed through the creation story?
2. How do those characteristics help you understand God's desires for the earth?

Read Genesis 1:24-2:4

The Bible is the story of God's relationship with humankind, and it begins with an awe-inspiring account of the beginning of that relationship. The story shows God's delight and pleasure in crafting and forming interesting and diverse spaces, sights, sounds, tastes, and textures. Each day builds on the day before, creating an interconnected web, and every moment of creation brings something new and beautiful. And at every moment, God sees that the creation is good.

**"God saw everything he
had made, and indeed,
it was very good." –
Genesis 1:31**

On the sixth day God created many kinds of animals, from the useful and valuable cattle to tiny creeping insects to wild leopards. God also made a very specific and special animal in the image and likeness of Godself – humankind. The first thing God did next was to bless humankind and to give them a magnificent gift. God gave to humankind all the plants and the animals that had just been created throughout all the earth.

But this gift was more than a memento or keepsake– it was an invitation into relationship with God, into fellowship with each other, and into stewardship of the earth. Humans are not alone with God, but imbedded deeply into God's world and God's vision. We live in community with the entirety of God's creation, and we have a responsibility to treasure, respect, and care for God's gift to us. This knowledge helps to instill in us a rich and abiding love for creation – a love that guides our daily actions and brings us closer to our Creator.

Consider

1. How was God's creation of humankind different from the creation of plants, animals, water, air, or earth?
2. What kind of gift would require responsibilities? Is that a gift worth receiving?
3. How does the gift of creation create community among God's people?
4. In your own life, how have the wonders of creation been an invitation into a relationship with God and with others?

Prayer

Creator God, you make all things and weave them together in an intricate tapestry of life. Teach us to respect the fragile balance of life and to care for all the gifts of your creation. Guide by your wisdom those who have power and authority, that, by the decisions they make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful Earth may continue to show your glory and sing your praises. Almighty God, you have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals who share this planet with us and whose lives make possible our own. Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life and join with us in giving you praise. - <http://earthministry.org/resources/worship-aids/prayers/prayers#prayer-of-thanks>

Additional Scripture

Nehemiah 9:6

Job 26: 7-9, 11-14

John 1:3

Additional Resources

The Green Bible

Green Like God by Jonathan Merritt