

Creation: And God said that it was good – Learner’s Outline

Confirmation session 3 - January 31, 2010

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There are two creation stories in the book of Genesis. In some ways they are the same, in some ways they are different. We will look at both of these stories and talk about what they have to tell us about creation, God, and ourselves. We will look at the stories through the lenses of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral that Rev. Marson talked about last week.

1. Lens of _____: Read the two creation stories: Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-25. Answer these questions for each of the two creation stories:

- Who are the active parties in these stories?
- What happens?
- When did the events happen? In what order did they happen?
- Where did it happen?
- How did it happen?
- Why did it happen?

It’s okay if you can’t come up with answers for all of these questions (especially the last one), but try to figure them out if you can.

2. Lens of _____: As we look at these stories, we realize that they don’t always agree.

- How are these stories different?
- How are they the same?
- What does each story tell us about God?
- What does each story tell us about creation?
- What does each story tell us about humanity?
- How do God, creation, and humanity relate to each other?
- Why are there two different stories in the Bible about creation?

3. Lens of _____: Biblical scholars tell us that these two stories came from two different traditions and authors. They use different language for God and other clues point to the fact that they weren’t written by the same person. However, the people who put together the Bible decided to include *both* of these stories.

- Why might it be helpful for us to have two different stories about creation?
- What questions does this raise for you about what is “true”?
- How do you think these stories relate to the story of creation that science has to tell us?

A native American storyteller, when sharing his tradition’s creation story, said, “I don’t know if it happened this way, but I know this story is true.” Does this quotation help you think about what is true about the creation stories?

4. Lens of _____: Our tradition affirms the goodness of God’s creation. We can see this reflected in other scriptures like Psalm 8, John 1:1-14 and John 3:16, as well as in documents like the United Methodist _____.

- How does this lead us to respond?
- What should we do to show that we understand the goodness of creation and take it seriously?