

Creation



PURPOSE

Through learning about creation, the boys will realize:

1. God made everything, He continues to make everything, and He will continue to sustain everything.
2. Creation was intentional, done with order, structure, and a plan.
3. Everything God created is good, it is our sin that mars this.
4. Man was specially created in God's image, and we have a special role.

LEARNING

The Belgic Confession (Article 2) states that:
We know God by two means:

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God's eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict humans and to leave them without excuse...

Everything was created, is still created, and will be sustained.

1. We like to know who made everything that we see.
 - a. Genesis 1:1–2 says God created the heavens and the earth. The Spirit is noted to be present at the very beginning.
 - b. John 1:1–3 adds that Jesus was there and helped the Father and the Spirit with the creation. Jesus is described as the Word. The Word was present at the very beginning and is defined as being God and being with God. The intimate relationship between Father and Son is shown, and the fact that Christ was a part of creating all things is emphasized.
2.
 - a. Psalm 139:13–16. God sees us even before we are born. He creates each individual and knows all about him or her while still in the womb. God knows everything that is going to happen, nothing happens that surprises God.
 - b. God continues to give us life, breath and everything else we need. If we did not have the continuing support of God we would be nothing. We are unable to exist without the ongoing will of our Father in heaven. God maintains not just our lives but also the life of every creature.
3. God has created everything, the stuff that is visible and the stuff that is invisible. God is in control of who is in power; He controls the activities of the world around us. God continues to maintain the seasons, the weather, the rivers and the stars.

Everything was made with a plan.

1. Hebrews 11:3 says this was done by God's command. He took nothing and turned it into everything. Creation was not something that occurred bit by bit, with things slowly becoming what they are today. Creation involved God taking nothing and forming it into the complex creatures, plants, rocks and planets that we now see.
2. At the time of creation God already had a plan for an eternal kingdom for us. God is not making things up as He goes. He has created this world and allows it to run according to His plans. He already knows how things end.

Everything that was made was complete and good.

1. God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.
2. As God created everything according to His plan, we can assume that it all matches His character and started off the way He wanted it to. God's will for our lives and for the entire creation is described as good, pleasing and perfect. One Timothy 4:4 confirms that everything God created is good and we are to be thankful for everything that He provides for us.

People have a special place in creation.

1. People did not evolve from some other form of life. God specifically created humans in His image. We were a planned creation, set here on earth to rule over the fish, birds, and other animals. Male and female were created, both in God's image, neither being more in God's likeness than the other.
2. God created us for a purpose. God's intention for us is to do the good works that He has planned for us. This is just further confirmation that we did not evolve into humans. We were created for a specific reason. God knows ahead of time what He has planned for each of us, what situations He will place us in, and how He expects us to relate to Him.

DOING

1. Self explanatory.
2. Do any two of the following projects.
 - a. This is a fairly straightforward option. If doing this as a cadre badge, each boy should make his own poster. Take a group picture and send it to info@calvinistcadets.org.
 - b. If this badge is being done as a cadre, you could take them to a museum to look at fossils of extinct animals. Most museums will relay the message that the earth is billions of years old, which may or may not contradict the message the boys get from home, school and church. If you go to a museum, send pictures and information about your trip to info@calvinistcadets.org. You may wish to have the boys look into animals that have become extinct more recently (e.g. dodo bird, passenger pigeon, golden toad, Pyrenean ibex) to realize that even

now we are doing harm to the creation in a way that cannot be reversed.

- c. God created us with minds that can think and envision beauty. We are different than other parts of creation in that we too, in turn, can create. The boys will likely find it difficult to come up with something truly unique, their animal will likely have features of other animals that they have previously come across.

Now that your cadets have completed this badge, you may wish to encourage them to do the Ecology or God's Temple badges. These two badges develop the theme of being good stewards of the creation that God has provided for us. Ecology deals with being mindful of the world around us, while God's Temple focuses on how we must care for ourselves, as we are a special creation of God, made in His image.

Other suggestions

The church as a whole cannot agree on when creation occurred — was it created 10,000 years ago or is the universe 14 billion years old? Christians cannot agree on how to interpret the reading of Genesis 1 and 2 — were there six 24-hour periods in which everything was formed or are the passages poetic in nature advising us of the who and why of creation, but not the when and how?

The purpose of this badge is not to give the boys an answer to the scientific questions of creation. The badge is intended to help Cadets realize that our entire world is given to us as a creation gift from God.

If doing this badge as a cadre you may wish to stay away from option 2 b), or they could work on this project individually at home. The boys can talk with their parents about how old the universe is and how long ago other species were present on the earth.

If the boys question you in regards to how old the earth is, you should mention that there are different answers to the question, depending on whom you ask. You can let them know what you believe is the correct answer, allowing for boys to have other answers based on what they learn at home and school. Make sure the boys realize that being a Christian does not depend on having the answer to such a question.