

Origins-10 Stewardship and the Environment

Memory Verse **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

Genesis 1:28 NKJV “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

“Since human poverty and environmental degradation are interrelated, we pledge ourselves to improve the quality of life for all people. Our goal is a sustainable development of resources while meeting human needs. . . . Excerpted from GC Statement “Caring for Creation”—

Dominion Given at Creation

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

The dominion given to Adam and Eve at Creation was not an unrestricted dominion to do with as they pleased. It was a trust.

Psalm 8:3–9 (NKJV) ³ *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,* ⁴ *What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?* ⁵ *For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.* ⁶ *You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,* ⁷ *All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field,* ⁸ *The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.* ⁹ *O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

Power To Name

***Genesis 2:19–20** (NKJV) *Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.* ²⁰ *So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.*

Stewardship

Steward - a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.

Genesis 39:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ *So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.* ⁵ *So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.* ⁶ *Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.*

Genesis 39:8–9 (NKJV) *But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.”* ⁹ *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”*

***Revelation 11:18** (NKJV) *The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”*

Bad Steward exploited his master’s goods as if they were his own.

Luke 16:1–8 (NKJV) *He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.”* ² *So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’* ³ *“Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.’* ⁴ *I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’* ⁵ *“So he called every one of his master’s debtors to him, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’* ⁶ *And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’* *So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’* ⁷ *Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’* *So he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’* *And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’* ⁸ *So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.*

Caring for Other Creatures

***Psalm 50:10–11 (NKJV)** *For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.*

Numbers 22:27–28 (NKJV) *And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"*

Numbers 22:32–33 (NKJV) *And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. ³³ The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."*

***Proverbs 12:10 (NKJV)** *A righteous man regards the life of his animal, But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.*

Deuteronomy 25:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *"You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.*

Deuteronomy 5:14 (NKJV) *but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, **nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle**, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.*

***Luke 12:6 (NKJV)** *"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God."*

Matthew 10:29 (NKJV) *Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.*

The Sabbath And the Environment

Leviticus 25:3–5 (NKJV) *Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn **rest for the land**, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. ⁵ What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of **rest for the land**. Not cutting trees and drilling oil one day a week.*

***Romans 1:25 (NKJV)** *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

The Sabbath reminds us that the planet was made by God and he by default is the owner. It reminds us to respect the creatures and let them rest as well.

Stewards of Our Health

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV) *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

***1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)** ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Stewardship Principles

Deuteronomy 20:19 (NKJV) *"When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is man's food.*

***James 1:17 (NKJV)** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

Exodus 22:10–15 (NKJV) *If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing it, ¹¹ then an oath of the Lord shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand into his neighbor's goods; and the owner of it shall accept that, and he shall not make it good. ¹² But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it. ¹³ If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn. ¹⁴ "And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make it good. ¹⁵ If its owner was with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came for its hire.*