

Creation Renewed



2 Corinthians 5:17;
Romans 8:18-24



Over the past few weeks, we have followed the story of creation found in the early chapters of the book of Genesis. In our last Bassline session, we were left in a bleak place with Adam and Eve disobeying God and leaving his vision of creation in chaos. Today, we'll see how God responded to humanity's sin and how, through Jesus, God renewed his relationship with his people. We'll also look to a future time when the whole of creation is renewed.

You will need:

- Resources for the Sound Check section that are suitable for your group



Beat

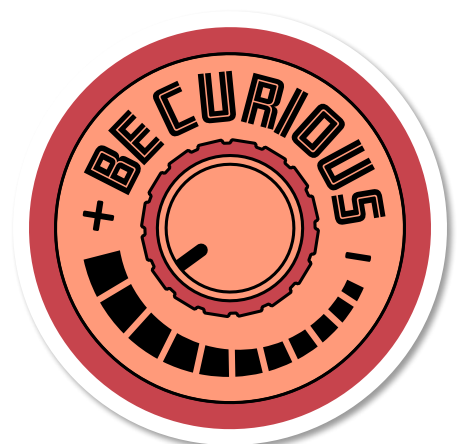
Leader's notes:

Today's Bassline starts with a quiz about planet Earth. The quiz is over 12 minutes long, so the group is not expected to complete all the questions. The questions start off 'easy' and move through to 'impossible'. There are 15 seconds to answer each question. See how far the young people can get through this challenge.

Watch:

The Ultimate Quiz of Planet Earth - Easy to Impossible - General Knowledge Quiz (12:23)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GjLzVVO1FE



 **Bridge****Leader's notes:**

Get the young people to do some research and write a question about creation for the rest of the group to answer. Get the group to answer all the questions.

Say:

Spend three minutes researching some crazy creation facts to create a creation-themed quiz question to ask the rest of the group. Let's see who knows the most!

 **Amplify****Say:**

Over the past few weeks, we have followed the story of creation found in the early chapters of the book of Genesis. In our last Bassline session, we were left in a bleak place with Adam and Eve disobeying God and leaving his vision of creation in chaos.

Ask:

- Why did Adam and Eve decide to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
- What impact did their decision have on the rest of humankind?
- What evidence of sin do you see in the world today?

Say:

So, where does the story of Adam and Eve fit within the wider story of God and his creation? That is what we are going to explore today.

Leader's notes:

Watch the clip and discuss the questions with your group.

Watch:

This Is the Hope For Ending the Evil that Affects You – Bible Project (stop at 5:12)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dEh25pduQ8

Discuss:

- What does the snake represent throughout the Bible?
- What promise does God make to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15?
- How do God's people continue to follow a path of sin? Which Bible characters are mentioned along the way?
- What message did the prophets keep bringing to God's people?
- How did Jesus confront the effects of evil when he lived here on earth?

Say:

In the clip, we heard that 'Jesus' power over evil and death has now become available to us to begin confronting the effects of evil in our lives'.

Ask:

How do we claim the power over evil promised by Jesus?

Say:

When we believe in Jesus and promise to follow him, we are a new creation. Paul talks about this idea in his letter to the Corinthians.

Read:

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

– (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Ask:

How does it make you feel that you are a new creation in Christ?

Say:

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have a new relationship with God. This new relationship is created when we choose to turn away from sinful choices and focus on obeying God. We are also renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, helping us to live a Christ-centred life.

Ask:

Even though we are a new creation in Christ, we still live in a sin-filled world. How does this reality impact us as Christians?

Say:

Right at the end of the clip we just watched, we hear of a future day when Jesus will return and God's creation will be fully renewed. We have this amazing hope to look forward to; but for now, we remain in a world corrupted by sin. In his letter to the Romans, Paul encouraged the followers of Jesus with these words of hope about the renewal of all creation.

Read:

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies

he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

– (Romans 8:18-24 *NLT*)

Ask:

As you look at the words of Romans 8:18-24, what words of hope do you find?

Say:

There will be a time when Jesus returns, and every part of God's creation will be fully restored and renewed.

 **Bridge**

Leader's notes:

If your group would like to discover more about what it means for us to be a new creation in Christ, then watch and discuss the following clip.

Watch:

What does it mean to be a creation? – The Gospel Coalition (6:32)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlirzQ1xJR8

 **Sound Check**

Say:

For our final Sound Check in this series, we are going to celebrate God's creation. When we become a new creation in Christ, we see things differently. We see God's creation in a new way and recognise how precious this world is to him. How could you celebrate God's creation imaginatively? That is the task for your group.

Leader's notes:

This is an opportunity for your group to get creative. Ideas are listed below to get the group started. Supply resources based on your group's gifts and talents. They may need art or craft supplies or to bring their laptops to the session.

- Create a playlist of songs that celebrate God's creation.
- Search the Psalms for Scriptures about the wonder of God's world and combine them in some way.
- Write a poem/song.

- Plan a walk/run in the local area that highlights God's creation.
- Create a TV watchlist to find out more about the world.
- Create an artwork celebrating God's amazing creation.
- Write an action plan for steps to take to care more for creation.

Give the group time to discuss and plan their ideas. How could they share them with the wider church community?

Bridge

Ask:

What is your response to the following quote?

'As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the Earth a beautiful garden for the human family.'

– Pope Francis

Selah

Say:

Over the past month, we have tackled some challenging subjects, particularly in today's session. So, for our final Creation Selah, we are not going to reflect; instead, we are going to celebrate. Our song of celebration is 'New Name Written Down in Glory', and it speaks of our life as a new creation in Christ.

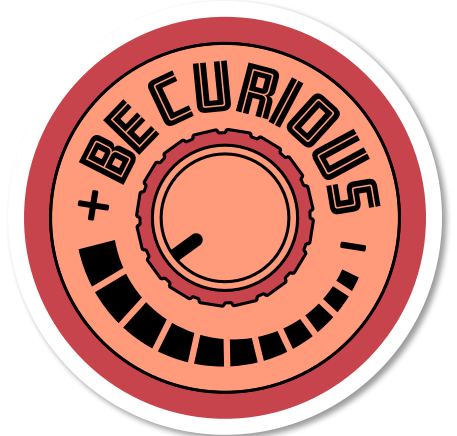
Leader's notes:

Depending on your group, you can either watch the song together or, ideally, encourage them to join in for a shared time of praise. When the song has finished, pray with the group.

Watch:

Phil Carlo - 'New Name Written Down In Glory' (Lyric Video) | Charity Gayle (4:19)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_f_HtsDNKuE



Coda

Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from this session that has deepened your understanding of what it means to be a new creation in Christ?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

