



**CREATION**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION** ..... 1

**SUGGESTED USES** ..... 2

## **LESSON 1: GOOD**

HEAD SECTION ..... 3

HEART SECTION ..... 5

HAND SECTION ..... 7

## **LESSON 2: BROKEN**

HEAD SECTION ..... 8

HEART SECTION ..... 10

HAND SECTION ..... 12

## **LESSON 3: REDEEMED**

HEAD SECTION ..... 13

HEART SECTION ..... 17

HAND SECTION ..... 18



# INTRODUCTION

Back in 2015, I spent time speaking with youth workers and asking them about curriculum. One of the main things I took from those conversations was that most youth workers weren't using curriculum in the same manner as it is still being written. Many youth workers that I talked with expressed how they would pick and choose elements to use as a part of their talks or lessons. They weren't looking for "paint by numbers" resources, but rather things that would help them stir the faith imaginations of the students they lead. With those conversations in mind and with the help and creativity of many different pastors, youth workers, and teachers, we dreamed of a resource that could be used as a standard curriculum, but also function in a way that youth leaders of today need. Stir is our response to that need. Our hope is that it will help youth workers create resources that will supplement the good work they are doing and stir the faith imaginations of their students.

The theme for our first Stir is *creation*. God's creation and our role within God's creation is a big topic. Our hope is that using Stir will give you the tools you need to inspire young people to be in awe of God's creation, see our role in its brokenness, and be moved to come alongside God as partners in the redemption of God's beautiful creation.

The curriculum is broken into 3 lessons, focusing on God's *Good, Broken, and Redeemed* creation. Within each lesson are three parts: Head, Heart, and Hands. Head represents a teaching about that specific lesson. For instance, there may be scripture discussion, a sermon outline, talking points, a lesson video, etc. Heart will be the creative or evocative portion that may have a lesson video, liturgy, song reflection, etc. Hands will be activities or ways that your group can move toward action.

Stir can be used as small group lessons, theme and material for retreats or camps, or part of a sermon series, but one of the main goals is to give you lots of unique and helpful tools so you can incorporate them into discussion with your group about God's creation. We can't wait to hear about all the ways you use Stir and how it helps to stir your group's faith imagination.

Peace,  
Nathan

# SUGGESTED USES

We want you to be able to use this resource in a multitude of ways so here are a few ideas for you to see the different ways to use *Stir: Creation* in different settings. These outlines are created from elements in Lesson 1 from *Stir: Creation*.

## SMALL GROUP OUTLINE

- Welcome
- Intro for Lesson
- Read Genesis 1
- Use Talking Points (focused on Genesis 1:2-4)
- Teaching Video
- Discussion
- Take Home: Photography Project

## RETREAT / CAMP SMALL GROUP OUTLINE

- Welcome
- Read Genesis 1
- Talking Points (focused on Genesis 1:2-4)
- Quiet time (taking note of God's good creation)
- Small Group Sharing
- Prayer

## LARGE GROUP OUTLINE

- Welcome/Announcements
- Liturgy
- Songs
- Teaching Video or Sermon (on Genesis 1)
- Activity: Photography Project
- Song
- Prayer

## RETREAT / CAMP WORSHIP OUTLINE

- Liturgy
- Songs
- Teaching Video
- Sermon Outline (Genesis 1)
- Song
- Quiet time

# LESSON 1: GOOD

Scripture Passage: Genesis 1

## INTRODUCTION

The first lesson of *Stir: Creation* is on God's good creation. Most of the resources in this lesson focus on Genesis 1. It's one of the creation stories in Genesis (Genesis 2 being the other). Genesis 1 tells how and what God created and that God's original creation was good. In this lesson there is a sermon outline, a teaching video, talking points, a liturgy, and some activities for you to use to create a lesson centering on God's good creation.



**SECTION ELEMENTS:**  
Sermon Outline  
Teaching Video: Good  
Talking Points

## SERMON / TALK OUTLINE

This outline is to help you craft a sermon / talk using Genesis 1. You can use these bullet points as a jumping off point to help you as you begin to develop a talk/sermon about Genesis 1.

- We understand that God's goodness is present at all times.
- How often do we consider that God's goodness is present in all places and settings?
- Still creating
- Wonder and awe at the creativity
  - Big – vastness of oceans and mountains; solar systems; ecosystems
  - Small – intricacies of the bigger systems
  - Variety – diversity and unity existing in the world
- People are a part of God's good creation, participating as part of the good of creation