

Introduction: *Engage the group by examining a word.*

Before your students come into the class, have this written on the board: “Beginning.” The word *genesis* means “beginning.” Ask your students to think about a “beginning” in each of their lives (New Year’s Day, school, work, retirement, etc.). Ask, “Why are beginnings so important?” Allow 2-3 students to answer. The goal of this exercise is to prepare their minds and hearts for the lesson.

Part 1: *Help your group members connect with the major theme.*

The thought that God created everything can be overwhelming, and it should be. Show your group members the video clip “God’s Beautiful Creation of the Universe.” This clip is available on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=858S8s-871A> (3 minutes, 48 seconds).

As your group members watch the video, ask them to think about their impressions of the creation. Ask students to share their insights with the class. The purpose of this exercise is for us to begin to grasp the comprehensiveness of the creation, which leads us to think about the immenseness of God.

Part 2: *Help your group members connect with the lesson from the lyrics of a song.*

Divide your class into 3-4 groups and hand each group a copy of the lyrics to Don Francisco’s song “All the World He Made is Good.” Have them spend five minutes reading them and then ask them to share their insights on God’s character that can be gleaned from creation. As an alternative, you can also play the song for them.

In beginning was the Word
And He spoke and made the world
Then He filled the sky with light
And He saw that it was good

Land and sea then living things
Teemed and swarmed and multiplied
And all of life lived as it should
And God said that it was good

Yes He said that it was good
Bird and beast and rock and wood
Let this truth be understood
All the world He made is good

Man and women stood serene
Walked with God in gardens green
God blessed all His hands had made
And called it beautiful and good

Sit very still and look around
See the colors, hear the sound
Let all His love come shining through
'Cause your Father made it all for you.

[Don Francisco, "All the World He Made is Good," LyricWikia [online], 1994 [cited 5 August 2015]. Available from the Internet:
http://lyrics.wikia.com/Don_Francisco:All_The_World_He_Made_Is_Good.]

Part 3: *Engage using another passage to amplify the theme.*

Divide your class into three groups. Assign the first group Psalm 19:1-6, the second group Psalm 19:7-11, and the third Psalm 19:12-14. Allow each group to spend roughly five minutes with their passage. The first group is to focus on God's general revelation, the second on God's special revelation, and the third on how we should react based on each of these. Ask each group to share their insights.

Conclusion: *Challenge through a moment of conviction.*

Since God created everything and made it good and created everything through His Son, this should influence our lives as Christians. Ask your group members to spend a few minutes in prayer thanking God for His creation, for the fact that He

made it good, and that all this was made for God's glory including each of us. Then instruct them to examine their lives to see where they are not giving God glory, confess and forsake the sin.

Teaching Tip of the Week

In his seminal book *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive*, Howard Hendricks succinctly states: "If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow." As teachers, we are always to be students first and foremost. We are to share from the overflow of our learning and passion for the subject. The goal of our instruction should be transformed lives (Luke 6:40), not only for our students but for us as well. Ask yourself, "What am I doing to continue learning?" If you can't answer that question in the affirmative, add something to your life today to help you in this endeavor. Suggestions include taking a class, reading a book on education or on the Bible, and visiting the classroom of a great teacher.

[Howard Hendricks, *Teaching to Change* (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah, 1987), 17.]