



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

*Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People*

*Module 1—Genesis Part 1*

*Lesson 2: God Gives People a Purpose—Genesis 1:28—2*

### ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 1:28—2 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?*

*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*

*How is this the world's story?*

### ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

#### **GOD'S STORY**

*How do we know what the purpose of our lives is?*

- God's creative and loving act of establishing the image of God into humanity is for the purpose of being in relationship with Him, to enjoy Him, and lead creation in glorifying Him.

*What is God's call on each one of our lives?*

- The call of God for humanity (lived out by Christians) is to live in such a way that reflects the wholeness God desires for our entire universe.

#### **OUR STORY**

*What two roles have we been created for us to accomplish?*

- We've been given two distinct roles or tasks as humans. The first of which is to be fruitful and fill the earth while subduing and ruling over it (Genesis 1:28). The second task of mankind is be stewards of creation (Genesis 2:15).

*What does it mean that humans are "little kings"?*

- We have been delegated by God to make God's territory, as a king in ancient times would do. Kings would mark their territory placing statues to mark their boundaries. In this sense, humans are makers of God's territory, the whole earth.
- It is important to note here that we do not hold the authority, we are merely delegated by God to practice the authority and in this sense we are "little kings" on this earth.

## OTHERS' STORY

*What does it mean to be stewards of the earth?*

- The second task, to be stewards of creation (Genesis 2:15) means that we are to work hard taking care of the earth. That is, we were created to protect it and to look after it.
- Genesis 2:15 is very clear that we are to keep the earth—we are to protect it. Christians, who choose not to take a role in caring for our planet, choose to only partially live into the image of God

## THE WORLD'S STORY

*According to Psalm 150, who is to praise the Lord?*

Praise the Lord (v. 1).

Praise God in his sanctuary;

Praise him in his mighty heavens (v. 2).

Praise him for his acts of power;

Praise him for his surpassing greatness (v. 3).

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord (v. 6).

## PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

*Active God,  
Bring us deeper into your unfailing love;  
Jesus, God's Son  
send us into the world to love and serve;  
Holy Spirit,  
inspire us to be messengers of the great good news.  
Stir within us a passion to  
teach and inspire us  
to live your love  
with kindness and joy,  
Creativity and audacity;  
for the sake of your world  
and in the name of Jesus,  
Amen.*

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Sometime this week grab a garbage bag, go to a place that is heavily littered and pick up as much litter (papers, bottles, candy wrappers, and so on) as you can. For each piece of litter that you pick up, say this prayer: "God, you are the maker of this earth. You have asked us to be little kings. As a little king, I represent you, the King."

## BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

*Ephesians 4:32; 5:1*

*Colossians 3:9–10*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 1:28—2, consider the following questions:

*How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 1:28—2?*

*How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 1:28—2?*

*What is God saying to you through these passages?*

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 1:28—2 and read them this week, journaling as you go.