

Bethany School
Towards a Christian Curriculum
Topic Theme - Dry Land

Context

Genesis 1 v 9 – 10

The Third Day - God separated the waters and the land and He called the dry land earth.

Psalms 24

The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness,.....He has founded it Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?.....

Psalms 95 v 1 –5

Cause of joy, singing and thanksgiving because, " In his hands are the deep places of the earth.....the heights of the hills..... the sea.....; And his hands formed the dry land."

Proverbs 3 v 19

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;

Hebrews 11 v 13

Strangers and pilgrims...seek a homeland ... desire a better, that is, a heavenly country ... he has prepared a city for them. Pasture / wilderness.

OUTLINE

In this topic we will acknowledge that the ground beneath our feet in all its diversity, richness and mystery is God **given** and is **sustained** by the Lord Jesus Christ - **sustained** because of grace and mercy and **given** for mankind to discover, use and enjoy, to God's glory.

We will look at the world from scientific, geographical and historical perspectives in order to discover causes for joy, thanksgiving and singing, to increase our knowledge and understanding so that we might seek wisdom and opportunities for service. We will also look at how mankind's mis-management of God's gift has often resulted in conflict and how returning to Godly ways will change how we relate to our neighbours and our environment.

Following on from the previous Topic where we discovered the **wonder** of water, we will try to establish the **uniqueness** of the earth and the relationships and conditions which make it possible for life to exist. (or seem most unlikely because so many things have to be 'just right')

eg The presence of an atmosphere.

The presence of water and oceans.

Fertile land.

Average surface temperature.

We will investigate the roles and functions of created materials. God created the heavens and the earth in natural materials, each with a function and purpose in maintaining life. Man was to use and process them under God's direction without violating their God-given function and provision for the whole creation. Although ROCKS will be the main focus of the topic, comments will be made to relate the other

created realms of AIR, WATER, METALS, PLANTS & TREES, ANIMALS and PEOPLE. We feel that it is important to look at creation, first and foremost, as a whole rather than using a 'sum of the parts' approach. This overview, the context into what is taught may be fitted, would comprise four large sections : Energy, Matter, Time, Laws and Principles. Living and non-living contributors to the ecosystems found in the creation as well as those in the spiritual realm.

We will acknowledge that:

- 1 God created all things and “in Him all things hold together.” (*Colossians 1:17*)
- 2 On the third day God separated the waters and the dry land and called the dry land earth. (*Genesis 1:9-10*)
- 3 “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.” (*Psalms 24:1*)
- 4 Man through sin has caused God’s creation to fall and there are consequences to this — flood/desert/pollution/death.
- 5 God in his mercy and grace gives us everything that we need and has provided for us in the ‘dry land’. He is trustworthy and will take care of us. (*1 Timothy 6:17, Phillipians 4:19*)
- 6 In our humility we must come before Him and worship and thank the Lord our God who made the heavens and the earth. (*Psalms 100, Jeremiah 32:17*)
- 7 Man has the God given ability and creativity to use and enjoy what God has given us, ie. dry land.
- 8 Man has to choose whether he uses this for good or bad. (*1 Timothy 6:17*)
- 9 God’s greatest gift is that of Jesus. (*Ephesians 2:8*)
- 10 We need to respond to God by giving back all that we have — ourselves. (*John 12:25-26*)