

Creator God, out of the waters you have created life and out of our baptismal waters you have created the people of your church – those redeemed to live in holiness and righteousness through Jesus' grace and love. Help us to see in your invitation to the waters that you have created all the world to give you glory and to save your beloved people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Here at the beginning of creation, we examine the role of water in the foundations of the world.*

**Day 1 Read Genesis 1:1-5**

1a. Before God decided to act to begin his creative purpose what was the condition of the heavens and the earth?

b. What do you think it would have felt like to live in that kind of uncreated situation?

2. In verse 2, God has not yet acted or spoken anything into creation.

a. Nevertheless there was something that still existed in verse 2. What is that something?

b. Nevertheless, God was still acting in that verse. What was happening?

**Day 2 Re-Read Genesis 1:1-5**

3. God speaks and says, "Let there be light" and there was light. Why was light the creative remedy for what was happening in these first few verses?

4. Water everywhere, formless void, darkness . . . but the wind/spirit of God blows over those Waters, God speaks out of those waters and then there is light. There's good news in this for us. What is that good news?

**Day 3 Read Genesis 1:6-2:4a**

5. As you read through the remaining five days of God's creative work in these verses. How many times is water mentioned as part of God's creative tools over those days?

6. Why do you think water was such a prominent feature in the creation story (it might help to think about the geography of the region)?

#### Day 4 Read Genesis 2:4b-15

7. This section starts the second creation narrative (very different from the first). Nevertheless, water is featured prominently in this second creation story. Look at the different forms of water that are featured.

a. What is the condition of the lands before anything was created?

b. Out of what was Adam (Hebrew for “man”) formed?

c. Ruah, was the Hebrew word that means “wind,” “breath,” or “spirit.” What does God do to the man to bring life into him?

d. What are the common elements between the two creation stories?

8a. Four rivers are named in this story. Go on the internet and see if you can find the meanings of the names of the rivers (it was pretty easy to find).

b. Think about what the earth was like before God acted in this story. What do those names of those rivers reveal about who God is and what God is about through water?

#### Day 5 Genesis 6:1-9:17

9. How did God feel about the sinful people he had created in verse 6:6?

10a. How is the beginning of the flood described in verses 7:11 and how is this different than what we read in Genesis 1:1-7?

b. How many days did it rain? Can you think of other times that number is used in scripture?

11. God promises never to destroy through a flood again in Chapter 9. What does he establish as the sign of his promise? What two things do rainbows require? How do those two things remind us again of the first Creation story in Genesis 1?

#### Day 6

12. We’ve seen in this lesson how God used water to “create” and “re-create” for the people of Israel. How does God use water with Christians to “create” or “re-create”? (If you struggle think of our traditions and the signs that exist in our sanctuary?)