

LESSON 2: WE ARE TO BE STEWARDS OF CREATION

Main Ideas

1. God told people to rule over, work, and take care of creation. This is having a right relationship with creation.
2. We are to use our creativity to steward and rule creation, not to abuse or be ruled by creation.

Part 1: Water bag activity (For class setting) Introduction

Facilitator Instructions: Place a bag of water in the room in a place where it won't damage anything as it flows out but where students will notice it. Make a small pinhole in the bag and leave the water running out while you start the lesson. Make sure the hole is big enough that water will flow out fast enough to catch the students' attention. Start the lesson and complete this example when someone notices the water.

When someone comments on the water flowing out of the bag tell them there is nothing that you can do. Allow the students to make suggestions of what can be done. If no one immediately offers suggestions then ask them, 'Is there something you can do?'

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- What just happened?
- What did you think when I said there was 'nothing I could do' to stop the water from leaking?
- What negative things would have happened if we didn't stop the water from coming out?

Story of the Pokomchi

The Pokomchi Indians are among the poorest people in the poorest province of Guatemala. Many years ago, missionaries came to evangelise and plant churches. Many Pokomchi accepted Christ, but their communities remained desperately poor. The young Christian converts gained a hope for the future, but no hope for today. In fact, they were literally waiting to die so they could leave their miserable existence on earth and go to be with Jesus in heaven.

This began to change when Arturo, a young pastor, came to work among the Pokomchi. He carefully taught the Bible to the illiterate Pokomchi pastors. As they studied, he would explain how God wants us to apply the principles and laws in the Bible to our everyday lives.

A common problem among the Pokomchi was the lack of proper storage facilities for harvested crops. Often, peasant farmers harvested a good crop, only to have rats eat it before their children could be fed. Arturo asked the farmers, 'Who is smarter, you or the rats?' The

farmers laughed and said, 'The rats.' Arturo asked, 'Do you rule over the rats, or do the rats rule over your lives?' The farmers agreed that the rats ruled over them and their families. They took the food, and nobody stopped them. The rats, not the people, decided what the rats could eat.

Then, Arturo showed them that the Bible said men and women are to rule over creation. He reminded them God had blessed them with creativity because they were made in His image. They were to use the creativity God had given them to obey the principle of ruling over creation, not letting creation rule over them.

The Pokomchi decided they needed to act according to the Bible and to start to rule over the rats. They built storage facilities that kept the rats out of their food. Once the food was protected from the rats they started to have enough for their families.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- What happened in this story?
- What can we learn from this story? How does it apply to our area?

Bible Study

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15, Psalm 24:1.

- Who does the earth belong to? (Psalm 24:1)
- What did God tell people to do with His creation?
- What does it mean to take care of it? What do we do when we take care of something? How can we take care of God's creation?
- What does it mean to work it? How can we do that?
- What does it mean to rule creation (think about the story of the Pokomchi)

Part 2: A Right Relationship with Creation

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (2-3 groups)

Look at each of the picture cards. Sort them into piles according to whether they show a right relationship with creation or not. Then, use blank cards to draw more examples of each (right relationship/brokenness) from your community.

Creation Cards

Caring for Animals



Clean Water



Growing Food



Farming



Building A House



Latrine



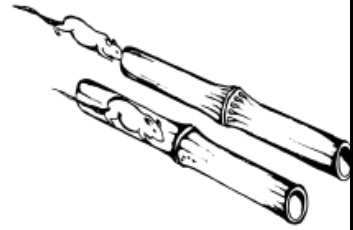
Fishing



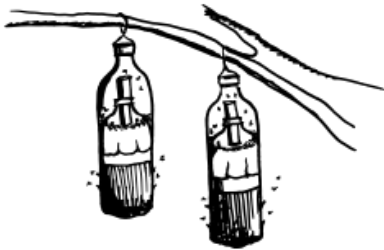
**Cutting Down
Trees**



Rat Traps



Fly Trap









**Covering Food
from Flies**



**Sleeping Under a
Mosquito Net**



<p style="text-align: center;">Litter</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Dry/ Unusable Land</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Digging a Well</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Growing vegetables</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Animal in house</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Rats Eating Food</p> 

REPORT BACK

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Facilitator Instructions: Once they are finished working in groups go through each of the cards.

- Do we do this in our community?
- For the good cards, how can we do this more?
- For the bad cards, how can we stop doing this?

Act of Love Ideas

Let's choose 2-3 ideas and think about how we can do these as Acts of Love. Take time to decide on one and make a plan to do it as an Act of Love.