

Why Do We Teach Creation at STR?

Our ultimate teaching purpose at STR is to bring people to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we teach campers the basics of salvation, we start with who God is. We explain that He is the Creator, that He loves us, and He wants us to be with Him forever. Unless there is a foundation of belief in these attributes of God, and in the Bible which reveals God to us, a person is unable to be drawn to Him. Creation class supports all of this teaching. It's like a second Bible class with an emphasis on an area where the campers' faith comes under attack from many sources in their lifetime.

1) Creation class helps the camper to know God the Creator and to worship Him.

We look at the marvelous design in all of creation and admire God for His amazing power and intelligence. We increase our AWE of Him and give Him the glory He deserves. When we give the credit (for the amazing design that we see) to chance, we are stealing the glory that belongs to God and giving it elsewhere. Many times in Scripture, God tells us to look at all He has done in creation and then listen to Him. His credibility is based on His demonstration of power and intelligence. If we take that away from Him, we take away our reason to listen to Him. If we can worship Him and listen to Him, we can surrender our lives to Him, which is essential for salvation.

It's too easy to have our focus on the problems of this world. When we put our focus on our amazing God, and realize his ability to hold everything together, our faith in Him grows, and our problems come into perspective. After explaining all the above, I have repeatedly asked the campers if creation class helps them to be more confident that God is able to handle their problems and almost all of them indicate they are encouraged.

2) Creation class helps the camper to understand God's love for him personally.

In creation class, we look at how our planet within our solar system, and the ecosystem on our planet, were designed for our well-being, showing His loving care for us. We look at the "extras" He gave us just for our pleasure, that flowers and color were not essential for life. We look at our "fearfully and wonderfully made" bodies and His wonderful care for us. Then we get really personal and talk about how He knows us each personally even before we were born, that He knows the number of hairs on your head, that He knows your personality and what makes you happy, and that He has a wonderful plan for your life. Some of us struggle with whether God truly cares for us personally. Review of these things strengthens our faith and helps us to respond to God, not only for salvation, but in taking our personal problems and decisions to Him.

3) Creation class helps the camper to understand how it's possible to live with God forever.

In creation class we look at how humanity is created "in the image of God", making us an eternal being with the ability to live forever with God. We explore that the term refers to our spirit, not our bodies, and all the ways we are different from animals--not a more evolved species.

4) Creation class builds confidence in the reliability of the entire Bible.

God has revealed Himself and His plan for us in the Bible. The theory of evolution directly contradicts the origins account in the book of Genesis, causing doubt in the accuracy of the entire Bible. It is important to show the problems with evolution and to show that there is physical evidence for the Bible's account.

At first, #4 was my main reason for teaching creation, but I have been blessed to realize many more benefits. Teaching creation has been a personal blessing to me and I also see the results time and again in the faces of the children (and the leaders) as their faith in God reaches new levels. ~ Lydia Kaiser, Day Camp Committee Leader