

5. THE GENERATIONAL LENS

With the creation of light, sky, air, atmosphere, and the separation of the waters from the land, the environment was ready. The massive, earth-moving project to create a dry place for humans to live was God's final touch. Learn what happened next as you read *Genesis 1:11-12*.

Today, we will see something quite remarkable: the first signs of life. God followed his plan. Birds, fish, and land animals would need food. Humans would also get hungry. Most species can survive only a few days without **nourishment**. They need sugars, starches, proteins, minerals, and vitamins to grow and restore their energy. God invented a way to provide a constant supply of food for all living creatures. His plan was to first give the gift of life to vegetation.

It's hard to imagine our earth without living trees, grains, grasses, cactuses, aquatic plants, shrubs with leaves and berries, even weeds. Suddenly, the earth was teeming with plant life. The **foliage** came in an array of colors, flavors, and aromas for every menu. Fruits, flowers, roots, seeds, nuts, and vegetables. (Please remember to eat your vegetables!) God has been filling our bellies ever since (*Genesis 1:29-30*). What a delicious part of creation to hang in a gallery! A photographer's paradise. What could be better than pictures of good, healthy food.

Consider the extraordinary process. It all starts with a seed. (You can purchase a package of common flower seeds at a hardware store.) Look for a shady spot that receives indirect sunlight. Plant the seed in fertile soil and water it. (Click.) In a few days a tiny, green shoot will poke through the soil. (Click.) If you are patient, and conditions are right, the seed will grow into a mature plant. Buds will appear. (Click.) Flowers will open from the buds. (Click.) Finally, the fruit appears. (Click.) It is ready to be harvested. Save a few dry seeds from the fruit. Plant them in the soil next year. Then watch the whole life cycle repeat itself.

Congratulations! You have discovered the miracle of **regeneration**. (Sorry, you're not the first to make this discovery.) You have also collected some interesting photos for your own gallery.

In God's creation life brings forth new life. The life cycle repeats generation after generation. Each **species** regenerates its own kind (*Genesis 1:24*). You and I are living examples of how this miracle works. We are here because our **ancestors** passed life on from one generation to

the next. When children are old enough to get married and start a family of their own, they will begin another new generation. Life on our planet has managed to continue for thousands of years because of this pattern.

Sin also passes from one generation to the next, which explains why we were sinners at birth. Sin is, of course, a spiritual problem that God punishes. Thankfully, God put his extraordinary new invention of regeneration to good use. He used the miracle of reproduction to make sure that people were also passing on an even greater gift to future generations. And what could be greater than the gift of new life? The gift of hearing and believing that we have a Savior from sin is greater than any other gift. He wants every generation, to be able to say, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations" (*Psalms 90:1*).

God blesses parents with the honor and responsibility of sharing the wonderful story of God's love with their children and grandchildren (*Deuteronomy 6:1-9*). If our generation fails to share that message with our children, we will be guilty of breaking God's generational cycle.

END VIDEO. BEGIN CONVERSATIONS.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

How many of your family's direct ancestors can you name? How many direct descendants of your family can you name? Now count the number of generations that you name-familiarity with your relatives.

WORD POWER: nourishment; foliage; regeneration; species; ancestors

FROM THE TOUR

Explain why it is true that life on our planet depends on the miracle gift of regeneration?

What sad and scary aspect of new human life is also passed from one generation to the next?

How does a new generation learn that God has kept his promise to send a Savior from sin?

LEARN MORE

Read *Luke 11:3*. Why do you think God wants us to pray each day for our "daily bread"?

Read *Genesis 1:29-30*. How would you describe God's relationship with his animal creatures?

Read *Matthew 14:13-21*. This narrative teaches that Jesus has the power to feed us. What else can we learn about Jesus from this story?

TAKE-AWAYS

Have you given thanks to God for providing food for your family today? If not, this would be a good time to do so.

Try to learn more about your ancestors this week.



The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.

Psalm 65:12