

Jacob's Creek Family Retreat 2023

Lecture Topics & Suggested Readings

FRIDAY MORNING LECTURE

In The Beginning God Created – By Rev. Matthew Genzlinger

This lecture will begin with the significance of the entire Word beginning with the story of creation. In addition to exploring in depth the first three days of creation and how we experience these “days,” we will also be exploring the importance of understanding the pre-creation state. What is represented in Genesis 1:2 by the earth being a void and empty, and darkness being on the faces of the abyss? Why is this pre-creation state vital to understanding how we turn to the Lord and allow Him to form us into the people He created us to be.

Suggested Readings: Arcana Coelestia 6 through 29; AC 10156; DLW 270

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ELECTIVE

Get Better Friends! (Creating A Healthy Culture Among Friends) – By Rev. Calvin Heinrichs

Have you ever noticed how the company you keep affects you? I certainly have! Unsurprisingly, the Heavenly Doctrine has a lot to say about friendships and how they affect us. Let's explore some of the factors the Lord points us to regarding friendship in light of His Second Coming.

Suggested Reading: TCR 446-448

SATURDAY MORNING LECTURE

The Fulfillment of Creation – By Rev. Coleman Glenn

The first three days of creation described the growth of faith in a person, from a faith in the memory to a faith in the understanding. The fourth day marks a shift: love enters the picture and causes the waters of the second day and the land of the third day to abound with living creatures, culminating in human beings created in God's image and likeness. Finally, on the seventh day, there is rest. How do we experience that shift from intellectual faith to the faith of love? And how does that shift lead to abundant life, true humanity, and lasting peace?

Suggested readings: AC 30, AC 49-52, HH 289

SATURDAY AFTERNOON ELECTIVE

Panel Discussion

Join us for a panel discussion with the ministers on staff where we will be exploring your remaining questions about the story of creation and how we experience these stages of regeneration in our own lives.

SUNDAY MORNING LECTURE

The Seven Days of Creation and the Changes happening in our world – By Rev. Jeremy Simons

The Seven Days of Creation describe both creation and renewal in all of its forms. Each day is a new step in every person's regeneration and is also a new step in the renewal of the church and of society in general. This class will discuss the changes that are happening in our world and in our church in relation to the days of creation, as well as in relation to other series of seven that appear in the Word, especially in the Apocalypse.

Suggested readings: AC 9228, AC 728, LJ 74, AE 730a, AC 3898, AC 410, AC 1850:4, TCR 789, AR 839, Coronis 0, AE 948, AE 641, AC 8944.