

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? John 3:12

They're big. They're mysterious. They're . . . dinosaurs. Those "terrible lizards." What's the big deal with dinosaurs? Why spend an entire VBS day teaching children the truth about these amazing creatures?

Let's think of it this way—our kids spend years learning that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. Through books, movies, and TV programs, they're saturated with the idea that dinosaurs are products of evolutionary processes. School teachers convince them that man never walked with the great beasts. These "earthly things" are all clear contradictions to the Bible's straight-forward "earthly" teachings—that God created land animals (including dinosaurs) at the same time as man on Day Six of that first week about 6,000 years ago.

Jesus warned Nicodemus, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12). When children are taught they can't trust the Bible's earthly teachings, it's obvious that they'll begin to question the Bible's heavenly teachings about morality and salvation. And they do.

If we take seriously our job of raising the next generation in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, then we need to teach them the entire counsel of God's Word. Just as the world uses dinosaurs to teach children a false view history, so we need to use dinosaurs (and other "earthly" things) to teach children the correct biblical view of history. When we show them how the Bible explains dinosaurs, we teach them that the Bible provides a robust worldview, encompassing both earthly

and heavenly things. And we give glory and honor to the One to whom it is due—the great Creator God, who made the behemoth (Job 40).

Today, as we share information on some of God's most powerful creatures with our kids, let's think about the responsibility we have to present the truth and reflect on our purpose as Christians.

Lord of all being,

There is one thing that deserves my greatest care, that calls forth my ardent desires,

That is, that I may answer the great end for which I am made—to glorify thee who hast given me being, and to do all the good I can for my fellow men.

Time is a moment, a vapour, and all its enjoyments are empty bubbles,

Fleeting blasts of wind, from which nothing satisfactory can be derived;

Give me grace always to keep in covenant with thee, and to reject as delusion a great name here or hereafter, together with all sinful pleasures and profits.

Help me to know continually that there can be no true happiness, no fulfilling of thy purpose for me, apart from a life lived in and for the Son of thy love.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision*
(The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005), p. 13.