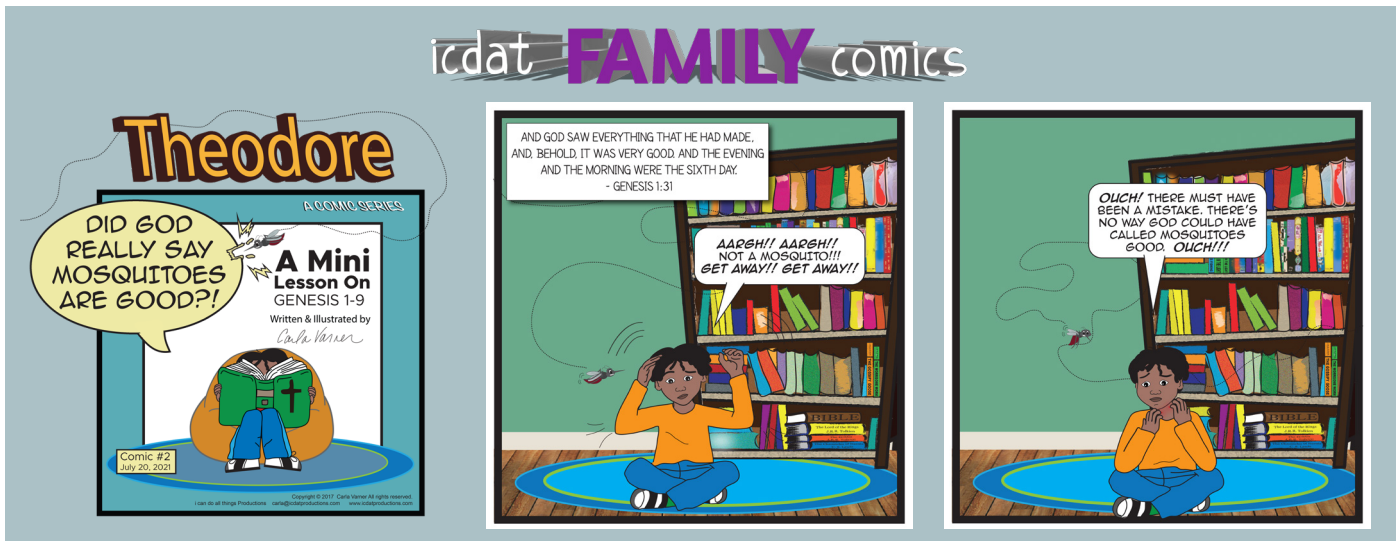


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- A MINI LESSON -

THERE'S TWO THINGS WE CAN COUNT ON IN LIFE. ONE, GOD NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE. AND, TWO, EVERYTHING GOD SAYS IS TRUE. That's why we can be sure that God made mosquitoes for a good purpose.

AARGH! MOSQUITOES!

Sure, mosquitoes have driven us all nuts. Especially when they're buzzing around our ears at night when we're trying to sleep, or biting us when we're outside trying to enjoy the outdoors. We put on bug repellent, burn citronella candles, and grow lavender, peppermint, and rosemary in our gardens, all in an effort to avoid being bitten and left with those itchy, red bumps that we scratch for days.

But mosquitoes aren't only bothersome. They can make people sick by spreading serious illnesses, like malaria, encephalitis, and Zika. This happens when the female mosquito uses the needle-like part of her mouth to puncture her victim's skin and draw blood, just like a straw. In the process she ends

up transferring some of her own saliva, which is how she spreads diseases. It's a messy business, and for all of these reasons mosquitoes are pretty unpopular. In fact, some scientists are actually researching what would happen if we got rid of them altogether!

Yet when God finished making everything, He looked over His whole creation and said it was VERY GOOD! (Genesis 1:31) That meant everything, including mosquitoes!

Still wondering how that could be? To find out we'll need to go all the way back to the beginning of time, to when God first created the earth. We can travel there together as we open our Bibles to the book of Genesis and explore the first nine chapters. There we'll discover God's original purpose for mosquitoes.

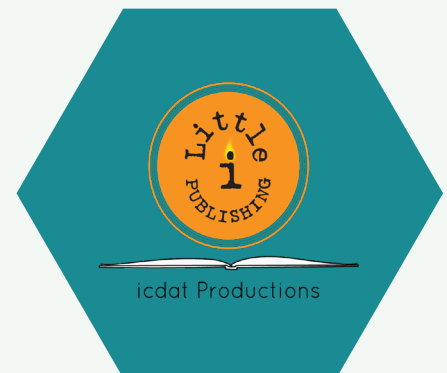
THE BEGINNING OF TIME

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. He made the great lights of the sky, the land,

the seas, and every kind of fish. He fashioned the plants and trees, the birds of the air, and the creatures of the land, great and small. Last, God made His most precious creation, man. He made Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden to live with Him and all He made.

PLANTS FOR FOOD

Then God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth, the power to rule over everything. He charged Adam with naming every animal and working and keeping the garden, which was filled with a bounty of vegetation. A river flowed through the garden watering the plant life. The sun, the air, and the



water made the plants grow and enabled them to make their own food. Then God gave Adam and Eve, and all other life on earth, every plant and every tree bearing fruit, for food.

God's design was perfect and everything lived in harmony. (Genesis 1 - 2) Sadly, things did not stay that way. Although God had given Adam and Eve every tree in the garden to eat from, He commanded them not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and warned them that if they did, they would die. But one day God's enemy, Satan, slipped into the garden and tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying Him. Instantly darkness fell over the earth and sin entered the world bringing death, sickness, sadness, and more disobedience. Nothing was perfect anymore. (Genesis 3 - 4)

THE GREAT FLOOD

From that time on things got worse on the earth. Man's sins increased and the world became a terrible place. God was sorry He made man. With no end in sight to man's wickedness, God made the heartbreaking decision to destroy everything He made, though mercifully saving some.

Noah pleased God because he obeyed Him. So God instructed Noah to build an ark for his family and the animals He would save. Then God sent two of every kind of animal, bird, and creature to board the ark. Once they were all safely aboard, God sent pouring rain for forty days and forty nights. The downpour caused a great flood that destroyed everything in its path. Then God stopped the rain and the flood waters gradually came down. When the ark came to rest on dry land Noah and the animals returned to the earth.

A NEW DECREE

Then God blessed Noah and de-

creed that from that day forward every living thing would be food for him and his descendants. A fear and dread fell over all creatures, for God had given them to be food for all mankind. Man would not only eat plants, but meat, as well. (Genesis 6 - 9)

GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN

So, you see when God originally created mosquitoes they were plant eaters. They were designed to eat the pollen and nectar of flowers, and in the process pollinate them, helping to create the same plants that feed them. We can glimpse God's original design in male mosquitoes today, for they still receive all of their nourishment from plants.

It wasn't until sin entered the world that all of that changed. Female mosquitoes developed the need for proteins found in the blood of humans and animals in order to produce their eggs.

But, even though sin destroyed God's perfect plan, mosquitoes still play an important role in our environment, serving many beneficial purposes. Scientists are even researching how the saliva of a mosquito can help save the lives of heart patients. Let's all pray for that to happen, and that researchers will also

find cures to the many diseases mosquitoes spread.

Sources:

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