

Lesson 3

God Created All Things

Bible Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:7

Memory Verse: By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their hosts. *Psalm 33:6*

Enrichment Memory Verse: When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? *Psalm 8:3-4*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists;

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✝ That God created ALL things
- ✝ That God created ALL things in six days
- ✝ That God created ALL things by speaking them into existence
- ✝ That God's Word creates faith in our hearts so we can trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

1. If students do not have individual Bibles, print a copy of Genesis 1 for each student.
2. Craft materials to make a Creation Banner. Use craft foam, felt, burlap, paper or any other suitable material for the background. For individual banners, this piece should be approximately 12"x15".
3. Cut-out pattern found at the end of this lesson.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God will prepare you through the study of His Word to teach what He would have your students learn about creation.
2. Pray for each of your students by name. Pray for their homes and families, that they would be brought to faith and/or nurtured in their faith.
3. Pray that through this lesson the students' faith in God's work of creation may be strengthened.

B. Bible Study

There was once a time when only God existed. The Bible tells us that He is eternal. He had no beginning and will have no end. In Psalm 90:2 we read, "Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." I Timothy 1:17 also declares God's eternalness, "Now to the King eternal ... the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

The account of God's work of creation is found in the first two books of Genesis. It is no coincidence that the word *genesis* means *origin or beginning* because Genesis records the beginning of all created things. The six days of creation can be outlined as follows:

Day 1 Genesis 1:1-5 Creation of Light. God separated the light from the darkness and called one *day* and the other *night*.

Day 2 Genesis 1:6-8 Creation of the firmament or expanse (vault of heaven or sky) that separated the waters that were on the earth from the waters that were above the earth. Some waters were held above the firmament and others were under the firmament.

Day 3 Genesis 1:9-13 Creation of dry land and vegetation/plants.

Day 4 Genesis 1:14-19 Creation of the sun, moon, and stars.

Day 5 Genesis 1:20-23 Creation of birds and water animals.

Day 6 Genesis 1:24-31 Creation of land animals and man.

God saw everything He made and said, "It was good" (Genesis 1:4, 10, 17, 21, 25). However, following the creation of man, God declared that this creation was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

With the exception of man, all creation came into being as a result of God's spoken command. Psalm 33:9 states, "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast". He needed only to speak and it was so. God became more intimately involved in man's creation, forming him out of dust and breathing life into him (Genesis 1:27, 2:7).

Just as God used His spoken Word to bring all creation into existence, He continues to use His Word to create faith or new life in a person. God's Word is powerful and able to create new life as we read in:

Romans 1:16: "The gospel...is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

James 1:18: "...He brought us forth by the word of truth."

I Peter 1:23: "...you have been born again...through the living and enduring word of God."

Since the "Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword... (Hebrews 4:12), it is obvious that we should faithfully learn it and teach it.

C. Creed Study

The book of Genesis describes for us the amazing creation of the all that exists in six days. The vastness of the universe and the amazing complexity of even the microscopic organisms all around us cause us to stand in awe of God's power and creativity. Today, we have many claiming that they don't see how belief in God can coexist with someone being a scientist. On the other hand, we also have scientists who are experts in their fields claiming that what they are studying points to an intelligent designer. In the 1st Article we go beyond simply saying there is an intelligent designer. We confess that He is God the Father Almighty.

We who believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible say that indeed we see a designer that has revealed Himself in nature. We sometimes speak of this as general revelation, but the Bible has given us specific revelation about the nature and character of God. We are told that He created everything and also, to some extent, the how. The how is explained by telling us that He spoke and things that were not came into being. This idea is sometimes talked about as creating, "ex nihilo," which is a Latin phrase meaning, "out of nothing."

Our memory verse for this lesson tells us that "by the word of the Lord the heavens were made." Some early Christian theologians (Hilary and Augustine) believed that the world was created instantaneously because, 'Why would God take six days to create everything when He could do this in an instant?' *(Luther, M. Vol. 1: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 1-5 (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed: St. Louis Concordia Publishing House). This teaching, however, makes figurative or allegorical the first chapter of Genesis; which we need not do. The universe was not created over millions or billions of years and it wasn't created in an instant. It was created, as God tells us in the book of Genesis, in six 24 hour days. The first chapters of Genesis present an accurate, trustworthy account of the beginning of our world.

In a couple of chapters we have the process of God creating over those six days described. What a beautiful description it is! God is shown creating and filling this world which we now inhabit. When we look at the multitude of stars, for example, we might think that we who live today are insignificant in the grand scope of things. We echo the words, "What is man that you take thought of him?" (Psalm 8:3-4) We are reminded that in and of ourselves there is nothing to commend us to God, but grace and mercy has been extended to us. He created us and is still mindful of us. Our Creator, God Almighty, did all of this and yet forgets not even little sparrows. He created stars, and planets, and moons, and asteroids, and the vastness of space, and also knows the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:6-7). We confess in the Creed that He created all things and His provision continues to come to us; His Word continues to lead us to repentance and faith. He is indeed a gracious Father.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Continue to use the time before class to become better acquainted with your students and to help them to know each other. Ask about their interests,

good things that have happened during the week, any problems they would want to pray about.

Open with Prayer

Thank God for each student by name. Pray for any children who are absent. Thank God that He has come into our lives, first through baptism, and that He continues to bring us His grace through His Word, the Bible. Ask God to help us listen with open hearts and to eagerly study the Bible so we can learn what He wants to teach us.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite Thessalonians 5:24 from memory.

Have the whole class recite together the First Article of the Apostles' Creed: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

Review

SAY In our last lesson we studied about the man Abraham and his wife Sarah. Let's use some of last week's Wall Words to remind us what the Bible says about Abraham.

1. The word **blessings** reminds us that Abraham received blessings from God. God gave Abraham many kinds of blessings like food, family, friends, and good health. The greatest blessing was the promise of an eternal home in heaven.
2. The word **childless** reminds us that Abraham and Sarah were married many years before having a child.
3. The word **descendants** reminds us that Abraham's descendants, all the family members that came after him, would become a great blessing to the whole world. The Bible describes the number of Abraham's descendants as so large they would be like the sands of the sea.
4. The word **descended** reminds us that Jesus descended from Abraham. Jesus' family tree can be traced back to Abraham.
5. The word **multitude** means a large group. Abraham's descendants are described as a great multitude.
6. The word **nation** reminds us that through Abraham all the nations of the world would be blessed.

Introduce Wall Words

Galaxies—A galaxy is a very large group of stars, planets, gases, and space dust that is held together by gravity. The Earth is part of the Milky Way galaxy. The Earth and other planets, the sun, moon, and stars, and all the galaxies exist now, but there

was a time when they did not exist. They exist now because God created them.

Exist/Existed—Something that exists is real. Some things that exist can be touched, like plants, people, animals, water, mountains, etc. Other things that exist cannot be touched, like air, gravity, and God. We can say that everything that exists is real—whether we can see it or not

Eternal—Something that is eternal will last forever, it will never end. The eternalness of God is different than the eternalness of people.

When we say *God is eternal*, it means He is eternal in the past because He had no beginning **and** He is eternal in the future because He will have no ending. He has always been. No one can comprehend the eternalness of God, but by faith we believe His word when it says, "Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God" (Psalm 90:2).

When we say *people are eternal*, it means God gave each person an eternal soul. That soul lives now and will live forever in the future—either in heaven or in hell.

Vegetation—Vegetation has the same root word as *vegetable*, but vegetation is more than just vegetables that you eat. Vegetation includes all the plants that grow on the earth—flowers, trees, shrubs, grass, weeds, vegetables, etc.

Magnificence—When you look at something and admire how amazing and wonderful it is, you are noticing its magnificence.

Ancestors—All the people in your family that lived before you are called your ancestors. Anyone that is in your family tree is your ancestor.

Introduce the Lesson

SAY To begin our class time, I would like to find out who is here today. When I call your name, please say "Here." Proceed to call each student's name and wait for them to reply by saying "here". (This activity leads right into concept of the lesson's opening paragraphs.)

Immediately **READ** paragraphs 1 and 2 in the lesson.

Teach the Lesson

ASK the students, "Who has always existed?" (*God*). What is another word that means *always existed?* (*eternal*).

SAY Now we are going to read about something very amazing that this eternal God did and how He did it. **READ** paragraphs 3. **SAY** In our reading there are two names give to this eternal God, or two

ways He is described. **ASK** What are the two names given to God? (*Father Almighty and Maker of heaven and earth.*) **ASK** What amazing thing did God do? (*Created me and all that exists.*)

SAY Let's read more about *how* God created everything. **READ** paragraphs 4 through 7. **SAY** Turn to Genesis chapter 1 in your Bible. Together we are going to find the 6 verses that have the words "it was so". If students are not familiar with locating Bible verses, use this activity as an opportunity to teach that skill. Have students **FIND** each of the following verses and circle the words "it was so" in each verse: Genesis 1:7, 9, 11, 15, 24, and 30.

READ paragraph 8. **SAY** We just read that there is another phrase that is repeated in Genesis chapter 1. **ASK** What is that phrase? (*"and God saw that it was good."*) Let's **FIND** those words in our Bibles. Have students locate the following verses and underline the words "and God saw that it was good" in each verse: Genesis 1: 4, 10, 17, 21, and 25.

READ paragraph 9. **SAY** After God created people He did not say "it was good". **FIND** Genesis 1:31 and read what God said after people were created. (*...it was very good.*)

Let's read the rest of the lesson to find out if God is still creating things now. **READ** paragraph 10. **SAY** This gift of faith given by God makes it possible for people to trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the salvation of their souls.

If any student is struggling with sin in his/her life, read I John 1:9 with him/her. Then help him/her pray a prayer of confession. The prayer could be worded something like:

Dear Jesus, I'm sorry for _____ [have student admit the particular sin(s)]. Please forgive me and help me to not do it again. Thank you for dying on the cross so I can have forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reread I John 1:9 and ask the student, "What does God promise to do when we confess our sin? (He will forgive us of that sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.)"

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Tell me again, Who is eternal and has always existed? (*God*) **ASK** Did you know that God made part of you that will live forever? He gave you an eternal soul. By faith in Jesus, your eternal soul can go to heaven and live with Him forever.
2. What was the earth like at the beginning? (*It was covered with water and everything was dark.*)
3. Name some things God created. (*light, sky, land, trees, plants, sun, moon, stars, fish, animals, people*)
4. How did God create everything? (*He just spoke and things came to be.*)
5. What did God think of His creation? (*He was pleased. He said it was good.*)
6. What does God create today? (*Faith in the hearts of people.*)

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Psalm 33:6

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

CATECHISM—On a new puzzle piece, students should write the next segment of The Apostles' Creed:

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists;

(See sample puzzle at the front of this Teacher Manual.)

Activity Pages

Activity 1

Students may need help in completing this activity. When help is needed, guide the students to the verse and the portion of it that answers the question.

Answers:

Day 1—*D; created light and separated day from night* (Genesis 1:3-5)

Day 2—*B; sky or heavens* (Genesis 1:7-8)

Day 3—*E; separated water from dry land; created grass, plants* (Genesis 1:9-13)

Day 4—*C; sun, moon, and stars* (Genesis 1:14-19)

Day 5—*A; fish and birds* (Genesis 1:20-23)

Day 6—*F; livestock, crawling creatures, wild animals, man*

What did God think about all the He created? *It was very good.*

How could God create so many things in such a short time? *He is so powerful He can do anything.*

God's Word creates faith in your heart.

When God's Word brings *Jesus* to you, He makes you a new person.

Activity 2

ANSWERS

1. *Exist*
2. *Galaxies*
3. *Eternal*
4. *Create*
5. *Vegetation*
6. *Magnificence*
7. *Triune*
8. *Faith*
9. *Creed*
10. *Ancestor*

Activity 3.

Creation Banner

Each student could make his own banner or the patterns could be enlarged and the entire class work together on one large banner. It is more effective if

students make their own pieces for their banner. The patterns are included. Students may want to add more items if time permits.

Plan to allow more than one class period for work on this project, especially if the students are going to cut out the pieces themselves. If the teacher has everything cut out ahead of time, one class period might be enough to arrange and glue all pieces in place.

Use craft foam, felt, burlap, paper or any other suitable material for the background. For individual banners, this piece should be approximately 12"x15".

Felt, paper, or craft foam would work best for cut out pieces. Trace pattern pieces and cut out. Students can use markers to add details to their cut-out pieces. Have students arrange cut-out pieces on the background and glue.

While students are working, review points from the lesson and remind them to be thankful to God for making such a wonderful world and for making them.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for creating the world and everything in it. Thank you for creating us, too. Thank you for Your Word that is also powerful enough to create faith and love in us. We ask You to live in our hearts, Lord Jesus, forgive us of our sins, and make us clean and holy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Assignment

1. Send Activity Sheets home with students. Remind students to show these pages to their parents and tell their parents what they learned

in class today. If there was not enough time to complete an Activity Page in class, students can take it home and ask their parents to help them complete it.

2. Encourage students to memorize Psalm 33:6 and the first two segments of The Apostles' Creed.

Additional Resources:

Materials that teach a literal, 6-day view of creation week can be purchased from:

1. Ambassador Publications
2. Answers in Genesis, PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048. www.answersingenesis.org

