

GOD CREATES HEAVENS AND EARTH

Lesson 1, Genesis 1:1-3, NIV

SAY WHAT?

People have many different ideas about how our world and the universe came into being. How would you use the first sentence in the Bible, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” to respond to the following statements?

“The universe is eternal. It has always existed, and it always will exist.” _____

“The beginning of the universe happened in a spontaneous Big Bang explosion that generated the earth, sun, moon, and stars.” _____

“We have no way of knowing how the universe came into being.” _____

PICTURE THIS!

Take a 5-minute walk. Go outside if the weather is good, or walk inside the building. As you go, use your smart phone or your hands to frame pictures of things or people that you think represent the lesson concepts (creation, light or energy, and separation of light and darkness) as you have understood them in Genesis 1. There are no right or wrong answers! You are looking for scenes that speak to you.

Now select your favorite “photo” and write why it is appropriate for the concept you chose it to represent. For example, you may have taken a picture of a big oak tree with the sun shining through the changing leaves because it reminds you of the light or energy in God’s creation.

Concept	Photo Example/Why You Selected It
Creation	
Light or energy	
Separation of light and darkness	

GOD CREATES LIGHTS AND LIFE

Lesson 2, Genesis 1:14-25, NIV

SIX DAYS OF CREATION

Today's text (Genesis 1:14-25) describes the fourth, fifth, and sixth days of creation. Read the texts listed below that correspond to the first, second, and third days of creation. List what was created on each day. Compare this list to the fourth, fifth, and sixth days.

Day 1: Genesis 1:3-5

Day 4: Genesis 1:14-19

Day 2: Genesis 1:6-8

Day 5: Genesis 1:20-23

Day 3: Genesis 1:9-13

Day 6: Genesis 1:24, 25

What do you notice about the parallels between Days 1 and 4? _____
Days 2 and 5? _____
Days 3 and 6? _____

How does this pattern demonstrate that God brought order to the universe he made? _____

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

The words to this hymn written in 1864 by Folliot S. Pierpoint describe the glory of God seen in both the creation of the heavens as well as the earth. Read the first two verses and the refrain of this hymn below.

Verse 1:

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

In the space provided below, write a new verse to this hymn to celebrate God as Creator of a universe filled with endless marvels.

Refrain:

Christ our God, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 2:

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light.

GOD CREATES PEOPLE

Lesson 3, Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-7, NIV

IN HIS OWN IMAGE

Moses records the Spirit's revelation to him of the creation of man (Genesis 1:26-31). The uniqueness of that element of God's creation is best summarized in the phrase, "in his own image." Complete the following by filling in appropriate vowels. Each will highlight an element of being made in God's image.

1. C R _ _ T _ V _ T _

2. L _ N G _ _ G _

3. W _ L L F _ L N _ S S

4. M _ R _ L _ D _ S C _ R N M _ N T (two words)

5. R _ L _ T _ _ N S H _ P

6. C _ V _ N _ N T _ C _ P _ C _ T _ (two words)

Where do you see each of these in today's texts? Write a short explanation of each to the right of the words above.

What other elements of our correspondence to God's nature and character distinguish us from other elements of His creation?

See John 15:9, 17. _____

See Romans 1:18-20. _____

See Psalm 8, especially verses 1 and 5b. _____

POTTER AND CLAY

In the Spirit's words in Genesis 2:4-7, some see in the creation of Adam an image similar to that of the potter throwing a beautiful pot. Accept that image, and then note the similarities and the differences. One suggestion is made for each.

SIMILARITIES

Both are created for a purpose.

DIFFERENCES

God's creation is animate; a pot is inanimate.

Compare and contrast your lists with those of another class member.

GOD CREATES THE FAMILY

Lesson 4, Genesis 2:18-24; 4:1, 2, NIV

FAMILY

In Genesis 2 and 4, God clearly delineates what a family looks like. There is a husband, a wife, and ideally children, to continue God's plan to fill the earth with people to glorify Him. Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel are an example, the first example, the precedent.

With the many genealogical listings the Spirit provides in the Word, God emphasizes the importance of family in His plans. See those provided for Jesus, the second Adam, in Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38. Use these Scriptures to put the following names in correct chronological order to finish each sentence: Abraham, Adam, Boaz, David, Isaac, Jacob, Jesse, Judah, Noah, Seth, Shem.

1. He worked through the family of _____.
2. Then He worked through the family of _____.
3. Then He worked through the family of _____.
4. Then He worked through the family of _____.
5. Then He worked through the family of _____.
6. Then He worked through the family of _____.
7. Then He worked through the family of _____.
8. Then He worked through the family of _____.
9. Then He worked through the family of _____.
10. Then He worked through the family of _____.
11. Then He worked through the family of _____.

Then He worked through the family of Mary and Joseph (both descended from David, but from different sons) to bring Jesus into the world by means of a virgin birth.

Now you have a historical overview of God's history to bring about the second Adam, Jesus.

How will you allow God to work through your family?

TWO SEXES

A sin-corrupted world wants to throw off the concept of two sexes. It wants to alter God-revealed relationships between the two He created and declared "very good." Look at each of these texts and write a short truth revealed.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Genesis 1:27 _____ | Genesis 2:22 _____ |
| Genesis 4:1 _____ | Genesis 5:1, 2 _____ |
| Leviticus 20:10 _____ | Romans 1:20, 26, 27 _____ |

ANOTHER FAMILY

Though the New Testament continues its picture of the ideal family and interrelationships with its members, it speaks also of another family, the church fellowship. But the purpose remains the same: to glorify God. Look at Ephesians 5:22-6:4 for the Spirit's comparison of the family to the church. What resembles the physical family in the spiritual family? What is different?

SIMILARITIES

Love is the guiding principle.

DIFFERENCES

The human family has "blemishes."

GOD CONFRONTS SIN

Lesson 5, Genesis 3:8-17, 20-24, NIV

A TREE AND A TEMPTATION

Today's text (Genesis 3:8-17, 20-24) describes the events following the woman and man eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Using the texts provided, answer the questions that provide the background for today's text.

1. According to Genesis 2:8, 9, what did God plant in Eden?
2. According to Genesis 2:16, 17, what was God's command to the man about the trees?
3. According to Genesis 2:17, what was the punishment if the man ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
4. According to Genesis 3:1, how did the serpent twist the command of God in Genesis 2:17?
5. According to Genesis 3:3, how did the woman change the command of God in Genesis 2:17?
6. According to Genesis 3:4, 5 how does the serpent tempt the woman?
7. According to Genesis 3:6, why does the women eat the fruit?
8. According to Genesis 3:7, what was the result of the woman and her husband eating the fruit?

CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

Sin is a reality. All have sinned. We cannot hide our sins from God, yet we do try. Believers accept the responsibility for their sins and seek reconciliation with God and others through confession and repentance. Silently reflect on the answers to the following questions.

What sins have you committed? Which sins do you commit regularly?

What is a consequence for your sin?

How has your sin affected your relationship with God?

Who else have you hurt as a result of your sin?

What sin do you need to repent of today in order to restore your relationship with God?

What relationships do you need to restore? What can you do to restore those relationships?

Read Psalm 51:1-14.

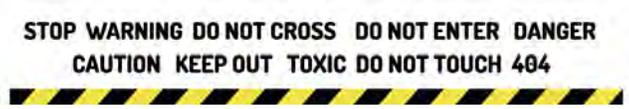
Ask God to forgive your sin and give you guidance in restoring the relationships damaged by your sin. Thank God for his forgiveness and provision.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF NOAH

Lesson 6, Genesis 6:9b-22, NIV

WARNING SIGNS FOR TODAY

The people of Noah's day were not following God. What caution or warning signs might God post on the earth TODAY to direct people to abandon sin? Complete possible warning signs below and list a possible Scripture reference for each.



Possible Scripture References

1. Slow! _____
2. Beware! _____
3. Wash Hands! _____
4. Caution! _____
5. Warning! _____
6. No Lone Zone _____
7. Danger! _____
8. No Entrance! _____



Which signs might God post primarily outside the church? Which might He post primarily inside the church? Why?



Graphics: © adekvat | iStock | Thinkstock®

THE CALL OF ABRAM

Lesson 7, Genesis 10:1; 11:10, 27, 31, 32; 12:1-4, NIV

FAMOUS ANCESTORS

Match the celebrity on the right with his or her famous ancestor on the left.

Ancestor

- ___ 1. Abraham Lincoln
- ___ 2. Benito Mussolini
- ___ 3. Thomas Jefferson
- ___ 4. Jesse James
- ___ 5. King Louis IV of France
- ___ 6. King Henry II of England

Descendant

- A. Katherine Hepburn
- B. Ozzy Osbourne
- C. Lee Marvin
- D. Brad Pitt
- E. Sophia Loren
- F. Tom Hanks

PROMISE SEARCH

Find the following words related to the word *Promise* in the Word Search below.

A R M Y H P O H R T K O E P G
I C E K L M F C N I A H Y S P
P B F P K L E E H E I F E W H
T A A W O V M J H H A T E C X
K C I B G T T N P B Y H T A O
T H T P I J K X L C Z Z N G G
H J U M R A U K E E Q B A S P
S E M X A O Y O D Y U B R L Q
M O V O U U M Z G D H D A F K
C X H X M P X I E I Q Y U X F
K W X C P B B K S K P V G B X
C O V E N A N T L E G K L N I

Commitment

Covenant

Guarantee

Oath

Pact

Pledge

Promise

Vow

What has been the impact of God's promises in your life?

THE BIRTH OF THE PROMISED SON

Lesson 8, Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-7, NIV

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

Match the quote on the left with its source on the right.

__ 1.	“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”	A. Lewis Carroll (author of <i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> and <i>Through the Looking Glass</i>).
__ 2.	“Sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”	B. Sir Walter Scott (Scottish novelist, playwright, and poet).
__ 3.	“To the timid and hesitating everything is impossible because it seems so.”	C. Walt Disney (Animation pioneer).
__ 4.	“It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.”	D. Marcus Aurelius (Emperor of Rome).
__ 5.	“Because a thing seems difficult for you, do not think it impossible for anyone to accomplish.”	E. Nelson Mandela (President of South Africa).

BIBLE BABIES

Isaac wasn’t the only baby in the Bible who was predicted or about whom information was made known before birth. Try to identify each one without looking up the reference.

Information	Reference	Who was this baby?
1. His parents were to never cut his hair.	Judges 13:2-7	1.
2. He leaped in the womb when his cousin (who was also in the womb) came close.	Luke 1:44	2.
3. He was consecrated by God before he was born	Jeremiah 1:5	3.
4. He was covered by God in his mother’s womb	Psalms 139:13	4.
5. Of his kingdom there will be no end.	Luke 1:26-33	5.

THE MARRIAGE OF ISAAC

Lesson 9, Genesis 24:12-21, 61-67, NIV

TRUST AND OBEY

Work in groups of two or three to compose a new verse to the hymn “Trust and Obey.” Write a verse that is specific to today’s challenges. The meter is 6.6.9, which essentially means two lines of six syllables each followed by a line of nine syllables. Each verse has two sets of those.

The Current Verses:

1	When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.	4	But we never can prove The delights of His love, Until all on the altar we lay; For the favor He shows, And the joy He bestows, Are for them who will trust and obey.
2	Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away; Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh or a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey.	5	Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we’ll walk by His side in the way; What He says we will do; Where He sends, we will go, Never fear, only trust and obey.
3	Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.	Chorus	Trust and obey, For there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

The New Verse

SIBLINGS' RIVALRY

Lesson 10, Genesis 25:19-34, NIV

WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY'S CONFLICT STYLE?

Examine the conflict styles listed below. For each method identify a family member who uses that one. Be sure to pick one for yourself!

Conflict Style	Description	Who?
1. Avoidance	Refuses to bring up or discuss difficult topics.	
2. Accommodation	Gives in to everyone's wishes for the sake of peace at any price.	
3. Competition	Stands ground; must come out on top, even if the other person loses out.	
4. Compromise	Gives up something in order to resolve the issue.	
5. Collaboration	Seeks win-win solutions where what's important to each person is addressed.	

CONFLICT IN SCRIPTURE

Where do the situations in the following references fit, if at all, in the above five categories? Which, if any, fit in more than one?

Scripture	Avoidance	Accommodation	Competition	Compromise	Collaboration
Genesis 26:19-22					
Genesis 30:25-34					
Matthew 17:27					
Acts 6:1-7					
Acts 15:36-41					
Philippians 4:2, 3					

JACOB'S DECEPTION

Lesson 11, Genesis 27:5-10, 18, 19, 21-29, NIV

HOW NOT TO BE SCAMMED

Jacob pulled a fast one on his father, Isaac, and deceived him. Here are some of the common scams or deceptions we must beware of today.

Identity theft: Someone wrongfully uses another person's personal data fraudulently. This can involve bank accounts, credit cards, medical expenses, or tax returns.

Fake charities: Instead of helping people in need, these fakes keep the money for themselves. Some crooks try to fool people using names that are similar to those of legitimate charities.

Have you ever been the victim of a scam? How did it turn out?

Did you ever use any of the following in order to protect yourself from being deceived?

- **Know who you're dealing with.** Call the Better Business Bureau or consumer protection agency to see if the organization is credible.
- **Guard your personal information.** Don't provide your credit card or bank account number unless you are paying for something and know the organization is valid.
- **Be cautious about unsolicited e-mails.**
- **Fully understand every offer.**
- **Don't believe promises of easy money.**
- **Check your credit reports regularly.**

DECEPTIVE EXCUSES

Look at the common deceptive excuses below. Suggest polite but truthful replacement answers.

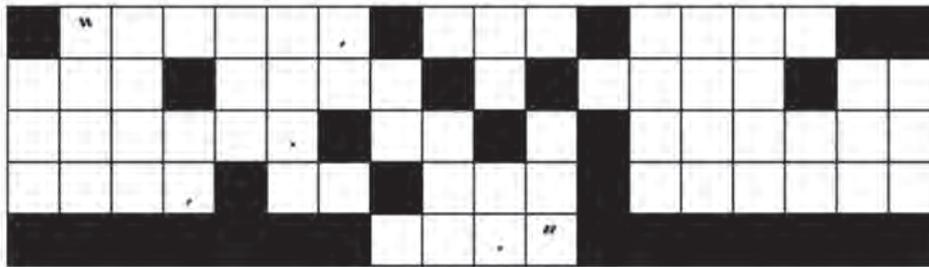
Deceptive Excuse	Truthful Response
1. "I was late because of traffic."	
2. "I'd love to go to the baseball game, but I've got something else planned."	
3. "I didn't think you'd mind if I borrowed your sweater without asking."	
4. "That dent was there when we picked up the car."	
5. "I'm too full to eat another bite."	

JACOB'S DREAM

Lesson 12, Genesis 28:10-22, NIV

TOO BUSY TO REMEMBER?

Below each column of boxes, there is a column of letters. Choose from the letter column to fill in the boxes directly above it. Mark off each letter as you use them. (Hint: Start with the columns with single letters.) The quote is a paraphrase of a prayer by Lord Jacob Astley.



U E F S O
H O L R D Y Y O I U O R G B T
T O W A B D S I F O U F N R G E T
Y O D O Y U O M N I T M K O T W E E

Created by puzzlemaker.
discoveryeducation.com

TABLE OF BLESSING

Plan a night to celebrate God's blessing in your life!

Who will you invite, and why? _____

How will you explain the evening to your guests? _____

How will the menu items illustrate the theme of the celebration? _____

How will your acknowledgement of God's blessings be like and unlike Jacob's acknowledgement in Genesis 28:20-22? _____

GOD'S BLESSING

Lesson 13, Genesis 30:22-32, 43, NIV

WHAT EACH GENERATION WANTS FROM WORK

While sociologists debate the exact years for the following generations, these parameters are general descriptions for characteristics of those born in certain years and their attitudes for what they want from their work environment.

Name of Generation	Years Born	Desires from Work Situation
Millennials	1983 to 2004	Mentoring, flexible hours, work-life balance, the chance for overseas assignments
Generation X	1965 to 1982	Career development services, flexible hours to accommodate families, access to information networks
Baby Boomers	1946 to 1964	Financial planning services, wellness initiatives, and recognition programs
Silent or Greatest Generation	1920s to mid-1940s	Phased retirement options

Does this description match your personal experience?

Speculate on why each generation values the work benefits it does.

Is it easy or difficult to view your salary and benefits as coming from God's hand?

How might a Christian and a non-Christian have differing attitudes toward work?

HOW GRATITUDE CHANGES US

Gratitude changes us! Reflect on how that happens in the four areas below.

	How It Happens	When It Happens	Where It Happens
Thoughts			
Attitudes			
Relationships			
Worship			

This is one step I can take to increase my gratitude this week: _____

Lesson 2

Six Days of Creation, Part 1: Day 1=Light was created and God separated light from the darkness. Day 2=Waters were separated above the earth to create the sky above. Day 3=Water gathered together into seas to create dry land. God created plants and trees. Day 4=Sun, moon, and stars were created. Day 5=Animals were put in the sky and the seas. Day 6=Animals were made for the land.

Six Days of Creation, Part II: Day 1=God creates light and on Day 4 God creates that which provides the light. Day 2=God creates water above and below and on Day 5 God fills both with animals. Day 3=God creates land and on Day 6 He fills the land with animals. There is a specific order in which God creates. First He creates the space and then in the same order creates that which fills the space.

Lesson 3

In His Own Image, Part 1: 1=Creativity. 2=Language. 3=Willfulness. 4=Moral Discernment. 5=Relationship. 6=Covenant Capacity. Further explained in the following: 1=the desire to make something new and glorious. 2=sophisticated speech. 3=ability to decide. 4=knowledge of good and evil. 5=desire to be in communion with other people. 6=the ability and desire to enter agreements with others.

In His Own Image, Part 2: John, capacity for love; Romans, awareness of God's existence and expectations; Psalms, ability to analyze and appreciate the intricacies of the creation; learners may also suggest such characteristics as desire for communion with others, thinking/cognition, and an understanding of death and its inevitability.

Potter and Clay, possible answers: *Similarities:* both are thoughtfully planned; both are entirely at the will of the one who creates; both have aesthetics and function. *Differences:* man is filled with a God-breathed soul, the pot only empty space; the one—man—was created to be eternal, the pot, temporal; man was declared “very good,” perfectly made, but pots are sometimes recast because of flaws.

Lesson 4

Family: 1=Adam. 2=Seth. 3=Noah. 4=Shem. 5=Abraham. 6=Isaac. 7=Jacob. 8=Judah. 9=Boaz. 10=Jesse. 11=David.

Another Family: *Similarities:* There is a structure of responsibility and authority; the more mature have responsibility to the less mature; one must be born into both. *Differences:* The physical family has “spots and blemishes,” the true church is completely glorious; physical birth does not automatically make one a part of the spiritual family. That necessitates “new birth.”

Lesson 5

A Tree and a Temptation: 1=A garden, all kinds of trees, tree of life, tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 2=Free to eat from any tree, but must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 3=Death. 4=He said they weren't allowed to eat from any tree. 5=Not allowed to touch the fruit of the tree. 6.=Tells her she will not die, her eyes would be open, she would be like God. 7=She sees it is pleasing to the eye, desirable for gaining wisdom. 8=Eyes were opened, realized they were naked, covered themselves.

Lesson 6

Warning Signs for Today: *Possible Scripture references* 1=Slow—James 1:19. 2=Beware—Colossians 2:8. 3=Wash Hands—James 4:8. 4=Caution—1 Timothy 5:14. 5=Warning—Hebrews 11:7; 12:25. 6=No Lone Zone—Hebrews 10:25. 7=Danger—Matthew 5:22. 8=No Entrance—Revelation 21:27.

Lesson 7

Famous Ancestors: 1—F; 2—E; 3—C; 4—B; 5—A; 6—D.

Promise Search:

```

          T
          N
      P     E     E
    A W O V M
  C       T     P     H T A O
T       P I     L     N
      M R     E     A
      M     O     D     R
    O       M G     A
  C         I     U
          S     G
C O V E N A N T E
  
```

Lesson 8

That's Impossible: 1=E. 2=A. 3=B. 4=C. 5=D.

Bible Babies: 1=Samson. 2=John the Baptist. 3=Jeremiah. 4=David. 5=Jesus.

Lesson 10

What's Your Family's Conflict Style: Responses will be subjective.

Lesson 11

Deceptive Excuses: Possible Answers. 1=“I'm sorry for being late; I should have given myself some extra time.” 2=“No thank you. I don't enjoy sporting events.” 3=“I'm sorry. I should have asked you first.” 4=“That dent was caused when I backed into a pole.” 5=“The spices in this dish don't agree with me.”

Lesson 12

Jacob's Dream:

	L	o	r	d		Y	o	u		k	n	o	w				
h	o	w		b	u	s	y		I		m	u	s	t		b	e
t	o	d	a	y		I	f		I		f	o	r	g	e	t	
Y	o	u		d	o		n	o	t		f	o	r	g	e	t	
						m	e										

Lesson 13

What Each Generation Wants from Work: <https://www.recruiter.com/i/what-each-generation-wants-from-employers/>