

Lesson 1 Creation

Scripture Text

Genesis 1:1-31

Bible Story

Introduction

A long, long, long time ago there was no world. No sky and earth, no sun and moon, no trees and flowers, no birds and animals, and no people. There was nothing. Nobody lived—that is, nobody but God. He has always lived; the Bible says that He is "from everlasting to everlasting." He had no beginning and He will have no end. It might be hard to understand this, but we believe it because God's Word says it.

At first everything was black, black darkness—not a glimmer or ray of light, just empty blackness. God looked down from His home in Heaven and decided to create a world. He was going to make it out of nothing, absolutely nothing, and He would hold it together by the word of His power.

GA 1-1 "Let there be light" Day 1

Then in a mighty, powerful voice God commanded, "Let there be light," and there was light! Instantly the darkness vanished. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. This was the first day of God's creation. It was the beginning: the beginning of the world, the beginning of time, the beginning of history, and the beginning of earthly life.

GA 1-2 Sky and waters Day 2

The earth had no form or shape, maybe it was just like a big blob. God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." And it was so. Between the sky up above, and the waters down below, God made the atmosphere or air and called it the firmament. On the earth below, water covered all the earth. This all happened on the second day.

GA 1-3 Dry land and beautiful plants Day 3

On day number three, God caused dry land to bulge up out of the waters. There appeared high, majestic mountains, rolling hills, plains, deserts, valleys, as nature obeyed the voice of the Lord. God called the dry land Earth. But it was all so barren. God didn't want it like this. So He gave another order: "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth." Presto! What a change! All the hills were covered with shades of green grass, bushes, plants, and shrubbery. And the mountains were not bare anymore, nor were the valleys. Trees were everywhere; forests sprang up over great portions of the earth. The great oaks, the stately pines, and the sweet smelling cedars lifted their branches toward heaven. The weeping willows and vines of ivy hung gracefully, dressing up the earth. God said He made them "after their kind." If you planted an apple tree in your yard, would you get bananas from it? Of course not. You would get apples. If you set out a dogwood tree, would a pine tree come up? No, and so it is with all the trees, plants, shrubs, and bushes. They bear after their kind.

Aren't you glad that He is also a God of beauty? To realize this, all you have to do is look around. What gorgeous color, everywhere we turn our eyes. God has covered much of the earth with flowers, flowers of every kind, shape, color, and size! Some are big and showy; some are tiny and dainty. Some perfume the air all around with a wonderful fragrance. Can you name some of them? Roses, daisies, iris, daffodils, chrysanthemums, azaleas, nasturtiums, violets, tulips, and hundreds of others. The Bible says God had great joy in making His world so wonderfully beautiful, because He created it for His "pleasure" and for ours. He wanted us to enjoy it and delight in it. All the grass, plants, trees, and fruit were begun on the third day.

GA 1-4 Sun, moon, and stars Day 4

On the fourth day, as dawn was breaking, God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth." So God made two huge lights, the sun and moon, to shine down upon the earth: the larger one, the sun, to rule over the day and the smaller one, the moon, to rule through the night. God put them in the sky to divide the light from the darkness. In the night sky, God hung the moon on nothing. The sky was so big; there was plenty of room for the millions and billions of stars. He flung them out into the night heavens. The sun, moon, and stars were to be for times and seasons. And still today we count our years, our months, our days, and the time of day by these heavenly bodies. The fourth day of creation was finished.

GA 1-5 Sea creatures and birds Day 5

The world was now so beautiful that it was breathtaking. There was only the rustling of the wind in the trees, and the splashing of the water on the rocks. So God moved again and said, "Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." So God created great sea creatures—the mammoth whales and sharks, the big fat porpoises; the tiny minnows, goldfish, crabs, and shrimp. He made every sort of fish imaginable, and most of them good to eat! He told them to multiply and fill the waters.

And then on the same day God made the birds, thousands of them. What a marvelous sight! The magnificent eagles soaring through the heavens, the robin perched on the highest branch of a tree, the multicolored parrot trying to "talk," the gorgeous peacock strutting around so proudly, the mockingbird copying the songs, trills, and chirping of the other birds. Then there were the tiny little hummingbirds, all kinds of sparrows, the blue jays, the cardinals, the woodpeckers, the wrens, and finches. You name it, it was there. Some sang, some trilled, some chirped, and some squawked! They were every

color of the rainbow; they were beautiful, lovely, thrilling, and exciting to watch. And to them God said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth." That ended the fifth day.

GA 1-6 Animals Day 6

On the sixth day of the creation week, God made something else for His marvelous wonderland. From deep down in the shady forest there came a loud roar. God had made the "king of the jungle"—a great golden yellow creature with a long hairy mantle, the very first lion. Then there was the giraffe. What a strange-looking creature four long legs and a very long neck allowing it to nibble leaves from the tallest trees. And what is that trumpeting sound? What is that huge creature with legs like tree trunks, big flapping ears, and a tube-like thing on the end of its nose? An elephant, of course.

There was a parade of cattle, beasts, and reptiles for God had said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind." So here they came—horses and cows, camels, hippos, rhinos—and the small, tiny animals—the little squirrel, chipmunk, and monkey, and toads.

All joined the march, all different in looks, in the sounds they made, in color, and in their size. And just by speaking the word, God called them into being. He created them male and female, so that they could have baby animals just like themselves. That's what God meant when He said He would make the animals "after their kind." Do you think a great big grizzly bear would have a little baby squirrel? Or an old, slow, hard-backed mamma turtle could have a giraffe? You say, "Of course not, that's silly!" And neither do we believe a monkey could produce a person. We didn't come from monkeys; the first people came from the hand of God. God looked at all His animal creation and saw that it was good.

GA 1-7 Man

But still, the best and most important part

of creation was yet to be done. Although these plants, birds, fish, and animals were good and beautiful, not one of them could talk to God or love Him. He had plans for a different creature to do that. He was going to make a man, not someone like a monkey, an elephant, or any other animal, fish, or bird—but just like Him, in His own image. So God made man like his Maker.

How did He make this "crown of creation"? Did He speak the word and man was created? No. Man was made in an entirely different way. Our wonderful, loving Creator God with perfect wisdom took the dust (or chemicals) of the ground and formed a man's body. He then breathed into this body something none of the animals, birds, or fish had—a soul that could never die!

Why did God give man a soul that would live forever? So man could know God and enjoy Him forever. Man would therefore think about God and the world to come. He could talk to God, love God, and obey God. God could have said, "That's a big, powerful elephant, but he can't talk to Me nor think about Me and the world to come. That lovely bluebird is the way I want him, but he can't love and worship Me. They don't have souls." But God put an eternal soul down inside man's body, a soul that would live somewhere forever. The body is the house in which man, the real person, lives. The real person would never die, for he is eternal.

So God finished His work on the sixth day of creation week when He made the animals and man, and He was pleased with it in every way.

God did not forget to give them something to eat. He said, "I've given all the grass and plants to the animals and birds for their food." He thought of everything, didn't He? God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat."

GA 1-8 Rest Day 7

Now the heavens and the earth were all done, with all that they had in them. The Bible says that God rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made, and God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day He ceased His work of creation. God did not rest because He was tired, but because His creation work was finished and there was nothing more He needed to do. God set apart the seventh day as a holy day of rest. He still wants us to have one day in seven for rest. That day is to be different from the other six days. Today we call it the Lord's day. On that day of rest, God wants us to go to His house for worship, prayer, and praise with other Christians; to hear and read God's Word, and to do good to our fellow men.

I want you to think really hard now, and ask yourself these questions. Do I have a soul as well as a body? Will my soul ever die? Will I live somewhere forever and ever? Can I think about God and the world to come? Am I different from the animals? Why? Can I talk to God, love God, and obey God? Do I and my family give God one day for rest and worship?

Activity 1

Age 3 through Grade 7

Materials needed:

- ☐ a plastic garbage bag for each student (small kitchen size)
- ☐ vinyl food handler gloves for each student

Students need to realize that people often don't respect God and the world that he gave us. Give each student a garbage bag. Take them out for a walk in a local park or in your neighborhood nearby. Have them each find at least ten pieces of litter or garbage. Give a prize to the student who has the most in his bag. At the end, give the following explanation to the students.

"Pollution and the abuse of our natural resources is always going to be a problem in our world. Some industries just dump their garbage and waste into our waters and areas where we

live. However, pollution is not just an industrial or government problem. Pollution begins with a poor attitude on our part. It begins in our own bedrooms and kitchens where we fail to clean up after *ourselves*. When you are outside and you unwrap a candy bar or finish a soda, what do you do with your garbage? Do you throw it away where it belongs? Sometimes we just throw the wrapper or can on the ground. Sometimes it might just be some little bit of scrap of paper. We don't think that it is very much and it can't really hurt—it will just rot away and turn into dirt. But we don't realize just how much of an effect there is when we just throw things down. Was it easy for you to find ten pieces of garbage? Why? [Because there is so much garbage all around us from people throwing down 'little bits' of garbage.] If a small town of about 10,000 people were to each pick up one piece of litter each day, there would be about 3,650,000 pieces of garbage less for us to pick up each year. If the whole world were careful to not litter, we could save our world 900 billion pieces of garbage each year. How do we treat the world that God gave us? Are we just trashing it and burying ourselves in our own garbage? Let's appreciate the world that God gave us and take care of it."