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When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him? (Psalm 8:3-4)

Why Teach Genesis in Sunday School?

The Vision

It's impossible to understand any subject until you know its origin. The first eleven chapters of the book of *Genesis* tell the origin of all things: the universe, galaxies, stars and planets, including Earth, life, man, marriage, language, nations, government, culture, and religion. More important, *Genesis* tells us about the origin of sin and evil, and God's plan of redemption through the chosen people, Israel, and ultimately Jesus, the Messiah.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork (Psalm 19:1)

Genesis begins with God's act of creation. Not only God's greatness, majesty and amazing creativity, but also His goodness and mercy can be clearly seen in the world around us.

For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Teaching about *Genesis* and God's creation in Sunday School is the best way to equip our children to defend their faith when they are confronted with the world's false ideas about evolution. It can also help children to develop good critical thinking skills as well as a love for good science. We want to teach about creation in a way that will excite and challenge our children and deepen their love of their great and awesome God.

We feel the most effective way to teach *Genesis* to children is by providing a hands-on learning experience that keeps the subject matter relevant to a child's interests and needs. So, we have prepared the following fourteen lessons with accompanying craft, game, and science activities designed to reinforce the lesson objectives.

Week #	Lesson
1	How Did the World Begin? (<i>Genesis</i> 1:1) • Who made God? • How did God make everything? • Was Jesus there?
2	Day #1 of Creation — Light & Darkness (<i>Genesis</i> 1:1-5) • How could there be light before there was a sun?

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created (Revelation 4:11)

Week #	Lesson
3	Day #2 of Creation — Atmosphere/Separated Waters (Genesis 1:6-8) • Was it good in the beginning or is it getting better?
4	Day #3 of Creation — Land, Sea, Vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13) • Seed after its kind • Earth mural • Seed experiments • Garden terrariums • Why are plants important? • Why did God make so many different kinds?
5	Day #4 of Creation — Sun, Moon, Stars, Season, Days, Years (Genesis 1:14-19) • Seasons, days, years, calendars • Solar system • Why did God make night and day?
6	Day #5 of Creation — Fish & Birds (Genesis 1:20-23) • Order and complexity • Structure and function • Sea monsters? • How do birds fly? • Flying dinosaurs?
7	Day #6 of Creation — Animals, Man & Woman (Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-8,18-24) • Same day; not evolution! • Dinosaurs? • Ecology, taking care of God's earth
8	Man is unique from animal & more precious to God — We are not evolved (Matthew 10:31) • Clay sculptures • Living cells • Breath/oxygen • Carbon • Fingerprints • Do animals go to heaven?
9	Day #7 of Creation — Sabbath Rest (Genesis 2:1-3) • Finished; not evolving • Jesus is our peace • Worship and praise

Week #	Lesson
10	Sin Enters the World (Genesis 2:7 - 3:24; Romans 3:23; 1John 1:9) - Choice/consequences - Imitation and lies - Blame shifting - Cause and effect - Results of sin - Promise of Jesus
11	Cain and Able (Genesis 4:1-16) - What pleases God - Sin is crouching at your door - Worship/special thanksgiving
12	Civilization, not cave men (Genesis 4:16 - 5:32) - Gifted men or cave men? - Eliminate missing links - Evil multiplies - Calculate time line - History passed by word of mouth
13	Noah and Flood (Genesis 6:1 - 9:17) - Dinosaurs in ark? - Fossils - Volcanoes - Rainbows - Legends from different cultures - Promise
14	Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) - Beginning of languages - Pyramids, Aztecs - Worship of heavens - World peace and unity through Jesus, God of the nations

In teaching these fourteen lessons, we earnestly desire to:

1. Teach the attributes of God as revealed through His creation.
2. Show that there is scientific evidence that supports the Word of God (that is, God's Word and God's world agree!)
3. Show Jesus in creation and in the Old Testament prophecies (that is, the Gospel in Genesis!)

The Daily Format

Each morning the children and all the teachers meet together in a large group for a corporate teaching and worship time. The teachings are short and simple so that we keep even the youngest child's attention.

After the teaching and worship time, the children split up into color groups, not according to age or grade level. Each color group is a mixture of ages so that the older children can mentor the younger ones. The color groups rotate in 15 or 20-minute time blocks through the following three learning centers:

1. **Imagination Station** (Craft Center)
2. **Fun House** (Game Center)
3. **God's Weird and Wonderful World** (Science Lab)

Each learning center leader repeats their activity for each of the color groups. As an alternative, if you're short on time, you can use the learning center activities in each lesson as electives from which the children can choose. Or, if your Sunday school is small, you can choose to do only one of the suggested activities.

We Need A Team

It's best to have lots of helpers to make this Sunday School program successful. The Lord uses different personalities with differing gifts and resources in the most incredible ways! And, it's so much fun to work together! So, don't be shy about getting involved. We need a team of people to fill the following roles:

- **A People Planner:** Someone willing to make calls, host a sign-up table, print a schedule, keep communications updated, etc. Or, get five different people to oversee the scheduling for the following teams:
 - ❑ Teachers
 - ❑ Worship Leaders
 - ❑ Craft Leaders
 - ❑ Game Leaders
 - ❑ Science Leaders
- **A Decoration Planner:** Someone with a vision for "setting the scene" and creating eye-appealing room decorations based on the creation theme. This person can pull together a team to decorate bulletin boards, etc.

- **Teachers:** People who can teach God's Word to children in a simple, understandable style.
- **Worship Leaders:** People who have a desire to lead children in the worship of God with songs related to the creation theme or God's majesty.
- **Craft leaders:** People who are creative, love crafts, and kids! (Have you considered edible crafts with a Creation theme, like ants on a log? Celery sticks coated with peanut butter and raisins sitting on top!)
- **Games Leaders:** People who like games and kids, and have the vision for creating games that will reinforce the weekly lesson objectives or encourage the children to memorize God's word.
- **Science Leaders:** People who want to help children discover God's weird and wonderful world, as well as develop a love for good science disciplines.
- **Helpers:** People who can assist the leaders and help the kids. The high schoolers make excellent helpers and that way they don't miss out on all the fun!

Many hands make work light and much more fun. The trick is to keep the vision and be flexible!

Decorating Ideas

Here are some ideas for decorating the rooms for the Children's Creation Curriculum.

1. Use Dinosaurs as the theme.
 - Print the words: "Digging for God's Truth" across the bulletin board. Add pictures of dinosaurs.
 - Use dinosaur decorations available from stores. Look in places like party goods stores, teacher's supply stores, and the birthday section of drug and department stores.
 - Put up maps showing where dinosaur bones have been found.
 - Display inflatable dinosaurs in the classrooms.
 - Display digging tools such as shovels and picks.
 - Use large dinosaur footprints to point the way to each Learning Center.
 - Display books on dinosaurs.
 - Prepare several banners to hang throughout the Sunday School area.

- Make large dinosaur eggs from construction paper and hang them in the doorways. Make some of them cracked as if they are hatching.
- Using L'eggs containers, make dinosaur eggs by attaching self-adhesive dots to the eggs or by painting stripes or dots on the eggs. Display them in various places around the classrooms.
- Make a huge dinosaur using an overhead projector. Make a transparency using a coloring book sketch of a dinosaur or clip art. Project the picture and trace it either directly onto a 4' x 8' self-standing display unit or trace it onto butcher paper. Then you'll have to cut out the dinosaur and glue it to the display unit. (Note: if you traced the picture, you could have the kids paint and decorate it as one of the Craft Center projects.)

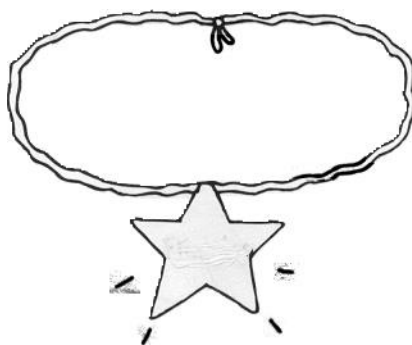
2. Use the Noah's Ark theme as one of your bulletin boards.

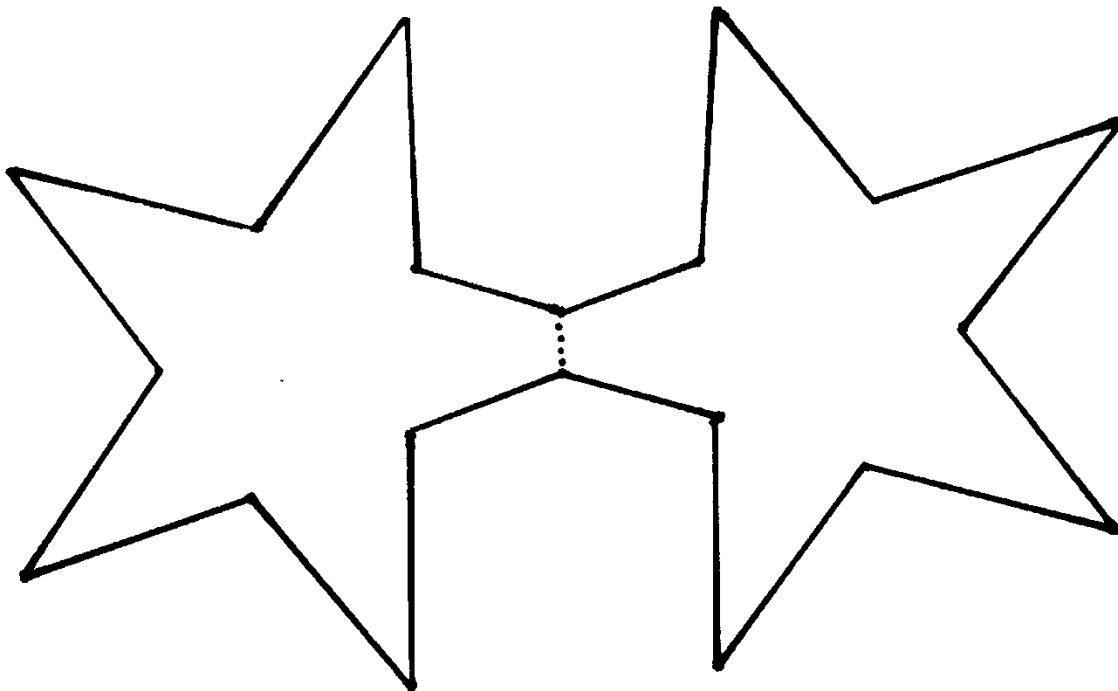
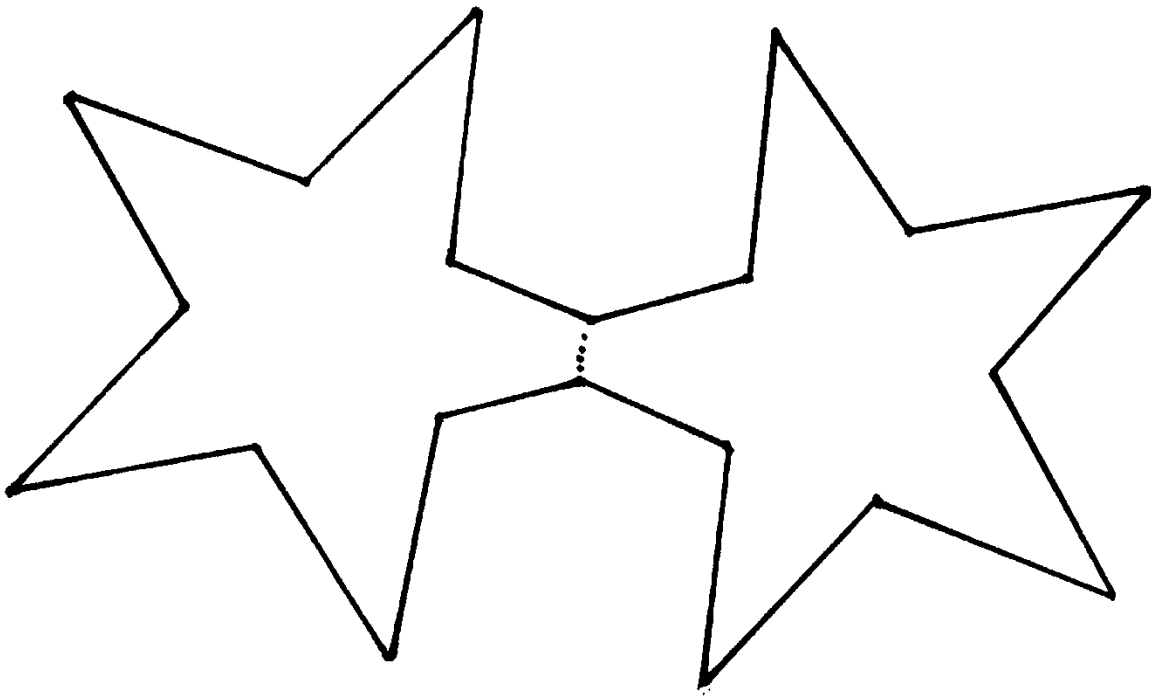
3. Use the Days of Creation as a theme.

- Each room could be a different Day of Creation.
- Make one bulletin board a collage of things made on each day.

Name Tag Idea

Copy the double star pictured on the next page onto different colored paper according to the children's color groups. Fold it on the broken lines. Write the name of each child in the center of the star. Let the children decorate with glitter, if desired. Fold the star over a piece of yarn long enough to fit over the child's head. Tape the star to the yarn to hold it in place.





Schedule Forms

Use the following pages to help you make the schedule.

Children's Creation Curriculum Schedule

Week #	Date	Lesson	Memory Verse
1		How Did the World Begin? (Genesis 1:1)	<i>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)</i>
2		Day #1: Light & Darkness (Genesis 1:1-5)	<i>Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 ESV)</i>
3		Day #2: Atmosphere/Separated Waters (Genesis 1:6-8)	<i>The heavens are Yours, and the earth is Yours; everything in the world is Yours—You created it all. (Psalm 89:11 NLT)</i>
4		Day #3: Land, Sea, Vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13)	<i>The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. ⁷He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. ⁸Let the whole world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of Him. ⁹For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command. Psalms 33:6-9 NLT)</i>
5		Day #4: Sun, Moon, Stars, Season, Days, Years (Genesis 1:14-19)	<i>When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers--the Moon and the stars You set in place--⁴what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that You should care for them? (Psalm 8:3-4 NLT)</i>
6		Day #5: Fish & Birds (Genesis 1:20-23)	<i>"But ask ... the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ... or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? (Job 12:7-9 NIV)</i>
7		Day #6: Animals, Man & Woman (Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-8; 18-24)	<i>Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth (Genesis 1:26 NLT)</i>
8		Man is Unique from Animal & More Precious to God. We are not evolved (Matthew 10:31)	<i>Look at the birds of the air; for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:26)</i>
9		Day #7: Sabbath Rest (Genesis 2:1-3)	<i>All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. (Psalm 145:10-12)</i>
10		Sin Enters World (Genesis 2:7 - 3:24; Romans 3:23; 1John 1:9)	<i>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)</i>
11		Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-16)	<i>The LORD is more pleased when we do what is right...than when we offer Him sacrifices. (Proverbs 21:3 NLT).</i>
12		Civilization, not Cavemen (Genesis 4:16 - 5:32)	<i>Cain built a city. ...Jabal was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock... Jubal was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ... Tubal-cain was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. (excerpts from Genesis 4:17, 20, 21, and 22 ESV)</i>
13		Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6:1 - 9:17)	<i>When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth. (Genesis 9:16 NLT) —and— I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved... (John 10:9a)</i>
14		Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)	<i>From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined...the exact places where they should live. (Acts 17:26 NIV84)</i>

Children's Creation Curriculum Schedule

Week #	Date	Teacher	Music	Craft	Game	Science
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						

Creation

How Did the World Begin?

INTRODUCTION

How do you think the heavens and the earth came into being? (*Let the children respond.*) Just how did God create the earth? Some say that there was a sudden explosion and the universe appeared. Others say God started the process and the universe evolved (developed) over billions of years.

[Teacher, write “Big Bang” and “Evolution” on the white board.]

The universe did not just happen or evolve. God created this amazing, complex world where we live very carefully. Today we’re starting a series of lessons about how the world was *really* created. We’ll begin a study in the book of Genesis. That’s the first book in the Bible and it tells about the beginnings of things.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You that you made us such a beautiful world to live in. And thank You for having Moses write down all about the days You created it so that we might learn about it. Open our eyes, Lord, so that we might see the beauty and the wonder all around us so that we might appreciate Your marvelous creativity and give You all the credit for being so amazing. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

LESSON

Our universe is so complex it speaks of a supreme God who created the earth out of His great love and with a wonderful imagination, like an artist. God, who can do anything because He is all-powerful, had a special plan. Because God is love, He wanted to make a world that would be just right for humans to live in so that He could share His love with people. God didn’t *need* to make the world, He *wanted* to because love is best when you can share it with someone else.

The world didn’t just happen all on its own, either. God planned every detail of it so that it would be the perfect environment for us to live in. For example, it had to be just the right temperature. The sun couldn’t be too close or it would be too hot for us to exist. The sun couldn’t be too far away, either, or it would be too cold for us. He knew that we would need air to breath and water to drink and food to eat. So He had to plan every detail just right.

Before we begin learning the truth about the creation of the world, I want to talk about some of the lies people tell us about. Everywhere you go the lies are told, so you need to learn to watch out for them. People who don’t know God teach lies about creation in school or on TV and in movies. You can come across lies about creation at the library or in museums, in aquariums or at parks. You need to watch out and have your Sword of Truth ready, that’s the word of God.

How Long Did It Take?

Big Bang:

Some people think that all of a sudden there was a big explosion and the universe appeared out of nothing. This doesn’t make sense. Think about this cellphone. Do you think that if you put all its parts on the table and then threw a cherry bomb at the table, that a perfecting working cellphone would drop from the sky? One that keeps perfect time and you can use to make phone calls and text messages? No, the cellphone, by its very nature tells you that it must have been engineered by someone.

Days Of Creation

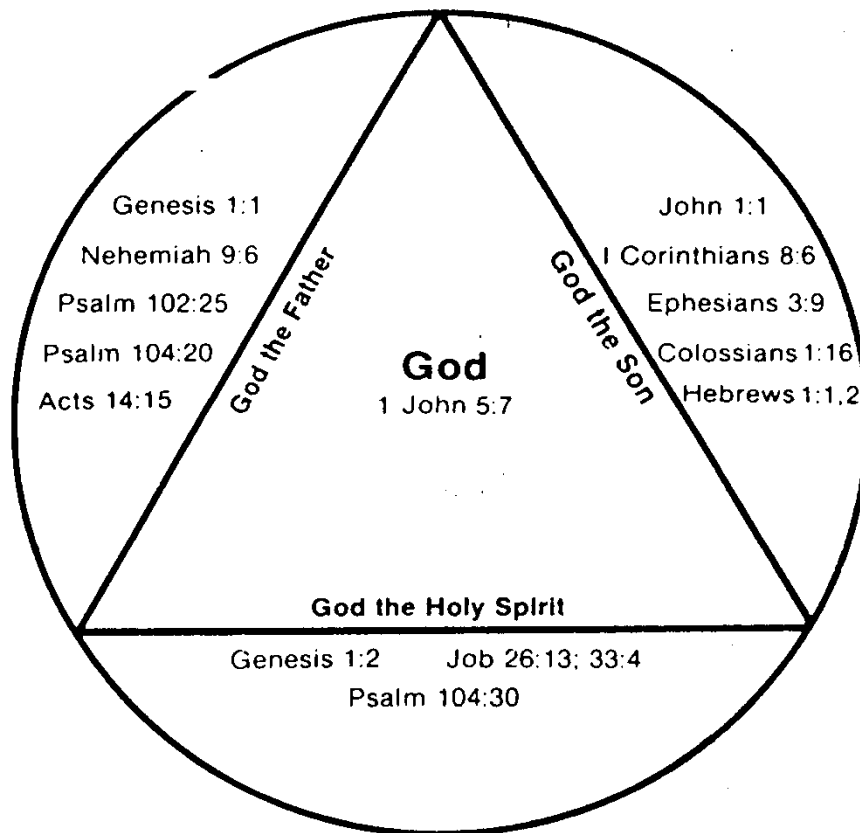
Some people think that it would be impossible for God to create our universe in just six 24-hour days. They say it must have evolved over great periods of time. Or, they say that maybe each day of creation was really 1,000

years. Is anything too hard for God? Is there anything He can not do? The Bible is our only reliable source of information. There are no mistakes in God's Word; we can trust everything it tells us. We can believe just what it says: God created the universe in 6 actual days!

Who Made the Universe?

Trinity in Creation

(Teacher, draw *Trinity in Creation* chart, shown on the next page, on the white board and explain...) The circle reminds us of our eternal God having no beginning and no end. The triangle reminds us of how our God is one in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know from scripture that each person of the Trinity was there to help create the world and everything in it.



The Father

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Nehemiah 9:6

"You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."

You can see that God the Father was involved in the creation of the world.

The Son

And God the Son, that is Jesus, was also involved in the creation of the world. (Have children look up and READ the following scripture:)

Hebrews 1:2-3

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

The Spirit**Genesis 1:2**

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God the Holy Spirit was actively involved in the creation of the world as well.

Only One God**Isaiah 43:10-11**

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. ¹¹I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.

Isaiah 44:6

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

There is only one God, but He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We call God a *trinity* which means *threefold*. Look at the triangle. This one triangle has three sides. It's a trinity too.

Conclusion

God created the heavens and the earth. Our universe began with a big God; not a big bang!

Closing Prayer

Lord, it is a wonder that You created a world that is just right for people to live in. You made air that we can breath, You placed the sun so that it is just the right temperature for us here on earth and You've given us food and water so that we might live. You are a marvelous God, thank You for making for us such a nice place to live. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

You can use the Learning Center activities as electives from which the children can choose, or you can divide a large group into three and let the subgroups rotate from one center to the next. Or, if your Sunday school is small, choose one of the following activities:

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Divide a horizontal sheet a paper down the middle with a line. Let the children draw pictures of Things God Made on one side and Things Man Made on the other.

Who Made It?

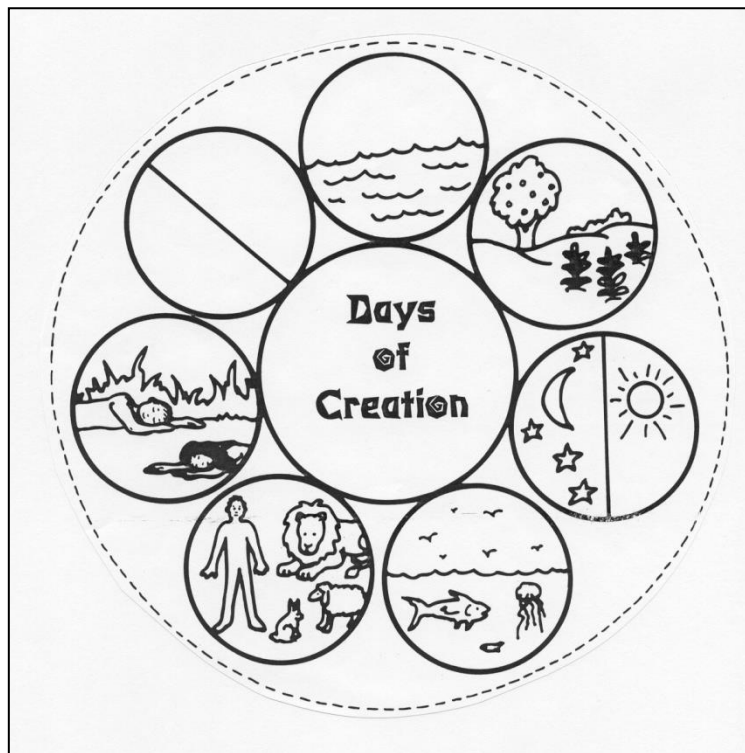
Things God Made

Things Man Made

Fun House

(Game Center)

Note: for this and other games in the series you will need creation visuals that you can use each week. Draw an enlarged version of the pictures shown below. Or, if you have an overhead projector, you can enlarge each circle and trace it. Then, copy them on to card stock, color them, and have them laminated.



Play Sequence

Let a child see how quickly he can pull the creation visuals out of a paper bag one at a time and place them in proper sequence – first to seventh. With several sets of creation visuals, you can have children race to see who's fastest. Or, you can divide the children into teams and use them in a relay race.

Game Questions for Lesson #1

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

1. Who made the universe? (God)
2. How did God create the universe? (Very carefully and thoughtfully. He planned every detail.)

3. Why did God create the universe? *(So He could share His love with humans.)*
4. What is the Big Bang theory? *(Some people think that all of a sudden there was a big explosion and the universe appeared out of nothing.)*
5. Why doesn't the Big Bang theory make sense? *(Order doesn't just happen from disorder.)*
6. What is the Evolution theory? *(Some people think that it was impossible for God to create our universe in six 24-hour days. They think it must have evolved over great periods of time.)*
7. Where do we learn the truth about how the universe was formed? *(The Bible)*
8. Why is a circle a good reminder of what our God is like? *(It has no beginning and no end)*
9. Why is the triangle a good reminder of what our God is like? *(It is a trinity. Just like a triangle has 3 sides so our God is three persons.)*
10. Which person of the trinity created the universe? *(All three were present)*
11. Why do some people make up false stories about the way our world was formed? *(They don't want to obey God and they want to be their own god.)*

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Learning Observation Skills

Look at things God Created - bring in some natural items such as pretty flowers, sea shells, rocks, sidewalk chalk, sand, pieces of fruit, iron nails, feathers, wooden stick, magnets, etc. Let the children pick them up and look at them. Talk about how pretty they are. Ask them if they know anyone who can make anything as beautiful as the things they are looking at. Comment that only God can make these things. Bring in pretty paintings (or pictures of paintings) of sunsets. Talk about how pretty the sunset is and how the person who painted the picture is very talented. Ask the children if they have seen a real sunset. Ask them which they thought was better -- to see the real thing or a picture of the real thing. As an alternative, go outside, walk around and observe and record all the things that you see that God made and that man made. Note each item's properties. Ask the children, "How can you tell if man made something or if God made something? Do you think that the natural things could have been formed by accident or were they designed by an intelligent Being?"

	Things God Made		Things Man Made
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
4.		4.	

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Creation

Day #1 of Creation: Light and Darkness
(Genesis 1:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

Shake up a bag full of Legos, spill them out, and ask, "What can you make out of these?" (*Allow responses.*) Then shake up an empty bag, spill it out and ask, "What can you make out of this?" *You* can't make anything out of nothing! Only God can do that!

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (ESV)

The book of Genesis tells the story of how God created the universe out of nothing. The word *Genesis* means *beginnings*, and the book of Genesis explains the beginnings of the universe, earth, people, sin, and of God's plan of salvation.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, tune our ears so that we might learn more about You this morning. You are such an awesome God! Draw us a little closer to You as we learn about the wonderful way You made the world we live in. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 ESV)

LESSON

Long ago, before God created the heavens and the earth, there was nothing. There was no land, no trees or flowers or animals or even people; there was only God.

God has always lived; He is eternal. That means God had no beginning and He will have no end. He told Moses His name is *AI AM*" because He *is* and always *was* and always *shall be*.

So, at first there was nothing. Then God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

I wonder if God created the angels when he created the heavens? The bible doesn't tell us, but I do know that angels are created beings and everything that is created was created during the six days of creation. So, it stands to reason that God created the angels when He created the heavens, doesn't it?

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

There was no shape to the world and there was nothing in it, on it, or around it. The world was dark, just like night, except there were no stars or a moon. There was only deep, deep water all around and it was totally dark.

The verse says, *The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*. God was present everywhere at the time of creation, just like He is today. God never changes, He is always the same. God is always close to us caring for and protecting us.

At first there was only darkness. So, after God created the heavens and the earth the next thing God needed to create was light. And because God is all-powerful, all He needed to do was speak it into existence.

Genesis 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God just commanded that light "be" and there was light. Isn't God's word powerful!

We know from verse 14 that God didn't create the sun, moon, or stars until the 4th day of creation. What do you think made it light until then? (*God Himself!*)

Isaiah 60:19

The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

At the end of time, the bible tells us that God will create a new heaven and a new earth and that we will no longer need the sun or moon or stars because He will be an everlasting light! That is why Jesus said that He was the light of the world. (Review the memory verse.)

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Genesis 1:4

And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

He was well pleased with the work He did on that first day of creation.

Genesis 1:5

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

God knew that people would need time to sleep and rest; that we could not be awake all the time. He was thinking and planning ahead for our good health.

When God created day time and night time, He not only wanted us to have a time to sleep, but He also wanted us to have a way to mark the passing of time. That first day of creation had one daytime period and one nighttime period, just like we have every day, too.

Let's Review what God did on the 1st day of creation:

- Vs 1 says God created the heavens and the earth.
- Vs 2 says that at first planet Earth was formless and empty and completely dark. And it was **only** water.
- Vs 3 says because it was completely dark, God created light.
- Vs 4 says, God separated the light from the darkness and created Day time and Night time and gave us a way to mark time.

Closing Prayer

Lord, it is a wonder that You created a world that is just right for people to live in. You made air that we can breathe, You placed the sun so that it is just the right temperature for us here on earth and You've given us food

and water so that we might live. Today we want to thank You for giving us day and night so that we have time to rest as well as work and play. You are a marvelous God, thank You for making for us such a nice place to live. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from the following craft ideas:

1. Modeling Clay

Create something that God made out of modeling clay or draw a picture of something God created. Talk about how it is impossible for you to make something out of nothing like God did. Tell them that God made the material out of which the clay was made. Talk about the properties of the clay.

Modeling Clay Dough Recipe:

Materials

- 1 cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup water
- bowl
- waxed paper
- food coloring

Procedure

Mix 1cup flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, and 1 cup water together in a big bowl until the mixture becomes dough-like. Place a sheet of waxed paper on your work surface, and sprinkle it with some flour. Knead the clay dough into a ball on the floured waxed paper. Divide the ball into separate lumps of clay, and add some food coloring to each. Knead each lump well again. Now you can sculpt the clay dough into any shape you want. When you're done sculpting, you can leave your clay creations out to air dry, or store the clay in separate plastic bags or airtight containers. Keep them in the refrigerator until the next time you play.

2. Positive/Negative Cutouts

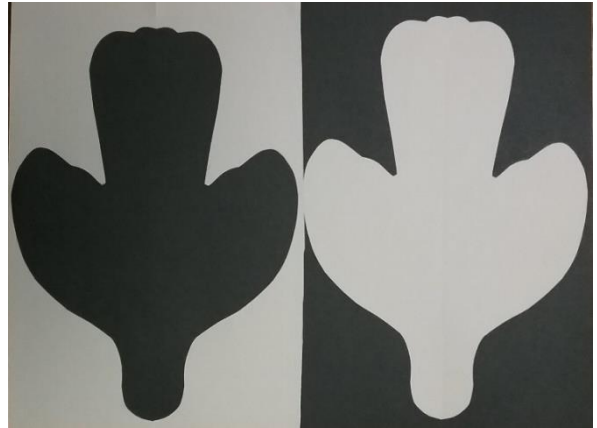


Materials

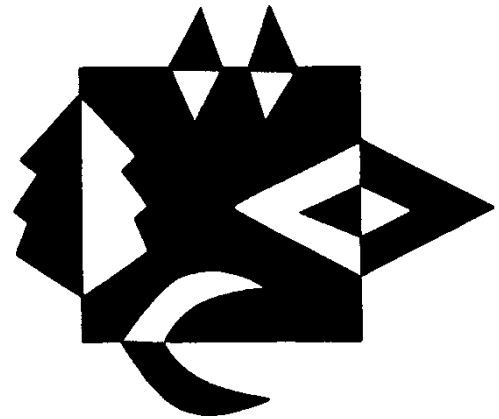
- White and black construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Craft glue

Procedure

1. Cut white construction paper into half.
2. Fold each piece in half again lengthwise.
3. Choose one of the given patterns, trace the pattern with the arrow along the fold and cut it out.
4. Keep the piece you cut out as well as the piece that you cut it out from (i.e., what was left over after you cut out your pattern.)
5. Glue the two pieces side by side onto a full piece of black construction paper.
6. Write today's Memory Verse on your picture,
"God said, 'Let there be light.'" (Gen 1:3).

**Alternate Procedure**

Cut a 4x4-inch square from construction paper. Cut a shape into each side, saving the cutout pieces. Place the cut square and the cutouts on another piece of contrasting colored construction paper. Arrange the cutouts in a mirror image of the square's side shapes. After you've positioned the pieces, glue your design to the construction paper background.

**Fun House**

(Game Center)

Creation Beanbag Toss

Make seven large circle targets (see Lesson 1 for graphic ideas). Decorate each to depict a day of creation. Divide the children into two teams and ask them questions about today's lesson (see below). If a team gets a correct answer, one child gets to toss a beanbag for points. Make the points 1,000 times the # of the day of creation. For example, if the bag lands on Day #5 the team gets 5,000 points. Give prizes for all.

Review Questions

1. Who is the only One who can make something out of nothing? (God)
2. What does the word Genesis mean? (Beginnings)
3. What book in the Bible explains the beginnings of the universe, earth, people, sin, and of God's plan of salvation? (Genesis)
4. What was there before God created the heavens and the earth? (Nothing but God)
5. Why is God like a circle? (Because He has no beginning and no end)
6. Why did God tell Moses that His name is "I AM?" (Because He is and always was and always shall be)
7. What was the earth like when God first created it? (Verse two says that it was formless and empty. There was no shape to the world and nothing was in it, on it, or around it.)
8. Did God the Father, Jesus or the Holy Spirit create the world? (There is only one God. He is three persons.)
9. Where was the Spirit of God during creation? (Verse two says He was hovering over the waters.)
10. What did God create after He made the heavens and the earth? (Light)
11. How did God create the light? (Verse three tells us that all He needed to do was say, "Let there be light" and there was light.)

12. Since God didn't create the sun, moon or stars until the fourth day of creation, what made it light until then? (God Himself!)
13. What did God say when He saw the light? (That it was good)
14. Why do you think that God created day and night? (He knew that people would need time to sleep and rest; that we couldn't be awake all the time.)

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose from the Following Science-Lab Ideas:

1. What Color is Light?

When we see colors, we are seeing light of different wavelengths. Even though sunlight appears to be colorless, it is actually a mixture of many colors or wavelengths of light. You can see some of these colors as a rainbow. As sunlight is reflected through raindrops, it is bent. Light with long wavelengths, like red, is bent more than light with short wavelengths, like violet. You can separate sunlight into a rainbow or spectrum much like the famous scientist Sir Isaac Newton did some 300 years ago.



What You Need

- A straight-sided, clear, glass tumbler
- A piece of card with a 2-inch-long vertical slit
- A sheet of white paper
- Adhesive tape
- A window ledge or table beside the window

What You Need to Do

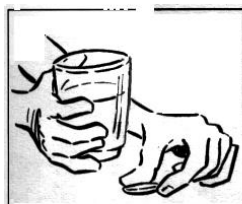
1. Fill the glass with water and tape the card on so that the slit is against one side of the glass.
2. Place the glass onto a piece of white paper, close to a window, on a wide ledge or table. Make sure the card with the slit is facing the window.

What Do You See?

Sunlight passing through the slit is bent by the water in the glass. This gives you the awesome *spectrum* on the paper. Just like the rainbow in the sky, the water bends the white light pouring in the window into the fan of colors that you see (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet).

2. You Can't See a Penny Through a Glass of Water!**What You Need**

- A plain clear glass filled with water
- A penny
- A saucer or small piece of paper

**What You Need to Do**

Place the glass of water on top of the penny and cover the top of the glass with the saucer or paper.

What Do You See?

Don't strain your eyes. You won't see the penny. Recall how we said light rays are bent by going through things like water? This is such a situation. The only way you can see the penny is by looking straight down, and the saucer prevents you from doing that!



For another strange illusion, take the saucer away and look at the surface of the water from the side. The penny seems to be on top of the water.

This bending of light is called *refraction*. Another example can be seen by placing a pencil in a half-full clear glass of water. When you stand back and look, the pencil seems broken. Why? Well, the only reason you see the pencil at all is because light bounces off it into your eyes. But light is coming from two places: the pencil in the water and the pencil outside the water. There is no problem with the light coming from the pencil outside the water. As expected, it follows the rules and travels in a straight line. But the light coming from the pencil (and penny) in the water follows another rule as it passes through the water to the air on its way to your eyes: the rule of *refraction*. When the light hits the tiny molecules making up the water and glass, it bounces and changes direction just a bit. It's refracted.

Among other things, refraction explains why a fish looks bigger under water and why objects can appear to be three feet deep when they are really four. Refraction also gives you a good reason never to dive into a pool without knowing its actual depth.

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Creation

Day #2 of Creation: Separated Waters and Atmosphere

(Genesis 1:6-8)

INTRODUCTION

Take a deep breath. See how long you can go without breathing!

Today, we're going to talk about our atmosphere. [Teacher, write "**atmosphere**" on the board.] Do you know what that is? It's the air around the earth.

Before we get into our lesson, let's open in prayer...

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, give us understanding as we try to learn about how You created our world. Help us to try to imagine what it was like before You made the sky and air we breathe and the vast oceans. I pray You would excite us as we consider how fantastic it was for You to create our universe out of nothing. It's so perfect and wonderful! We stand in awe of You! Thank You Lord. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

The heavens are Yours, and the earth is Yours; everything in the world is Yours—You created it all. (Psalm 89:11 NLT).

LESSON

Today we're going to talk about the second day of creation. But before we do, let's review what we learned last week. Before God got started creating the world, what was the universe like? (There was nothing, just total darkness.)

What was the first thing God did on the first day of Creation? (*God created the heavens and the earth.*)

At that point, what was the earth like? (It was a ball of water.)

The Bible says, the earth was without form and was totally in the dark. What was the next thing God did? (*He said, "Let there be light" and there was light.*)

Now God didn't create the sun, or the moon, or the stars until the fourth day of creation. So, what lit up the world? (*God Himself!*) Then the Bible tells us, "God separated the light from the darkness". What did God call the light? (*Day*) What did God call the dark? (*Night*)

When God created day time and night time, He not only wanted us to have a time to sleep, but He also wanted us to have a way to mark the passing of time.

So, on the 1st day of creation, God:

- Created the heavens and the earth
- Created light
- Separated light from dark (day time and night time)
- Gave us a way to mark time

Let's talk about the 2nd day of creation.

Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. (ESV)

As we learned last week, when God created the heavens and the earth on the first day of creation there was no shape to the world and there was nothing in it, on it, or around it. It was a big ball of water. So, on the second day of creation, God made a space (an expanse) between the waters above and the waters below. In other words, He decided to separate the waters to form the sky. The sky is the whole mass of air surrounding the earth, which we call the *atmosphere*. So, God created the air we breathe and we call it *sky*.

Can you picture it? God parted the waters so there was water above the sky, and below the sky was a big ball of water.

The world was much different then than it is now. Now there is no water above the sky. But things didn't get the way we see them today until after the great Flood in Noah's time. When the great Flood came, the sky opened and the waters above it came down and flooded the earth. We'll be learning more about that in a few weeks.

Sky

Let's talk about the sky that God made on the second day of creation. Although you can't see it, our atmosphere is very important because it contains the air we need to breathe. It also gives the birds a place to fly. Our atmosphere is what makes it possible for life to exist on earth.

Air exists several miles above the earth. Gravity is what keeps the air from floating off into space. [Teacher, write "**gravity**" on the board.]

Air Pressure

How much does air weigh?

It may seem that the air is weightless, but actually air is matter. It takes up space and it has weight. Scientists call the weight of air, "air pressure."

In fact, air is pushing down on us from all directions all the time. The air in this room is several hundred pounds! We can't see it because air is invisible and we can't feel it even though the air pressure is always pushing on us from all sides at about 15 pounds of pressure per inch.

Why aren't our bodies crushed by the ever-present air pressure? Because we breathe air, our bodies push back with pressure at an equal force so we don't get crushed.

Hot air rises and cool air sinks. That's how hot air balloons work. You heat the air in the balloon to make it rise and you cool the air so it will come back down to earth.

As air warms it gets lighter and rises, it creates a low-pressure area. The air gets gradually thinner as you go up in altitude. That means when you go up in altitude there is much less air pressing on you.

Normally we don't feel any of this unless the pressure changes suddenly. Have you ever had your ears pop when you go up in an airplane or while you are driving up a mountain in a car? Your ears pop because your body is reacting to the pressure change.

Barometers

There's lots of air surrounding our planet and it is held in place by gravity. Scientists measure that pressure with a tool called a *barometer*. [Teacher, write "**barometer**" on the board.]

Have you ever watched the weather report on TV? Weather men use barometers to study the air pressure so they can predict the weather. When the air pressure is low, it generally means bad weather with storms and precipitation. When the air pressure is high, it generally means good weather with clear skies.

What is air made of?

The air is made up of several different gases: nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide. These are in just the right amounts. If there were a lot more oxygen, then a single spark could set the whole world on fire. If there were a lot more nitrogen, we would suffocate. Carbon dioxide is essential for plants to live, but is deadly to humans in large amounts. God put just the right amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for the plants, but not so much that it kills off humans.

By comparison, the atmosphere on Mars is 95% carbon dioxide. This is one reason why people could not live on Mars without special breathing equipment. If you go to the moon, you'd have to wear a space suit and an oxygen mask to stay alive. You'd also have to wear heavy shoes with weights in them to be able to walk around; otherwise, you'd just float around like a helium balloon.

In fact, there is no other planet that has an atmosphere that is right for people or plants to live in! God created the perfect place for us to live.

Water

Now let's talk about the water God provided for us. We drink it, cook with it, wash in it, and swim in it. Most of us just take it for granted. We turn on the tap and out it comes. However, not everyone is so fortunate; some people have to pump it out of the ground, and others need to carry it long distances from wells or rivers.

Without water we would die in a few days. Did you know that the human body is made up of mostly water? The **human body** is 65 percent **water**, and it takes an average of eight to ten cups to replenish the **water** our bodies lose each day.

The water in our blood is very important. First, it carries all the vitamins and minerals from the food we eat to the rest of our body. Water also flushes our bodies of waste products, like carbon dioxide. It also helps to regulate our temperature. When we sweat, it helps to cool us down.

Water can be found in 3 states: liquid, solid (ice), and vapor (steam.)

[Teacher, demonstrate these 3 states by filling a water bottle ½ way with hot water and placing an ice cube on top. That will produce steam in the upper part of the bottle.]

Did you know that the earth is the only place in the universe known to have liquid water? The earth is covered 70% by water. And, even though only about 1% of the world's water is ready to drink, it is enough for all the people in the world. (97% is too salty and 2% is ice.)

Ice Floats

When water freezes the molecules expand and trap air in between them. That is why ice floats. God cleverly designed ice to float so that lakes and oceans would freeze from the top down. That way the fish can continue to live underneath the ice. If the oceans and lakes all froze from the bottom up, every living thing in the water would freeze to death.

Wrapping up

God took great care in making our world a perfect place for us to live because He loves us so much. The word of God tells us that He did all this to bring Himself glory and to bring us pleasure.

Next week we're going to learn about how God created dry land and planted trees and other vegetation.

But so far, we've learned that on the first day God created the heavens and the earth, light and time. Then on the second day of creation, God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky. (Review today's verse.)

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for creating the perfect atmosphere for us to live in. We think You are wonderful to make us a world that is just right for us to live. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Make Pictures of the Sky

Use blue construction paper and cotton ball clouds. Remind the children that on the second day of creation God had not yet made the sun or birds. Talk about the properties of the air we breathe and how God made it just right for people to breathe and plants and trees to grow in.

Fun House

(Game Center)

Match the Day

Prepare flash cards for numerals one through seven. Arrange the creation visuals prepared in Lesson One out of sequence and hold up one of the numeral flash cards. A child may take the card and hold it up to the corresponding creation visual. Continue with the same procedure. For variety, a child may be "teacher."

This would make a good pre-session, quiet activity to be used by an individual child or small group (as a game) in placing the correct numeral card on the corresponding creation visual. Also, several sets could be made from magazine pictures. Make a collage out of pictures of things that were created on each day of creation. For example, make a land and sea collage or a bird and fish collage and a man and beast collage and so forth. Have children compete to see who matches all the number flash cards to the pictures first.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose one of the following science activities:

1. Discover How Life was on Earth Before the Flood

An effective way to communicate that there were differences before the flood is to draw a picture of our planet on a black board and ask the children about characteristics of our planet, earth. This is a good way to bring them into the discussion.

Key Points

- There was no rain before the flood (Genesis 2:5).
- Earth was watered by a mist (Genesis 2:6).
- People had longer life spans (Genesis 5).
- Plants and animals grew larger.
- Theory of the vapor canopy is one possible idea to explain the above.

Teacher Background Information

The theory of the vapor canopy is based on Genesis 7:11, where it states that the windows of heaven were opened. Also, in Genesis 1, God divided the waters that were on the earth from the waters that He placed above the earth--He put an atmosphere in between the two. This means that there were waters above our atmosphere that are not there today. These were not clouds because clouds would have produced rain. If the water was in a vapor state and formed a canopy, then there would be a warm tropical temperature extending over all the earth. That would account for the larger plants and animals and longer life span. (Refer to www.ChristianAnswers.net for more detail.)

"And, incidentally, the declining life-span after the Flood seems to fit in perfectly with our concept of the dissipation of the earth's protective blanket during the Flood. Perhaps the most important effect of the canopy was

the shielding action provided against the intense radiation impinging upon the earth from space. Short wave-length radiation, as well as bombardment of elementary particles of all kinds, is known to have damaging effects--both somatic and genetic effects--on organisms and this is generally true for all types of radiation." (The Genesis Flood, John C. Whitcomb and Henry M. Morris, pg. 399)

Teach the children about the unique features of water. Begin by introducing the three states of water, (water, ice and water vapor or steam). Few other substances are ever naturally found in more than two states. Explain that one drop of water is made up of billions of molecules. Molecules are small parts that we can't see without a powerful microscope. If you are working with small children, have them act out the concept, in a group of how ice molecules move very slowly and are very close together, water molecules move a little further apart and faster and vapor moves even faster and moves farther apart.

Water's molecular makeup seems to explain some of its rather strange properties. Going by other similar compounds, water should be a gas at room temperature. Water's boiling point is far higher than that of any similar compound. Water expands, rather than contracts as it freezes. That is why ice floats. Have the children explain what problems there would be if the oceans and lakes all froze from the bottom up.

2. Demonstrate Water Molecules

To reinforce the idea of water molecules, measure one half cup of water and a half a cup of rubbing alcohol and pour into a measuring cup. One would think that the water and alcohol would be equal to one cup but because of the spaces in the molecules, even though we can't see them, it does not equal one cup. When the two liquids are mixed, molecules of water get into the spaces between the alcohol molecules, and the alcohol molecules get into the spaces between the water molecules.

When molecules get close enough, in a liquid for instance, they attract, or pull, one another strongly. At the surface of the liquid the pull downward and sideways creates a condition called surface tension. The surface acts like a tough, elastic skin. Water molecules are attracted to each other more strongly than many other things. Have small groups of children gather around bowls of water. Give one of the children a pepper shaker and a toothpick with the tip dipped in oil. Have them shake the pepper onto the surface of the water and then touch the surface of the water in the center with the toothpick. This will break the surface tension. Let each child have a turn at repeating the process.

3. Demonstrate the Weight of Air or Air Pressure

Materials

- Glass of water
- Paper plate or index card
- Hot plate
- Empty pop cans
- Pot holder or tongs
- Tray of cool water

The air above us exerts an average pressure of 2,100 pounds upon each square foot of surface, or about fifteen pounds per square inch. If air had no weight, then the wind could have no force and barometers would read zero pressure. The following describes two methods to demonstrate air pressure or the weight of air:

1. **Magic Water Glass Trick.** Fill a glass one third with water. Cover the mouth with an index card and invert (holding the card in place) over a sink. Remove your hand from the card. Voila! The card stays in place because air is heavier than water, and the card experiences about 15 pounds of force pushing upward by the air and only about one pound of force pushing downward from the water - hence the card stays in place. **Note:** You must take care that the paper maintains a good seal, and do not tilt the glass. Practice this over the sink.
2. **Squished Soda Can.** Heat an empty soda can (large beer cans actually will work better if you have one) in a skillet with a few tablespoons of water in the can over a hot stove. Have a shallow dish with about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of ice water handy (enough water to make a seal with the top of the can). When the can emits steam, grab the can with tongs and quickly invert it into the dish. CRACK! The air in the can was heated, and things that are hot tend to expand. When you cool it quickly by taking it off the stove onto a cold plate, the

air cools down and shrinks, creating a lower pressure inside. Since the surrounding air outside of the can is now higher, it pushes on all sides of the can and crushes it.

Scientific Explanation

It may seem that the air is entirely weightless. However, each cubic foot of air actually weighs about one-tenth of a pound. The air in a typical room thus adds up to several hundred pounds.

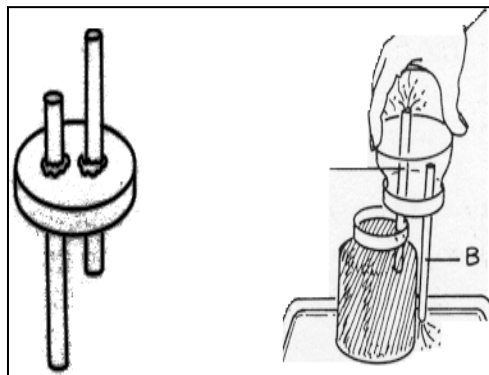
Air exists for several miles above the earth, gradually thinning with altitude. Gravity attraction keeps the air “attached” to earth. It is the weight of this air layer that results in atmospheric pressure on the earth. The pressure exists in all directions; hence it pushes upward on the card under the glass as well as against the sides of the pop cans in the demonstrations.

Why aren't our bodies crushed by the ever-present air pressure? We are not affected because we are an “open system.” By breathing air, we maintain largely the same pressure inside as outside our bodies. If we dive deeply into water, we quickly feel additional pressure from the weight of the water above us.

4. Demonstrate How Air Pressure Can Be Used to Produce a Spraying Fountain

Materials

- 1 16-penny sized nail
- 2 straws
- Hammer
- Modeling clay
- Adult helper
- Green food coloring
- Ruler
- Baking dish
- 2 pint jars, one with a lid



Procedure

- Ask an adult to use the hammer and nail to make two holes in the lid.
- Push one straw through a hole so that two inches extends above the lid.
- Push another straw through the other hole so two inches extend below the lid.
- Use small pieces of modeling clay to seal the opening between the straws and the lid.
- Fill one jar half full with water and screw on the lid.
- Fill the second jar with water and add enough food coloring to turn it dark green.
- Set the jar of colored water in a baking dish.
- Turn the jar with the straws through the lid upside down with the shortest straw beneath the colored water in the jar.
- Observe the ends of the two straws.

Results

Colored water rises and sprays out of straw A inside the closed jar. Water from the closed jar runs out of straw B and into the open baking dish.

Why?

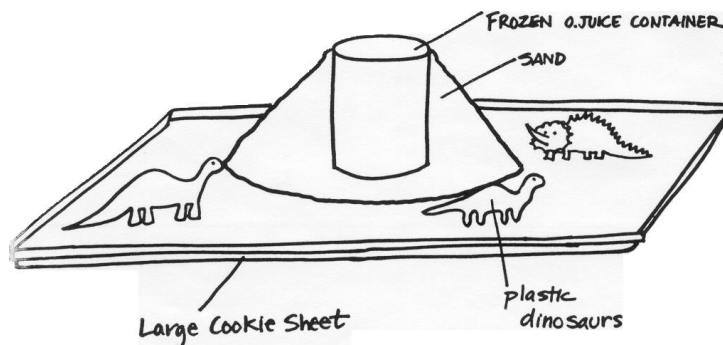
Gravity (the downward pull toward the center of earth) pulls the water out of the closed jar and down through straw B. As the water leaves, the air in the jar spreads out, and the air pressure inside the closed jar is reduced. The air pressure outside the closed jar is now greater than the air pressure inside the jar. The air pushing down on the colored water forces the water up and out of straw A. The result is a spraying fountain inside the closed jar.

5. Demonstrate an Erupting Volcano

Purpose: To simulate a volcanic eruption.

Materials

- Frozen orange juice container
- 1/4 cup baking soda
- Large cookie sheet
- 1 cup water
- Sand
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup dish soap
- 8 drops red food coloring



Procedure

1. Put dish soap, baking soda, and red food coloring in the orange juice container.
2. Shape moist sand around the container to form a volcano. Do not cover the container's mouth or get sand inside it.
3. Mix the water and the white vinegar in a separate bottle.
4. When it's time for the eruption, pour the vinegar and water into the "volcano."

Results

Red foam sprays out the top and down the mountain of sand.

Why?

The baking soda reacts with the vinegar to produce carbon dioxide gas. The gas builds up enough pressure to force the liquid out the top of the container. The mixture of the gas and the liquid produces the foam.

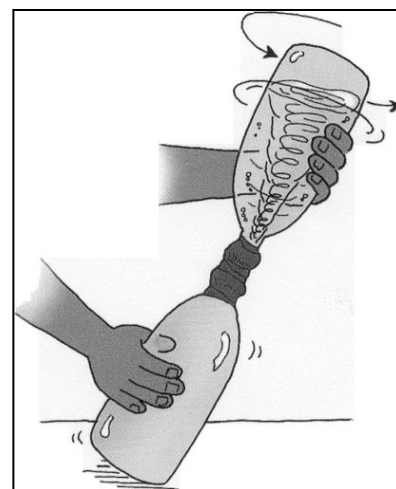
6. Demonstrate How Tornadoes Work

Materials

- Water
- Two 2-liter cola bottles
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Tape

Procedure

- Pour water into a 2-liter plastic bottle until it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Cut a circle of cardboard as big around as the bottle's opening.
- Then cut a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hole in the center.
- Place the cardboard circle on top of your water bottle's opening.
- Turn another 2-liter bottle upside down and tape the two bottles together, top-to-top.
- Wrap the bottlenecks with tape so the connection doesn't leak.
- Now hold the bottles so the full bottle is upside-down on top.
- With one hand, hold the bottom bottle to steady it.
- With the other hand, begin moving the top bottle in a circle.
- Watch what happens: a tornado in a bottle!



Water tornadoes, such as the one we just made, happen in nature too. When a tornado forms over water, it's called a waterspout.

7. Demonstrate How Fog is Formed

Materials

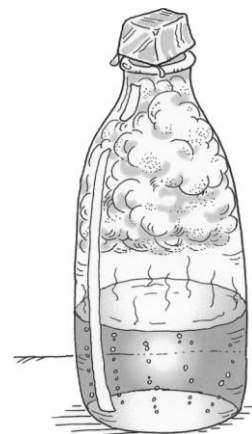
- 1-liter cola bottle
- Hot water
- Rubbing alcohol
- Ice cube

Procedure

1. Fill a bottle 1/3 full with very hot water.
2. Add a few drops of rubbing alcohol.
3. Put a piece of ice over the top of the bottle, and watch fog develop.

Explanation

Fog is a cloud that forms very close to the ground. In nature, when a mass of cold air bumps into a mass of warm humid air, millions of tiny droplets of water are formed. That's fog. This is a way to get some cold air and some warm air together and make fog.



[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com> .]

Creation

Day #3 of Creation: Land, Sea, and Vegetation
(Genesis 1:9-13)

INTRODUCTION

Using some of the seeds mentioned in the Science Lab activities below, have the children guess what each kind of seed will grow into. Talk about how each seed is a packet of information. Given just the right conditions of rain, sunshine, and soil, each seed will start to grow. It knows how to put its roots down and the stalks up. And, it knows what kind of plant to grow. Some seeds lay in the ground for years waiting for the right conditions to start sprouting. Out in the desert, some seeds will lay sleeping in the sand for years waiting for the necessary rain to come to help it sprout.

Today we are going to learn about how God got all the plants started in the first place. But first, He needed to make dry land.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we want to thank You for the beauty of Your creation. Today we are going to learn about how You made the dry land appear by pulling the waters together into oceans and other bodies of water, and how You caused all the plants to start growing. We pray You would cause us to fall in love with You in a deeper way today as we think about the wonderful way You made the world we live in. You have truly made it beautiful in Your time. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. ⁷He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. ⁸Let the whole world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of Him. ⁹For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command. Psalms 33:6-9 NLT)

If you are in public school, your teacher may try to explain that the world is just an accident caused by an explosion a long time ago. We know that God created the world in 6 actual days because the Bible tells us this and we know that we can believe everything God's word tells us. Because we have the Word of God, we know the truth and the truth sets us free from believing the myths (stories) that man makes up. That's why God gave us the Bible.

LESSON

Today we're going to learn about how God created the land, the oceans, and the plants on the third day of creation, but before we do, let's review what we've learned so far: What did God create on the first day of creation? (*The heavens and the Earth, light and time.*) Then, what did God create on the second day of creation? (*God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky.*)

After the second day of creation there was a layer of water above the sky; then, the atmosphere (a layer of air) around a big ball of water. The planet Earth was still without form. There was no land, no trees or flowers or animals or even people yet.

Did you know that if you leveled out the earth's surface today, you'd see there's enough water in the oceans to cover the whole earth to a depth of almost two miles?

God might have looked at all that deep water and because He knew that when He made people they would want trees and flowers, He decided to do something...

Genesis 1:9

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. (ESV)

God commanded the dry land to appear. Suddenly large areas of the ocean bubbled and foamed and parts of the ocean floor began rising up and out of the water and kept on going until rolling hills were formed in some places, as well as great stretches of land in other places. At the same time, other parts of the ocean floor sank down to form underwater valleys and basins, so that the water drained off the land and into one place. God did all this by the mighty power of His Word.

Isn't God's word powerful? All He needed to do was speak and at His command He created the world we live in! God is the Lord of Creation, the Almighty God. Because He is all-powerful, we should respect and honor Him in all we do.

Genesis 1:10

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. (ESV)

Because God is the creator, He is the One who got to name these things. Everything that God made was perfect in every way. God never makes mistakes.

Genesis 1:11

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. (ESV)

On day 3 of Creation, God spoke again and commanded the land to produce all kinds of plants. If you had been there, you would have seen green grass, tall palms trees, and other vegetation spring up from the ground, as well as bushes and trees and flowers of all different shapes and sizes and colors. You would have also seen the branches of fruit trees heavy with juicy fruit, like apples, mangoes, and peaches and lots, lots, more!

God made the first plants all fully grown, but each kind had seeds so they could reproduce. Did you know that seeds always produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from? If you plant a corn seed you will never get beans growing! You never have to worry when you plant your garden.

Genesis 1:12

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (ESV)

Before the third day of creation planet earth did not have any form to it. But God, just by His command, gave the earth order. He gathered the water together to make dry ground appear and then he commanded the plants to grow! He was preparing a place that would be perfect for mankind to live and He knew that people would need food. So, He planted the fruits and vegetables on the third day so they would be ready for Adam and Eve when they got here. And, God was well pleased with what He created on the third day.

Genesis 1:13

And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. (ESV)

Again, day #3 was an ordinary day just like we have, with one daytime period and one nighttime period. It didn't take God thousands of years to make the dry land and the plants, He did it in one regular 24-hour day! As I said, if your teacher at school tries to tell you different, all you need to do is ask, "Were you there?" (Teacher, review the memory verse.)

Think about this: many plants are pollinated by birds or bees, but these creatures weren't created until the fifth day of Creation. If each day of creation was 1,000 years, as some people claim, how could these plants reproduce and survive for 2,000 years waiting for the birds and bees to pollinate them?

Next week we are going to learn about what God did on day #4 of creation when He created the sun, the moon, and the stars.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, You are so awesome to make this world we live in so perfect in every way. We stand in awe of You, Father! You are so wonderful. Thank You for making the dry land appear so that we might have trees to climb, and beautiful flowers to enjoy, and delicious vegetables to eat. You knew we needed these things to live happily and healthfully. Thank You for Your love and concern for our wellbeing. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose one of the following craft activities:

1. Rock Art

Materials:

- Small rocks
- Little eyes and pieces of felt for ears and tails from a craft store

Let the children make rock animals.

2. Watch Samson's Hair Grow

Stuff cotton into a small paper cup. Out of a sponge, cut a circle just large enough to fit tightly inside the top of the cup. Soak the sponge in water and then set it on top of the cotton. Sprinkle dill, watercress, grass, or mustard seed on top of the wet sponge. Set the cup where it can get sunlight, but not in a place where the sponge will dry out too quickly. Your seeds will start to grow in about three days if you remember to keep the sponge moist at all times. You may want to draw a picture of Samson's head on the paper cup. Watch to see which "Samson" grows the longest "hair."



3. Invent a Flower

Have you ever wondered why flowers have so many colors? God gave flowers bright colors to attract birds and insects. As the birds and insects fly, they deposit pollen from one flower into another. This allows the flowers to start making seeds.

Can you guess just how big the world's biggest flowers are? Well, they're called rafflesia, and they can be as big as 3 feet wide and weight as much as 15 pounds. They have almost no leaves and no stems – they're all flower! You've probably never seen one, since they only grow in the rain forests of Indonesia. Other unusual flowers include the bee flower, which looks so much like a bee that real bees get confused. And, there's actually a flower called the carrion flower ("carrion" means dead flesh) that looks and smells like dead meat!

What wild kinds of flowers can you come up with? Find out by inventing a flower.

Materials

- Parts of flowers and plants cut out from photographs
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Poster board or cardboard

Procedures

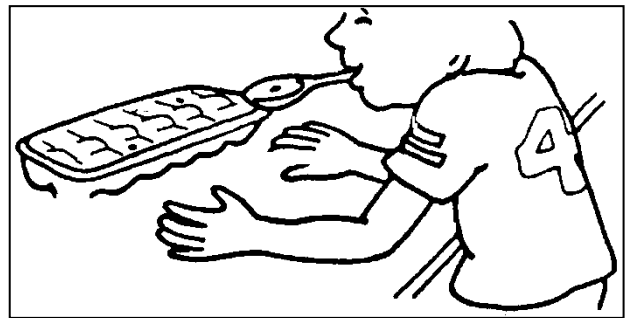
Cut out plant and flower parts (leaves, stems, flowers, seeds, etc.) from pictures in old magazines. Glue the parts together on a piece of cardboard or poster board to make a crazy new flower. Remember, you are creating a new flower from materials that already exist; God created flowers from nothing!

Fun House

(Game Center)

Planting Game

Divide the children into team lines of 4 to 6 players each. Each team will need a cup with twelve seeds, beans, or peanuts. Each team member will need a plastic spoon. Place the bottom portion of an empty egg carton (one per team) about fifteen feet away from the lines of children. On "GO," the first player on each team reaches into the cup, pulls out a seed, and places it on the spoon. Then he races to the egg carton with the spoon in his mouth. He tilts the spoon with his mouth and "plants" a seed into one of the empty egg carton sections. Then he runs back and touches the next player on his team, who takes a turn. If a player touches a spoon with his hands or drops a seed, he must return to start. If he deposits a seed into one of the sections that already contains a seed, he must take it out and return to start. The winning team is the first one to get all twelve seeds planted.

**God's Weird and Wonderful World**

(Science Center)

Use one or more of the following activities:

1. Observing Rocks

Have the children observe a display of sedimentary rock containing fossils. Put different types and sizes of rocks (clean fine sand, pebbles, gravel, larger rocks, etc.) into a large mason jar, along with some small shells or bones. Fill it with water and shake it up and see how it settles out. Talk about the geologic column that contains various sedimentary layers.

Discussion

Evolutionists believe that the sedimentary layers found on the surface of the earth were laid down in a certain order over millions of years. They have named these layers, the geologic column. The geologic column contains many fossils in the various sedimentary layers. They believe that the lower layers contain simple organisms that evolved into more complex organisms found in the earlier layers. The bottom fossils are simple creations and become more complex as one moves up the layers.

Evidence does not support the idea of a geologic column. Fossils appear complete in each layer. If there was an evolution from simple to complex then there would be evidence of these stages in the successive layers. Eighty to

eighty-five percent of Earth's land surface does not have even 3 geological periods appearing in "correct" consecutive order. There is no place on the earth where an example of the ten geological periods are in order!

Furthermore, recent evidence has shown that rocks do not take a long time to form.

In order for fossils to form in the sedimentary rock, the plants or animals would have to have been covered quickly in flood-like conditions. The only explanation is that there was a world-wide flood that left the geological conditions that we find today.

2. Observing Seeds

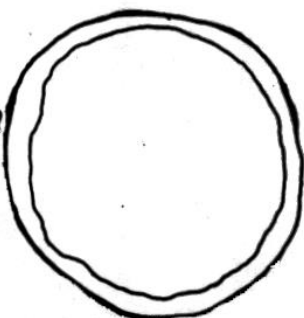
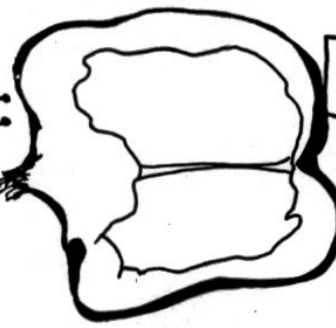
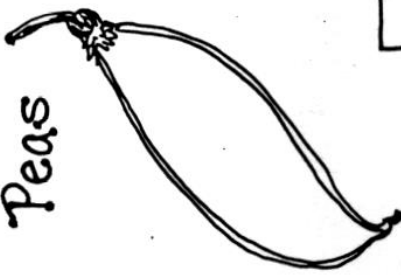
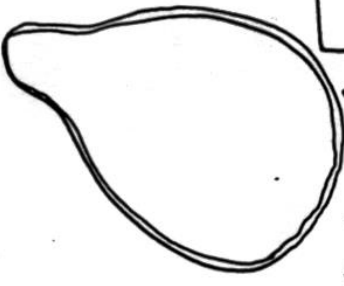
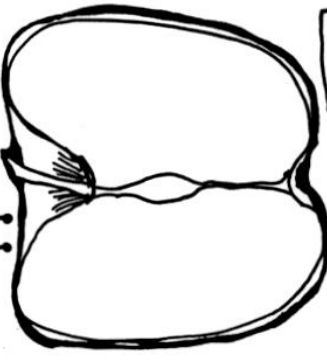
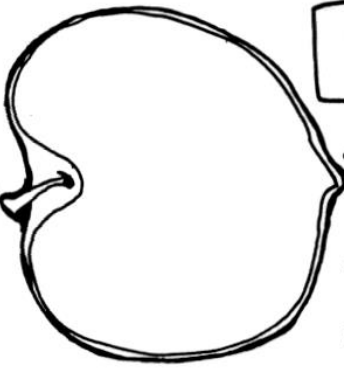
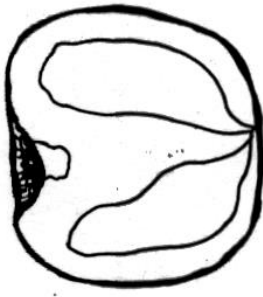
Have the children look closely at various seeds such as, lima beans, garbanzo beans, corn, sunflower seeds, black eye peas, or kidney beans. Have them name the colors that they see and draw the shapes of the seeds. Draw a line and have the children guess how many of each kind of seed it will take to cover the line. Then have them find out exactly how many it took. Record the information on a Data Record Sheet.

3. Observing the Seed Within

Have the children look closely at various fruits and vegetables such as oranges, bell peppers, peas, avocados, melons, apples, peaches, and tomatoes. Have them draw where they find the seeds. Count and record the number of seeds on a Data Record Sheet.

[For more expository lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

The Seea Within
 1. Look closely at the fruits and vegetables 2. Draw where you find the seeds 3. Carefully count the seeds and record 4. Wash and dry the seeds.

Orange  # of seeds Shape of seeds	Bell Pepper  # of seeds Shape of seeds	Peas  # of seeds Shape of seeds	Avocado  # of seeds Shape of seeds
Melon  # of seeds Shape of seeds	Apple  # of seeds Shape of seeds	Peach  # of seeds Shape of seeds	Tomato  # of seeds Shape of seeds

5/14/2018

Creation

Day #4 of Creation: Sun, Moon, Stars, Seasons, Days, and Years
(Genesis 1:14-19)

INTRODUCTION

[Teacher, take a survey...] Raise your hand if you think:

- The Sun comes up in the morning, travels across the sky during the day and then goes down at night.
- The Moon shines.
- If you know why the Moon is a different size every night.

Today we're going to answer these and other questions about the universe we live in. But, first let's pray...

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, You are so wonderful to make such an interesting and beautiful place for us to live. We want to tell You this morning that we think You're an awesome God! We want to praise You and give You all the honor that You deserve. Open the eyes of our understanding this morning, Lord, so that we might see just how amazing You are. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers--the Moon and the stars You set in place--⁴what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that You should care for them? (Psalm 8:3-4 NLT).

What this is saying is that by the flick of His fingers, God set the Moon and the stars in place. Isn't God big and mighty and powerful!

LESSON

Today we're going to learn about how God created the Sun and the Moon and the stars on the fourth day of creation, but before we do, let's review what we've learned so far.

What did God create on the first day of creation? (*The heavens and the Earth, light and time*) Then, what did God create on the second day of creation? (*God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky.*) What did He create on the third day? (*The land, oceans, and the plants*)

After the third day of creation things began to look pretty normal on Earth. There were oceans and lakes, as well as beaches and dry land. And, there were loads of trees and bushes and plants. But something was still missing in the sky. What was that? (*The Sun, Moon and stars*)

Today we're going to talk about why God created the Sun and the Moon and the stars. Verse 14 tells us...

Genesis 1:14

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years."

God put these lights in the sky so we would have a way to mark off the seasons, days, and years. It's kind of like a calendar in the sky!

Without the Sun and the Moon and the stars, we wouldn't be able to know when Winter was coming, or when our birthdays are, or how long until Christmas.

Genesis 1:15

“and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the Earth.” And it was so.

God put the Sun, Moon, and stars in place to light up the sky. But, back in Genesis 1:3 it says that God created light. What was lighting up the world before He created the Sun? (*God Himself; He is the light of the world*)

Ask: Which is bigger, the Sun or the Moon? Verse 16 tells us...

Genesis 1:16

And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

[Teacher, using a poster of the Solar System, point out how much bigger the Sun is than Earth.]

Psalm 8:3 says that the Lord made the Moon, the Sun and the stars with the work of His fingers. Then, with just a word He put them all into motion.

Psalm 8:4 asks, what is man in comparison to this marvelous world He made? We are merely a speck of dust in the scope of the whole universe! And yet, you can scoop up a hand full of dirt and examine it under a microscope and find millions of tiny micro-organisms teaming with life.

When we see the magnificent universe God has created, we are reminded of the great God we serve. We think, *“Why should He take time to think about us, to love and care for us as small and weak as we are?”* The Bible tells us of how much God loves us. He knows every one of us by name. He cares about everything that happens to you every day. Isn't that wonderful?

Genesis 1:17-18

And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the Earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

He was pleased when He looked at what He had done. God does everything with excellence.

Genesis 1:19

And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

God created the Sun and the Moon and the stars in one literal day. He put everything in motion with just a command.

God created this wonderful world we live in just for us because He loves us. He is great and good and full of glory! Let's praise and thank God for being so wonderful.

Closing Prayer

Lord, what would life be like without bright Sun-shining days? It would be dark and very depressing. Thank You for creating the Sun and the Moon and the stars. You are the Almighty LORD who created the universe with just a flick of Your fingers. Yet, You take a personal interest in everything about our lives. You know how many hairs are on top of our heads and You've got every tear we've ever cried counted in a bottle. Thank You God for Your awesome-ness and Your love and Your care. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

Let's talk about how we use the Sun and Moon and Earth to measure time...

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from one of the following craft ideas:

1. Create a Picture of the Solar System

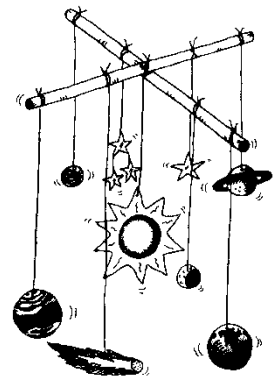
Using planet stickers found in a school supply store, have the children indicate the planet's paths around the Sun. Talk about the rotation of the Earth and the Moon and how we calculate a day and a month and a year.

2. Create a Space Mobile

Imagine what it would be like to float among the planets, stars, and comets! If you hang a space mobile in your room, you can look up and imagine you're up there.

Materials:

- Scissors
- Cardboard or heavy paper
- Markers
- Decorations (paint, aluminum foil, or glitter)
- Pin
- Thread or nylon line
- 2 dowel rods or sticks



Procedure:

Cut out and color shapes to make planets, stars, spaceships, and other objects found in outer space. Decorate with interesting materials such as glow-in-the-dark paint, aluminum foil, and glitter.

Next, use a pin to make a small hole in each shape you made. Tie a piece of thread or nylon line through each hole. Then, cross one dowel rod over the other at a right angle. Tie the dowels together, then tie your shapes to the dowels. Tie different shapes at different heights. Finally, tie a strong thread or piece of nylon line around the dowels to hang your mobile.

Fun House

(Game Center)

Moon Rock Relay

Step quickly on these Moon rocks to race to the Moon and back.

Materials:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Black Marker

Play this game to see which team of astronauts can blast off to the Moon and back first. Cut 6 large rock shapes out of cardboard and use a black marker to color them so they look like Moon rocks. Divide players into two

teams. Mark the start of the racecourse with a cardboard sign that says, "Earth." Place a sign that says, "Moon" about 20 feet away.

To play, the first player on each team has to toss out three Moon rocks and step on them, each time picking up the back rock and moving it forward toward the Moon. The players can only move forward by stepping on the Moon rocks. When the player reaches the Moon, he or she picks up the Moon rocks, tosses them out again, and repeats the process to get back to Earth as quickly as possible. When the first player gets safely back to Earth, it's time for the next player on the team to go to the Moon and back. The first team to send all its astronauts to the Moon and back is the winner.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Let's talk about how we use the Sun and Moon and Earth to measure time...

What Makes a Day and a Year?

The Earth is turning on its axis, like a wheel. [Use a world globe or draw a diagram of the Earth rotating on its axis.] How long does it take the Earth to rotate once around? (One day.) That's how we measure how long a day is. When the place we are on Earth is facing the Sun, it's daytime for us and nighttime for the people that live on the other side of the Earth. [Teacher, stick Sticky Note on the globe where we are to demonstrate this concept.]

Is the Sun going around the Earth? (No!) It might look like the Sun comes up in the morning and travels across the sky and then sets in the evening, but the Sun is *not* going around the Earth. The Earth is actually going around the Sun. [Teacher, draw a diagram of the Earth going around the Sun or show a poster.] How long does it take the Earth to travel around the Sun? (One year.) That's how we measure how long a year is.

So, the Earth is rotating around on its axis once a day and at the same time it is circling the Sun once a year.

What Makes a Week?

If a day and a year are measured by the movement of the Earth, what do you think measures a week? How come we have 7 days in a week? A week is not measured by the Sun, the Moon, or the Earth. God set the pattern for a 7-day week during creation. He could have created the world in an instant, but He made the world in six days and on the seventh day He rested as an example for us to follow. He told us to work six days and rest the seventh. God wanted us to take one day a week to think about how fantastic He is. That's why every Sunday we come to church to pray and sing and learn about God and His marvelous creation.

What Makes Seasons?

[If you have a world globe, ask...] Do you see how the Earth's axis is tilted? It is always tilted at the same angle. As the Earth travels around the Sun during the year, there are times when the top part of the Earth is leaning towards the Sun during the day. That's Summer, when the days are longer and hotter. Then there are times when the top part of the Earth is leaning away from the Sun during the day. That's Winter when the days are shorter and colder. When it is Summer for us, it is Winter for the people that live at the bottom of the Earth.

What Makes a Month?

Let's talk about the Moon. While the Moon circles the Earth it is also rotating on its own axis, just like the Earth does. It takes about 28 days for the Moon to rotate one complete turn on its axis during and twenty-eight days to revolve around the Earth. Every time the Moon goes around the Earth marks one month. In fact, before we had calendars, farmers would count the number of new Moons to work out the right time to plant their crops.

Demonstrate How the Moon Rotates on its Axis

Every twenty-eight days, the Moon goes through a complete cycle. The Moon begins the cycle being invisible to people on Earth. This happens when the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon. As the Moon moves around the Earth, we see more of the Sunlit part. Halfway through the cycle we see a full Moon. At that time, the whole face of the Moon is illuminated by the Sun. Then we see less and less of the Moon until, finally, it is invisible again. We call that a “new” Moon.

The Moon rotates about its axis in about the same time it takes it to orbit the Earth. This is why the same face of the Moon is always facing towards the Earth.

To demonstrate that the Moon rotates on its axis once every time it circles the Earth and explain why we never see the “back side” of the Moon

1. Place a world globe in the center of the room.
2. Place a poster of the Sun on the wall.
3. First, walk around the EARTH, but continue to face the SUN. Notice that your body is *not* rotating.
4. Now, walk around the EARTH, but continue to face the EARTH. Notice that your body *is* rotating.

The same side of the Moon is always facing Earth, yet the Moon is turning on its axis. It takes about 28 days for the Moon to revolve around the Earth; during that same time period it makes one complete rotation its axis.

Why Does the Moon Change Sizes?

Do you know why the Moon seems to change its shape as it revolves around the Earth? Just like the Earth, half of the Moon is lit by the Sun while the other half is always in darkness.

[Teacher - You can do a simple demonstration of the Moon’s phases using a lamp, a Styrofoam ball, and a pencil. Remove the shade from the lamp and put it at one end of a dark room. Put the ball on the pencil and hold it at arm’s length in front of you between your face and the lamp. Imagine your head is the Earth, the ball is the Moon and the lamp is the Sun.



Now stand in place and slowly turn around in a circle. Do not turn the Moon on its orbit. Notice that no matter where the Moon is in its orbit, half of it is always lit up by the Sun. When the Moon is between you and the Sun, you can't see any of the lighted side of the Moon from Earth (your head). We call that the “new” Moon. You can't see a “new” Moon because the side that is reflecting Sunlight is facing away from you (the Earth). As you continue to turn to the left, you'll start to see a tiny sliver of the Moon, which we call a “crescent” Moon. Keep turning and you'll see more and more of the lighted side. Soon you will see half of the lighted side. When you are

half way around, you'll see the entire lighted side of the Moon which we call a "full" Moon. As you continue to turn, you will see less and less of the lighted side until you reach your starting point. Do this several times so you can understand how the shape or "phase" of the Moon changes depending on where it is in its orbit around the Earth. It takes about a month for the Moon to make a full orbit around the Earth.

Note: There are a number of web sites that demonstrate this, such as www.nsta.org/nexttime-Moon.]

God is so clever to design such a wonderful clock that has kept perfect time ever since He made the Sun, Earth and Moon!

The Solar System

God also put other planets in orbit around the Sun just like the Earth. They are all traveling around the Sun at different distances from the Sun. [Draw a diagram or show a poster of the solar system.] And, did you know that three of the planets, Venus, Uranus and Pluto, all rotate in the opposite direction than the other planets? And the amazing thing is, these planets *always* follow the same path around the Sun; they don't wander around and crash into each other. God is very orderly.

So, did you know that while the Moon is traveling around the Earth and the Earth (along with all the other planets) is moving around the Sun, the Sun is moving through space? This is all very amazing, isn't it? Some people think that this remarkable system came into being due to a big explosion in space long, long ago. Does that make any sense to you? No! You can't have a bomb go off in a junkyard and expect a perfectly running automobile to pop out, can you? No! That's ridiculous! Our world is too cleverly designed. It had to be planned by Someone very intelligent.

How Far Away is the Sun?

Of all the billions of stars in the universe the closest one to the Earth is the Sun. But it's really not that close. It is almost 93 million miles away!

I want you to get an idea of just how far that is.

[Teacher, stick a 48" circle cut from butcher paper up on the wall and push the end of a 6' conference table up to it.]

If that circle on the wall was the Sun and the Earth was at the end of the table, each inch of the table would be over a million miles long!

To help you get a feel for just how far a million miles is let's look at this map. [Teacher, using a map of the United States, draw a big black line from Los Angeles to New York City.]

How far do you think it is from Los Angeles to New York City? It's almost 3,000 miles. If you got in a car and drove 65 miles per hour, 24 hours a day, without stopping or slowing down for anything, it would take you almost two days to drive there!

Let's take it a step further. How many miles do you think it is all the way around the Earth? It's almost 25,000 miles which is about 9 times farther than going from Los Angeles to New York City. How long do you think it would take to drive that far if you could? [Let the kids guess!] If you got in a car and drove 65 miles per hour, 24 hours a day, without stopping or slowing down for anything, it would take you about 16 days to go around the Earth one time.

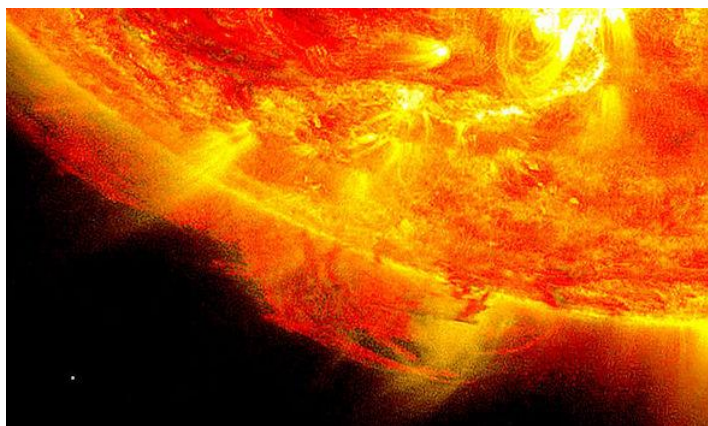
But going to the Sun from here would be like driving around the Earth almost 4,000 times! If we went in a plane going 500 miles an hour, it would take 21 years to get there.

Do you see just how far away the Sun is! It is 93 million miles away and that's our *closest* star.

Think about it! Our awesome God put the Sun and the Moon and the stars in place with just a flick of His fingers! Don't we have an awesome God? He is so great; we can't even imagine how big and powerful He is!

How Big is the Sun?

We've talked about how far away the Sun is, now let's talk about how *big* the Sun is. As we watch it go overhead each day, it looks to us to be about the size of a quarter, right? If this poster is the size of the Sun, then how big do you think the Earth is in comparison to it? [Teacher, let the children draw circles on the "Sun" to indicate how big they think the Earth would be.] If that was the Sun, Earth would be about this big. [Teacher, draw a ½ inch circle or using a hot glue gun, glue a ½" marble to the 48" circle.]



Look at how big the Sun is in comparison to the Earth and realize the Sun is only a medium-sized star. God filled the universe with billions of other stars that are much bigger than our Sun. Look at this picture. It shows our Sun (the tiny white dot in the corner) next to the giant star VY Canis Majoris. [It's in the Canis Major constellation 5000 light years from the Earth.]

We're talking huge!

And, our God put each star into place with the flick of His fingers!!!

Let's Review

- How do we measure a day? (Each time the Earth rotates on its axis is counted as one day)
- What makes night? (When we're facing the Sun, it is day. When we're facing away from the Sun, it is night.)
- How do we measure a month? (Each time the Moon goes around the Earth is one month.)
- Does the Moon shine with light of its own? No, it is actually completely dark in and of itself. It is a rocky place, with no atmosphere and no water, and huge extremes of temperature. When it's night for us, the Moon reflects the Sun's light back to Earth. [Teacher, using props, demonstrate this concept.]
- How do we measure a year? (Each time the Earth goes around the Sun is one year.)
- What makes the seasons? (The Earth's tilt causes the days to be longer and warmer during the Summer; shorter and colder during the Winter. When it's Summer for us, it's Winter for others.)
- If a day and a year are measured by the movement of the Earth, what do you think measures a week? How come we have 7 days in a week? A week is not measured by the Sun, the Moon, or the Earth. God set the pattern for a 7-day week during creation. He could have created the world in an instant, but He made the world in six days and on the seventh day He rested as an example for us to follow. He told us to work six days and rest the seventh. God wanted us to take one day a week to think about how fantastic He is. That's why every Sunday we come to church to pray and sing and learn about God and His marvelous creation.

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Creation

Day #5 of Creation: Fish and Birds
(Genesis 1:20-23)

INTRODUCTION

Teacher, discuss the properties of fish and birds. Make a list of the children's suggestions. Talk about how God made fish to swim and breathe underwater, while birds can fly without the aid of machinery. Ask if Man can do these things. (No!) God has wisely created each thing uniquely and wonderfully. For example, every living thing that God created needs air. The lungs of the creatures that live on the land get all the oxygen they need from the air. God designed fish with special lungs than can get the air they need from the water.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the power of Your word. You purposely and thoughtfully designed each and every creature with such attention to detail. Although each creature may have a nose and eyes and ears, we are each unique and special. Thank You for your love and care. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

"But ask ... the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ... or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? (Job 12:7-9 NIV)

LESSON

Today we're going to learn about how God created the fish and the birds on the fifth day of creation, but before we do, let's review what we've learned so far.

What did God create on the first day of creation? (*The heavens and the Earth, light and time*) Then, what did God create on the second day of creation? (*God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky.*) What did He create on the third day? (*The land, oceans, and the plants.*) What about the fourth day? (*The sun, moon, and stars.*)

After the fourth day of creation God had made water, soil, air, plus plants and fruits for food. He had also created the sun to give light and warmth. The earth was now ready to support animal life. So, God created Earth's first inhabitants—the animals that live in the sea and those that fly in the air.

Genesis 1:20

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

Once again, He simply commanded them all to come into being and they did!

Genesis 1:21

So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

All the sea creatures

The bible says that when God spoke, the sea was suddenly filled with *every kind* of creature that lives there—tiny ones called krill, small fish like sardines, medium-sized fish like salmon, bigger fish such as swordfish, and much larger creatures like whales. God also made jellyfish and eels, coral and crabs, octopuses and porpoises, and all the others too.

All the flying creatures

The bible also says that at God's command, He created *every kind* of flying creature on Day #5. Suddenly there were all sorts of flying creatures like parrots, pigeons, chickens, and hummingbirds and bats. At the same time God created flying insects like butterflies, bees and bugs. What a sight it must have been! Can you imagine the sights and the sounds? All of a sudden, the air was filled with flying creatures, all singing their various songs.

By the way, did you know that God made the flying creatures with different types of wings? Bird's wings are made of feathers; insects' wings are made of membranes like thin scales; bat's wings are made of skin stretched over their arm and hand bones.

According to their kind

God made each of these animals to reproduce offspring of the same kind. Some people who do not believe that God created say that one kind of animal evolved into another kind all by itself. But there is no evidence that one kind of animal ever changed into a different kind.

When we learned about vegetation, we talked about how a corn seed will always reproduce corn and never peas. Well, just like seeds always reproduce their own kind, so it is with the animal kingdom. A bird will never hatch a fish; a fish will never hatch a bird!

Some people say that fish evolved from worms and that birds evolved from dinosaurs and that whales evolved from an animal like a cow or from some other land animal that decided it wanted to start living in the sea and eating seaweed instead of grass. But God did not make the land animals until Day 6. The Bible says that God created plants first, then He created all of the sea life and birds *before* he created any of the land animals.

Aren't you glad God created the world with order? It would be so disturbing if things didn't reproduce after their own kind. How would we know what to expect otherwise. God is so powerful and clever, isn't He?

Genesis 1:22

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

God was pleased when he looked at what He had made on Day 5. Not only did He say it was good, He also blessed the fish and the birds, and commanded them to reproduce—each to make baby animals just like itself. He wanted the fish and the birds to have loads of babies so that the whole world would be filled with them.

Genesis 1:23

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

On Day 5, God created the fish and the birds in one actual literal day. He simply gave the order that there should be living creatures in the sea and in the air, and they came into being. God's powerful Word was fulfilled exactly the way He said.

Closing Prayer

Thank You God for creating such an interesting world to live in. There are so many amazing types of birds and fish for us to enjoy. You could have made just one kind, but You made millions of different ones—all different shapes and sizes and colors. We just want to worship You and tell you how much we love You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Days of Creation

With a marker, divide a large paper plate into seven increments. In the seven spaces let the children draw an example of God's creation for that day. An arrow shaped pointer can be attached in the middle with a brad. Move the pointer to the seven segments while discussing the creation. Stickers can be used instead of drawings. Attach a yarn hanger to the top so it can be displayed at home.

Fun House

(Game Center)

What is Missing

Arrange creation visuals from Lesson One on the chalkboard ledge or table. Choose one child to cover his eyes while another child removes one visual. Have the first child open his eyes and describe which visual is missing. He also must say the day of Creation it represents. To make the game more difficult for older children, rearrange the remaining visuals before the child opens his eyes to see what is missing.

For an older group of children, have the entire group close their eyes while one child removes the visual. When the signal is given to open their eyes, the first child to hold up his hand gets to answer what is missing.

For very young children begin with visuals for days 1-3. Then add succeeding days one at a time as the children become more familiar with the game.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose from the following Science Lab activities:

1. Discuss the Properties of Feathers

People who don't believe in a Creator have no explanation for the remarkable design features of feathers. Some of your teachers may try to tell you that over billions of years a reptile's scales changed into feathers. But no fossil showing a transition from scale to feather has ever been found.

Look closely at a feather with a magnifying glass. Notice that each feather part has hundreds of hair-like barbs. When a feather is "zipped" up correctly it is waterproof. There are different kinds of feathers for different uses. Down feathers grow close to a bird's body to keep the bird warm. Flight feathers are designed aerodynamically. The shorter feather part is in front and cuts the wind; the air flows over the wider part easily. When a bird raises its wing, the feathers move apart to let the air through and reduce resistance. But on the downstroke the feathers close completely to help them lift up in the air. Also, a bird can vary the shape of its wings for more efficient take-off, flapping, gliding and landing.

Did you know that birds put on extra feathers in the fall to stay warmer during the winter? Some sparrows put on almost 400 more feathers.

Did you know that birds lose their flight feathers in pairs? They always have the same number of feathers on each wing so they aren't lop-sided!

God gave each bird just the right feathers in just the right places. God made all the birds and fish. The Bible tells us that He cares for each and every one, and He cares for you, too.

2. Learn About the Incredible Woodpecker

These amazingly designed birds are experts at bashing their heads against trees, and it's all for a purpose!

A woodpecker spends most of its time spiraling up tree trunks searching for insects. God designed it to climb vertical trunks and to maintain its position while pecking the tree. How? It has two backward-facing toes, sharp claws, and a stiff tail that has spines in it. So, a woodpecker can hang on with its backward-facing toes and prop itself up with its stiff tail as it uses its head like a hammer.

You can imagine how much energy a woodpecker uses up while it hunts for food. They eat as many as 2,000 ants in one day. That's a lot of pecking! Actually, woodpeckers are valuable in the control of insects and help limit the spread of tree diseases.

A woodpecker hammers wood at the rate of 15 to 16 times a second. That's nearly twice as fast as a submachine gun. The bird's head is traveling at more than twice the speed of a bullet.

The force on a woodpecker's head is 1,000 times the force of gravity. This is more than 250 times the force an astronaut experiences during a rocket liftoff!

What prevents the woodpecker from beating out its brains? God in His wisdom designed its head, beak, and neck in a special way.

Its head is built like a football helmet to withstand the crash. Both its head and beak have been cushioned against impact.

Its beak is stronger than most birds. Because it has to be strong enough to dig into the tree without folding up, its beak has a chisel tip.

God designed its nose to not be bothered by sawdust; it's a slit covered by fine wiry feathers!

Thus, God designed and created the woodpecker to withstand the enormous beating it inflicts on itself year in and year out, many thousands of times a day.

And that's not all! God gave the woodpecker an amazing tongue! After flaking off bark and drilling deep holes in the wood to find insect tunnels, it needs a long tongue to reach deep into the tree to get the insects out. Where does the woodpecker hold such a long tongue when its not in use? There isn't room inside its beak! Its tongue is not anchored in the back of its beak like ordinary birds because it's too long. God attached the woodpecker's tongue in its right nostril. When the woodpecker is not using its long tongue, it rolls it up and stores it in his nose!

If God had not designed woodpeckers with two backward facing toes, a stiff tail, cushioned head, stiff beak, and a long retractable tongue, they would have beaten out their brains or starved to death after the first day of creation. Didn't God design an incredible bird!

(This information was gleaned from Creation Ex Nihilo magazine; December 1995–February 1996, pg. 10)

3. Learn about the Hummingbird

The hummingbird is one of God's most amazing creatures. There are more than 300 species or kinds of this beautiful bird. They range in size from the tiny **bee hummingbird**, which is only about the length of an adult's little finger to the **giant hummingbird**, which can be up to 8.5 inches (the width of a magazine page).

Some of the best-known characteristics are:

- **Amazing ability to maneuver:** it can hover, fly backwards, sideways and even upside down! Plus, its wings can swivel in all directions from the shoulder.
- **Extremely rapid wing-beat:** 50-80 beats per second.
- **High speeds:** It can fly at speeds of more than 55 miles per hour. If you operated at this bird's energy level, you would burst into flames!
- **Food capacity:** A humming bird burns up so much energy that it must eat the equivalent of 1,300 hamburgers and drink 15 gallons of water a day!
- **Long bill:** God has equipped the humming bird with needle-like bill which penetrates deep into flowers to extract nectar.
- **Special tongue:** God has also equipped them with a long, specially designed tongue which they use to lick their food at a rate of up to 13 licks per second. Their tongues are curled at the edges to form a straw. Where does this tiny bird store such a long tongue? The long tongue curls up and retracts to the back of its head.
- **Migratory behavior:** Hummingbirds migrate great distances. West coast hummingbirds fly from Alaska to South America each year. East coast hummingbirds must fly across the Gulf of Mexico. The adult birds leave on their journey two weeks before their young. How do the baby birds, who have never been to South America find their way? God shows them the way to go; He has built GPS into their brains!
- **Flight endurance:** Before they leave on this long journey they must store a layer of fat equal to half its body weight before setting off.
- **Energy storage:** To help them conserve their energy God causes them to go into a deep sleep for 12 hours every night.

(This information was gleaned from an article by Denis Dreves, "The Hummingbird: God's Tiny Miracle", Creation magazine December 1991 page 10-12.)

4. Discover if Birds Evolved from Dinosaurs

Some scientists claim that birds evolved from dinosaurs. If that happened, then feathers had to evolve from scales.

Examine the Evidence

Bring a whole chicken into Sunday School. If you can get one from a meat market with the head and feet still attached, this will make a big impression on the children! Discuss the various parts of the chicken and what they might be used for. Could it be a dinosaur? Talk about the similarities between chickens and dinosaurs: both have skulls with two openings. Some dinosaurs have legs that are upright and long like some birds. Most dinosaurs lay eggs like birds and both have blood vessels in their bones. However, similarity is no proof of evolution! It is more important to discuss the differences between birds and dinosaurs.

- All reptiles when on a good diet, never stop growing until they die. Birds, on the other hand, stop growing once they reach maturity.
- Reptiles are cold blooded; while birds are warm blooded and able to regulate their own temperature.
- All reptiles will eat meat, whereas many birds (humming birds, for example) never consume meat.
- Scales cover most reptiles, where scales are limited to the feet and legs on birds.

- Birds have feathers that are highly specialized for regulating temperature, giving buoyancy, insulation and providing the ability for flight. Reptiles do not have feathers.
- Reptile nests are usually burrowed in the earth and mud where they are heated by the sun or decomposition, rather than a parent sitting on them, as most bird eggs require. Birds largely construct intricate nests, usually in high places because of predators.
- All reptiles can swim; many species of birds cannot.
- Reptiles could not fly to keep themselves from dying when the floodwaters came during Noah's flood.
- Birds nurture their young; reptile rarely do.

Discuss the platypus and the anteater and help the kids realize that there are animals that have physical characteristics found in other unrelated animals. But there is no credible evidence that dinosaurs evolved into birds.

If birds evolved from dinosaurs, then feathers had to evolve from scales. Go to a local pet shop and see if you can get a snake skin that has just been shed. Collect some feathers and bring in some microscopes. Have children compare the skin and feathers under the magnification. There is an immense difference between reptile scales and bird's feathers. It would require a miracle for one to change into the other!

5. Discover how God Invented Jet Propulsion

Jet propulsion is commonly believed to be a modern breakthrough. The modern jet engine, in fact, dates only from the 1930's. However, the possibility of jet propulsion was demonstrated long ago.

Squid and octopus are amazingly fast-moving creatures. Squid have been recorded escaping from predators at an incredible 34-miles per hour. By squirting a strong jet of water from a tube, or funnel, squid propel themselves through the water at remarkable speeds. Muscles contract to force a narrow jet of water out through the funnel, and the squid rockets off backwards!

The backwards jet propulsion may seem an odd arrangement, but the squid's funnel is flexible, and can bend around 180 degrees in a U shape, allowing the creature to also move forward.

(This information was gleaned from Creation Ex Nihilo magazine; September-November 1995, page 26.)

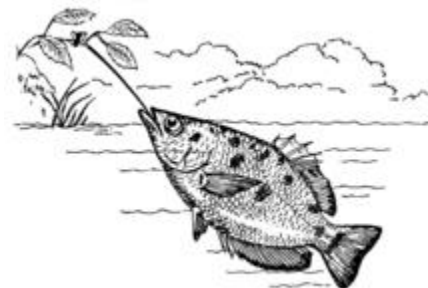
6. Examine the concept of 'kind'

For younger children, describe the concept of kind using pictures or plastic toy animals. Let them sort and categorize.

7. Marvel at other weird and wonderful creations

Archerfish: known for their habit of preying on land-based insects and other small animals by shooting them down by spitting water from their specialized mouths. Archerfish are remarkably accurate in their shooting; an adult fish

almost always hits the target on the first shot. They can bring down insects and other prey from up to 10 feet above the water's surface. Its lips just break the surface, squirting a jet of water at its victim.



Barreleye fish: Known as the fish with a transparent head. In this picture, the eyes are capped by bright green lenses. The two spots above the fish's mouth are olfactory organs (nostrils). They live at depths of 2,000 to 2,600 feet below the surface, so far down in the water that there is almost no light. Until recently

researches did not know about this creature's fluid-filled head because it was destroyed when the fish were brought up from the deep in fishing nets. But now they have a remotely operated vehicle that can go down into the deep waters where they can actually see these fish for the first time.

[For more expository lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Creation

Day #6 of Creation: Animals and Humans
(Genesis 1:24-31)

INTRODUCTION

We have been learning that everything God created has a purpose and a reason for being. It is not an accident that the earth is the only planet in our solar system capable of supporting life. But, before we start our lesson this morning, let's begin with a word of prayer....

OPENING PRAYER

Father, everything You created has a purpose and a reason for being. It is not an accident that the earth is the only planet in our solar system capable of supporting life. We praise You for creating Earth so perfectly and beautifully. Thank You also for giving us life so that we might enjoy the world around us, and thank You for making it possible for us to know You and love You. Teach us, Lord, to be Your friend, to spend time with You talking to You and reading Your word. We want to appreciate You more and more each day. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth (Genesis 1:26 NLT).

LESSON

Today we're going to learn about how God created the animals and people on the sixth day of creation, but before we do, let's review what we've learned so far.

What did God create on the first day of creation? (*The heavens and the Earth, light and time*) Then, what did God create on the second day of creation? (*God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky.*) What did He create on the third day? (*The land, oceans, and the plants.*) What about the fourth day? (*The sun, moon, and stars.*) And, what did He create on the fifth day? (*Birds and fish*)

After the fifth day of creation God looked at His beautiful world and was pleased. He saw the bright sun in the sky and all kinds of birds He had made, flying in the air. He looked at the water He had gathered together to make seas and lakes and saw the splashing fish, big beautiful ones and darting little minnows.

Brightly colored flowers were growing everywhere, little pansies and big sunflowers, too. Tall shade trees with green leaves swaying in the breeze.

You would think that after God made all these things, He would be finished. But He still had to make the animals!

Genesis 1:24-25

*And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures **according to their kinds**—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth **according to their kinds**." And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth **according to their kinds** and the **livestock according to their kinds**, and everything that creeps on the ground **according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good.*

Notice how many times God tells us He made everything to reproduce according to their kind.

People who don't know God, believe in evolution. They say that worms evolved into fish and that dinosaurs evolved into birds. And, here's a good one, they teach that cows evolved into whales. Not only is it ridiculous that a cow would decide to start living in the sea and eating seaweed, it also doesn't make any sense

because God created the fish and birds on Day #5 and He created the animals on Day #6, not the other way around. Every living thing that has ever existed was created by God on the fifth and sixth days of creation.

So, God made all kinds of animals; lions, cows, and things that creep on the ground. *And God saw that it was good.* Even snakes were good when God created them!

God made many animals, but He knew something was still missing in His beautiful world. He wanted someone to talk to and someone to talk to Him. He wanted someone to love and someone to love Him back.

Genesis 1:26

*Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

Why does God say, "Let **us** make man in **our** image"? Who is speaking? (*God is three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*)

To see *how* God created man, let's skip ahead a bit and read...

Genesis 2:7

then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."

So God, who can do anything, took some dust from the ground and made a man. Then He put breath into the man and made him alive.

To see how God created woman, let's skip ahead again...

Genesis 2:21-22

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Back in Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

What do you think it means that God created man in His own image? God obviously did not create us exactly like himself because God has no physical body. And, it's obvious that we are not gods! He created us like Himself in that we can think and be creative.

Ask: What is the smartest animal you know of?

Dogs are really smart and so are horses, but no animal has ever been a great architect or a rock scientist. Only man can do those things.

To be in the image of God does not mean we look like Him. It means we have many of God's characteristics. For example, we have the ability to love others, to be patient and forgiving just like He is with you. We can be kind and faithful like God Himself. Best of all we can know God and have a real friendship with Him and talk to Him and love Him.

Genesis 1:28

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

What do you think God meant when He told man to have “*have dominion*” over the animals? God wanted the humans to be in charge of all the animals as well as the birds in the air and the fish in the sea. He wants us to take care of them and to enjoy them. God wants us to be His representative, ruling creation as God would rule it.

In verses 29 and 30 God tells us that He has given fruits and vegetables as food for both humans and for animals. Let’s read those verses together...

Genesis 1:29-30

*And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, **I have given every green plant for food.**” And it was so.*

This says that God originally created both animals and humans to be vegetarians. Later on He gave us animals to eat as well.

Genesis 1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

It took God six days to create the whole world. He could have done it in an instant, but He had a very good reason for taking six complete days to do it. He set a pattern for us to work six days a week and then on the seventh day we are to rest from our jobs and think about how wonderful God is.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we want to thank You for creating us in Your image. We are able to love one another and to be kind and forgiving. Most of all, You created us to love You. So, this morning we just want to say we love You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose one of the following craft projects:

1. Archeological Dig

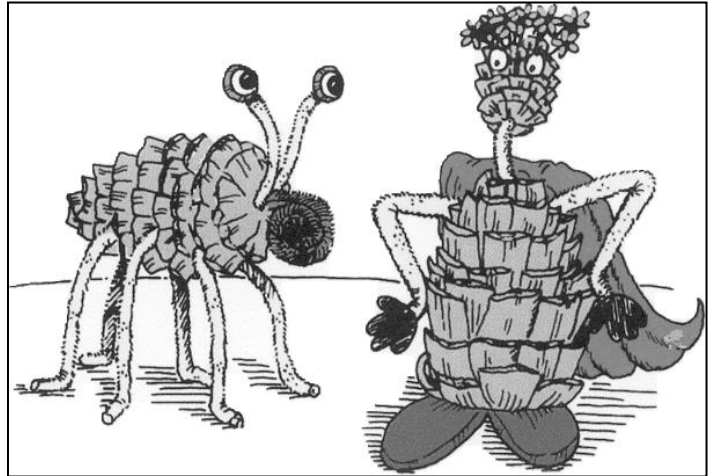
Collect and hide bones (chicken, ribs, etc.) out in the yard. Have the children find them (like an Easter egg hunt). Then, with glue guns, have the children put together the animal they found.

2. Pinecone Creatures

What kind of wild, imaginary animals can you make out of pinecones?

Materials

- Pinecones
- Decorations (buttons or other miscellaneous stuff)
- Chenille stems
- Craft glue



Procedures

For each creature, you'll need one large pinecone. You'll also need an assortment of decorations (old buttons, scrap cloth, chenille stems, real or plastic flowers, etc.) Use these decorations to turn the pinecone into an imaginary animal. Chenille stems work well for creating legs. When you're done, give your creature a name, like Adam did. Remember you used stuff to make your creature; God made everything out of nothing!

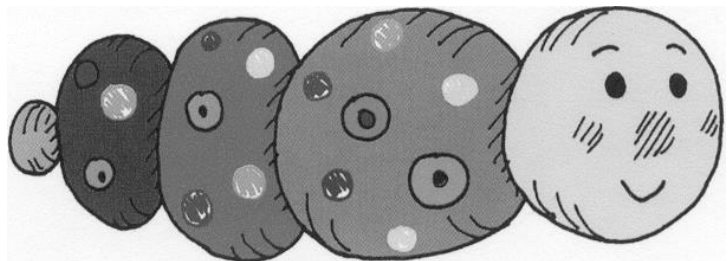
3. Caterpillar Crafts

Butterflies and moths are very important pollinators – they carry pollen from flower to flower. And every butterfly or moth starts life as a caterpillar! Use the following crafts to focus children's attention on God's creation. Discuss the many different kinds of caterpillars He made and what happens to them. Have someone read Psalm 104:24 *"O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions..."* Choose one of the following three Caterpillar Craft ideas:

A. Caterpillar Pals

Materials

- Light-colored pantyhose or knee-length stockings
- Scissors
- Cotton or polyester fiber stuffing
- 3 small rubber bands per child
- Fabric paint
- Paintbrush



Procedures

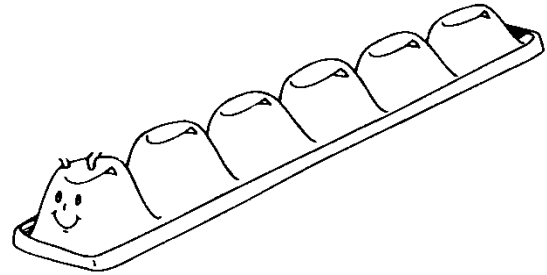
To make a caterpillar pal, tie a knot in the end of a pair of pantyhose. Pull the knot tight. Measure back about 6 inches from the knot, and cut off the rest of the fabric. Turn the tube inside out and stuff it with polyester fiberfill or cotton. Tie a knot in the other end of the tube to keep the fill in. This knot will be the caterpillar's tail. Trim off any excess material that hangs out of the knot. Wiggle the filler materials around until the tube is shaped like a worm. Wrap the first rubber band around the caterpillar's body, 1/3 of the way from the nose to the tail. This will create the caterpillar's head. Wrap the second rubber band halfway between the first one and

the tail, and the third one halfway between the second rubber band and the tail. Tip: the tighter you wrap the rubber bands, the fatter the caterpillar's parts will be. Decorate the caterpillar with fabric paint. Let dry.

B. Egg Carton Caterpillar

Materials

- Egg cartons
- Scissors
- Stickers (black circles)
- Chenille stems
- Glue



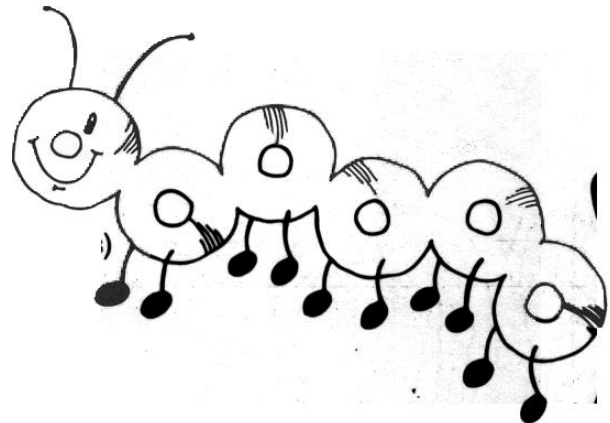
Procedures

1. Cut the egg carton in half lengthwise.
2. Glue two circle stickers to one end of the carton for eyes.
3. Poke two pieces of chenille stem into the top of the head to serve as antenna for the caterpillar.

C. Spool Painting Caterpillars

Materials

- Paper
- Wooden spools (such as empty thread spools)
- Tempera paints in shallow containers
- Black markers



Procedures

1. Dip one end of a spool into the paint, remove it, and press it on the paper. (Lift it up carefully so as not to smudge the design.)
2. Repeat the process until several circles are made to form the body of the caterpillar.
3. After the paint has dried, use a black marker to draw features such as eyes, mouth, antenna, and legs.

4. Dinosaur Head Ornaments

(Big Beast Book by Jerry Booth)

Discuss the head ornaments of some of the duck-billed dinosaurs and why God created them to be hollow. Were they just visual displays or underwater diving gear as some paleontologists have suggested? Other suggestions have been that they enhanced the sense of smell or were used as an alarm system.

Materials

- 2 sheets of construction paper per child
- Scissors

Procedures

Have the children make dinosaur crests out of construction paper (duck-billed dinosaurs?)

1. Make a band by cutting a 2-inch-wide strip of paper and folding it lengthwise and then measuring it to the child's head and taping it.
2. Make a second band to run over the top of the child's head. Connect it to the opposite sides of the circular band. Measure it to fit and then tape it.
3. Fold the second piece of construction paper in half. Trace a crest pattern on the paper with the base of the crest on the folded edge. (It saves time and frustration to trace the patterns ahead of time.)
4. Cut out the crest with tabs.
5. Measure where the crest tabs meet the headband.
6. Cut slots in the center of the band.
7. Insert the crest tabs into the band slots.
8. Open and tape the tabs in place.

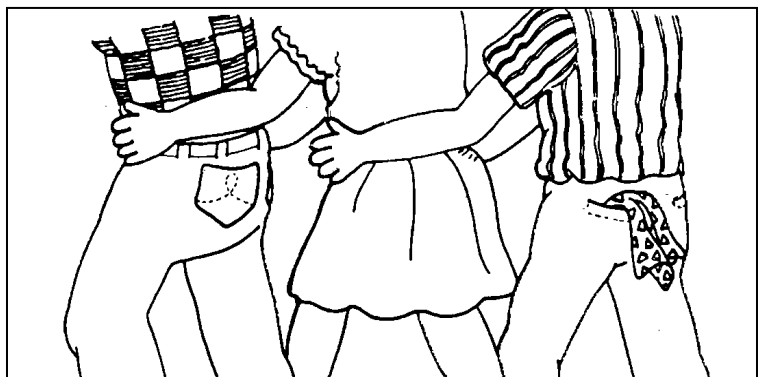
Fun House

(Game Center)

Choose from one of the following game ideas:

1. Animal Tail Tag

Divide children into groups of three or four with hands on the waist of the person in front of them. The last person on each team tucks a scarf or handkerchief "tail" near his/her waistline. All tails should be the same length. The entire team animal (lion, sheep, camel, or whatever) must stay attached and must stay within given boundaries. The person at the front of the animal must try to grab the tails of the other animals. Teams that lose their tails, break apart, or go out of bounds are out. The last team left with a tail is the winner.

**2. Name that Insect**

- Name as many insects as you can.
- 1-5 insects = Beginning Bug Scientist

- 6-10 insects = Expert Entomologist

3. Bible Bugs

Have “Sword Drills” with the following verses. Have the children race to see who can find the verse the fastest. The first one to pull out his Sword (the Word of God) and find the verse gets a reward (candy?):

1. What insect is not lazy? (Ant, Proverbs 6:6)
2. What insect prepares food during the summer for winter? (Ant, Proverbs 30:25)
3. What insect prepares food for winter sometimes using unusual places? (Bee, Judges 14:8)
4. What was the unusual place mentioned in Judges 14:8? (Lion carcass)
5. What insect did God say He would command in 2 Chronicles 7:13? (Locust)
6. What did God command it to do in 2 Chronicles 7:13? (To devour the land)
7. What insects did God say would be good to eat? (Locust, cricket, and grasshopper, Leviticus 11:22)
8. What insects travel together in a group cooperatively without a leader? (Locust, Proverbs 30:27)
9. What insect do we have to look hard to see? (Gnat, Matthew 23:24)
10. What insect can spoil perfume just like a little sin can spoil our witness for Jesus? (Dead fly, Ecclesiastes 10:1)
11. What insect is known to eat holes in clothes? (Moth, Isaiah 51:8)

4. Creepy Crawly Game

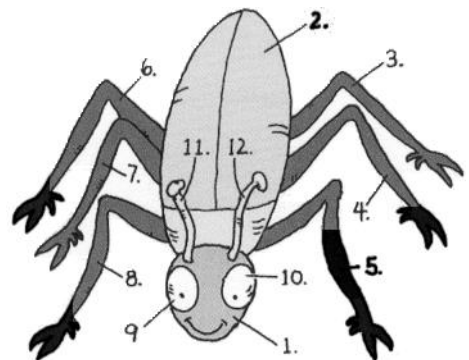
Here's a fun game you can play. The object is to be the first to make your own “beetle.” This game is like Pictionary.

Materials

- Drawing paper (or a white board)
- Markers
- Pair of dice

Procedures

This is a game for two or more players. Each player needs a sheet of drawing paper and some markers. You will roll the dice to draw a beetle. Here's what you must roll to draw each part:



1. Roll both dice each time, but only draw one beetle part for each roll. Here are two examples to show you how it works:

- Let's say you roll a 1 and a 2. You can draw either the beetle's head (1) or body (2), but not both.

1 Head	7 leg
2 body	8 leg
3 leg	9 eye
4 leg	10 eye
5 leg	11 antenna
6 leg	12 antenna

- Or, you can draw a leg, because 1 plus 2 equals 3, and a 3 lets you draw a leg.
2. If your beetle already has the parts for which you rolled, your turn is over.
 3. Use different colors to make your beetle special. Whoever finished his or her beetle first wins.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose one of the following activities:

1. Discover the Wonder of God's Magnificent Power and His Infinite Wisdom in His Creation

Beavers -- Aquatic Architects. Beavers possess amazing design features:

Engineering Skills:

- Build a dam with sticks and rocks and seal it with mud and grass.
- Make a spillway to relieve pressure on a dam from a pond.
- Build a dam very strong and sometimes very long: Largest on record is over 2,000 feet long and could bear the weight of a man riding a horse!
- Build a lodge with a chimney in its ceiling to let in fresh air.
- Build underwater tunnels for access; two doors for emergency escape.

Water Skills: (They are air-breathing mammals which spend a great deal of time in water.)

- Ability to swim underwater for up to 2 mile and 15 minutes.
- A tail like a large paddle; used like a rudder when swimming. It's held at an angle for accurate steering.
- Rear feet that are large and webbed, like a duck's.
- Special valves in its ears and nose that automatically close when it dives below the water and reopen when it surfaces.
- Built-in "goggles." Eyelids that are transparent to give protection to their eyes.
- Fur mouth flaps that fold behind their front teeth and seal off the rest of their mouth allow them to chew sticks underwater without water entering their mouths.
- A tongue that blocks its throat to stop water going in.

Diet:

- Specially designed, self-sharpening 1 to 2 inch front teeth that keep on growing; wear down by gnawing on trees.
- Stores lengths of tree trunks underwater by forcing them into mud at pond bottom under their lodge.

Grooming:

- Two large oil glands that are filled with a rich, thick, oily liquid that it spreads on its fur for water proofing. Water rarely reaches the skin.

- Inner claws of each foot that have split toenails to use as a comb to groom and oil its fur.

(Information gleaned from *Creation Ex Nihilo Magazine*, Vol. 15 No. 2, pg. 38)

2. What Were Adam and Eve Like?

Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons?

- Your belly button is a scar formed from cutting the umbilical cord to your mother.
- Adam was made directly by God from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). He was not born of a woman.
- Eve was made directly from part of Adam (Genesis 2:21-22). She was not born of a woman either.
- If Adam and Eve were not born of a woman, they would not have had umbilical cords and no belly button.

Did Adam and Eve have to learn to talk?

- Adam and Eve were made as mature human beings.
- In Genesis 2:19-20 we are told that Adam named the animals.
- Adam must have been able to speak.

What color skin, eyes, and hair did they have?

- The amount of pigment (melanin) in our skin determines our color.
- All skin colors can be produced from 2 people with middle color tones.
- So, both Adam and Eve must have had middle color tones; brown skin, hair, and eyes.

How many children did Adam and Eve have?

- Jewish tradition says they had 56 children altogether.
- The Bible tells us that Adam lived for 930 years (Genesis 5:5).
- All the first families had to be marriages of brothers and sisters; then cousins...

(Information gleaned from *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Vol. 13 No. 4, pg. 28)

Did Adam and Eve live with the dinosaurs?

- According to the Bible, dinosaurs first existed around 6,000 years ago. God made the dinosaurs, along with the other land animals on Day 6 of the Creation Week (Genesis 1:20–25, 31). Adam and Eve were also made on Day 6—so dinosaurs lived at the same time as people, not separated by eons of time.
- Dinosaurs could not have died out before people appeared because dinosaurs had not previously existed; and death, bloodshed, disease, and suffering are a result of Adam's sin (Genesis 1:29–30; Romans 5:12, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22). (See <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/when-did-dinosaurs-live/what-really-happened-to-the-dinosaurs/>.)

3. Discover if Dinosaurs and Man Coexisted

Evidence from history indicates that dinosaurs lived with man. Geological evidence indicates that they coexisted and the Bible speaks of dinosaurs.

Background Facts

- The Bible says that God is the creator of all things. Dinosaurs would have been created on the sixth day, mentioned as "the beasts of the earth." The word dinosaur is not used in the Bible because it wasn't invented until 1841 (Gish, p.67).
- The Bible mentions the words "serpent, dragon, or sea-monster" about twenty-five times in the Old Testament after Noah's flood. The Hebrew word used was tannin or tannim (Baker, p. 13).
- The description of behemoth in Job 40:15-24 is strikingly similar to the Sauropod Apatosaurus (Baker, p 36).
- Every civilization has stories of dragons. The stories all center around reptile-like creatures of various sizes. Many ancient descriptions of dragons sound like dinosaurs. Scientists agree that legends are almost always based on facts, not just pure imagination. "Chinese archaeologists claim to have found fossils of reptiles which resemble the dragons of Chinese mythology. Seven hundred fossils of the 'Guizhou dragons' were confiscated from illegal fossil traders last April. The small reptiles had long necks, long curved tails and five long bones in their feet. The reptiles were found around Xingyi city in Guizhou province. A researcher of ancient vertebrates from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhao Xijin, said Guizhou was an important base for the 'dragons'. China's Guangming Daily newspaper said 'these dragons' were not the real ancestors of the dragons in Chinese mythology, they simply resembled Chinese dragons." The Times (Malta), May 25, 1995 (Creation 17:4 September-November.)
- Pictures of dinosaurs, drawn by prehistoric artists have been found on cliff walls. Included among the dinosaurs were other common animals that would have been a part of their daily lives.
- Recorded accounts from the secular world are to be found. One example is taken from Pliny's famous *Natural History* where he refers to the dragon as still living in India (Baker, pg.46).
- Fresh, un-fossilized dinosaur bones have been found.

What happened to the dinosaurs?

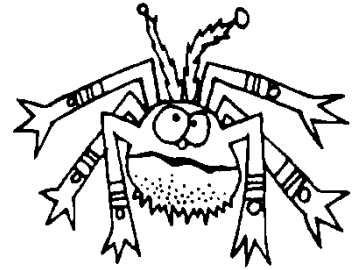
- Representatives of all the kinds of air-breathing land animals, including the dinosaur kinds, went aboard Noah's Ark. All those left outside the Ark died in the cataclysmic circumstances of the Flood, and many of their remains became fossils.
- After the Flood, around 4,300 years ago, the remnant of the land animals, including dinosaurs, came off the Ark and lived in the present world, along with people. Because of sin, the judgments of the Curse and the Flood have greatly changed earth. Post-Flood climatic change, lack of food, disease, and man's activities caused many types of animals to become extinct. The dinosaurs, like many other creatures, died out. Why the big mystery about dinosaurs?

Science Activity

See the science activity in lesson #6 entitled: Discover if Birds Evolved from Dinosaurs. If you didn't do it in lesson #6, you might consider it for lesson #7.

4. Examine Bugs!

God created insects to live all over the earth. There are more insects on the face of the earth than all other animals together. Insects provide food for birds, bats, lizards, frogs, spiders, fish and even people! (See Lev 11:22) If it were not for the rich protein source of bugs, any other animals would be mighty skinny! In the Bible God uses several insects to teach us lessons to make our own lives better. (For examples, see Proverbs 6:6; 30:25; and 30:27.)



What Happens to Bugs in the Winter?

Animals survive the cold in three basic ways: they gather food and snuggle down in a warm shelter, migrate, or hibernate.

Migration

Migration is the periodic moving from one place to another to follow a food source or for raising their young. Migrating insects, like other animals, usually head to the same destinations year after year and from one generation to the next.

In order to migrate, animals must:

- Have great strength and staying power. It takes a tremendous amount of energy to travel long distances.
- Be able to find their way so they reach their destination.

How do animals navigate? They know their location from

- The position of the sun and stars
- Geographical landmarks
- Smell
- The magnetic fields of the earth

The delicate black and orange Monarch butterfly migrates from as far away as Washington and Montana to Mexico to spend the winter. Hummingbirds migrate from Alaska to South America.

Hibernation

Hibernation is more than just a very long nap in the winter. The body temperature of the animal falls to just above freezing; the heart and breathing rates slow; the body of the animal uses up very little food or water (it lives on body fat); and it becomes unconscious, hardly moving at all. Some hibernating animals wake up once in a while to eat.

Water bugs and the larvae and eggs of dragonflies and mosquitoes spend the winter snuggled in the mud of ponds. Some beetles and butterflies snooze away the cold months under blankets of tree bark or in cozy underground tunnels.

Isn't it totally awesome to know that God plans for the insects and their lives...and we know that we are infinitely more important to God than insects! Just think of the possibilities!

(Information gleaned from Shining Star, Issue 54, pg. 54-55)

5. Discover Different Species

Collect pictures of different types of animals, many of several different kinds, and have the children sort and categorize them. Talk about what a species is. Use a Kingdom Phyla Chart. (Alternate: use plastic toy animals.)

GOD'S VARIETY SHOW!

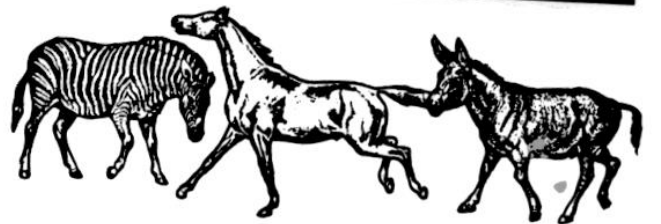
HOW DARWIN GOT IT WRONG

Charles Darwin sailed to South America on the *Beagle*. On the Galapagos Islands he saw finches with many different shapes of beak, and thought they had all descended from one ancestor. Darwin also kept pigeons (see next page), and found that many different varieties could be bred. Yet the finches were still finches and the pigeons still pigeons. Darwin was right to say that living things could change, but wrong to say that one kind could change into another. All the variety we see in nature is within the limits which God set in the beginning. The idea that fish could change into amphibians, birds into reptiles, or apes into people has no facts to support it. We do not see these changes happening now, and the fossils show it never happened in the past.

WHAT IS A KIND?

There are over 300 different breeds of dog in the world; there are also foxes, wolves, coyotes and dingoes, but all of them belong to the same 'kind' and may have descended from one pair of wild dogs. Farmers have bred many different varieties of cattle, some for producing milk, others for beef, but water buffalo, bison, yaks and musk oxen are also members of the cattle 'kind' and probably had the same ancestors. In the plant world, there are many different varieties of roses, apples, and so on, but they are only *variations* within a family. Without these variations, we would only be able to choose one breed of dog, or have only one variety of rose in our gardens!

If God had not made such variety possible, our world would be much less interesting. What a wonderful show He has provided for us!



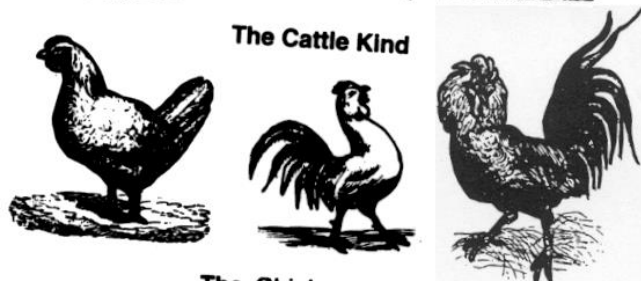
The Horse Kind



The Dog Kind



The Cattle Kind



The Chicken Kind

6. Discover Human Reproduction

Invite someone from the local Crisis Pregnancy Center to bring the models of the human reproduction cycle in to discuss the development of a baby. This is a great hands-on display, showing the various stages of a baby's life while in the mother's womb.

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Creation

You Are Unique

(Mankind is Unique from Animals and More Precious to God; We are NOT Evolved!)

INTRODUCTION

You are unique. There is nobody just like you. Your very own birthday suit is yours alone; there's none other like it. No one has finger or toe prints just like yours. God made you just the way you are for a very good reason and a purpose. He has your life all planned out. And, He has good things in mind for you to do every day of your life!

Today we're going to learn about how awesome and wonderfully God made you.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, the Bible says that You created us and that we did not come about by chance! Today, please open our ears and eyes so that we might see just how wonderfully You designed us. Excite us as we learn how special we are to You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Look at the birds of the air; for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:26)

LESSON

3,000 years ago King David wrote: I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; (Psalm 139:14)

You are a fantastic creation, unique in all the world. There never has been and never will be another person just like you. Your body is so wonderful and so unique we can barely understand it.

We are not close cousins of the animals. We are the most excellent of all God's works; a gift from God. There are some things about humans that make us different and much better than animals. Let's talk about some of the amazing and wonderful ways God created you...

Hands

Man is the only being in God's creation that has a hand. The monkey has something like a hand; but when you watch one as it takes things, you see that it is a very clumsy thing compared to your hand.

Your hands are amazing little "machines" created to serve you perfectly. More than half the bones in your body have been placed in your hands and feet.

The same fingers that can grip a heavy hammer can be trained to do needle work. The hand that can grasp a heavy rope firmly, can also take a thread between its thumb and finger. The hand can constantly change the positions of its fingers to do different kinds of work. Not only can it play the piano or the clarinet, it can button and unbutton a shirt.

You could never build a machine to do the things that a hand can do. Have you ever seen a person without a hand? Often the best a doctor can do for someone without a hand is to rig up a mechanical hook, but it is not useful to pick up a pen and write. Only God could have made a machine, like a hand, to be able to do so much.

A hand is also an instrument with which the mind feels things. The muscles in your hand are all connected to your brain by nerves. The brain uses your nerves to perform all the many motions of your hand and fingers. The brain also uses nerves to know what the hand and fingers feel. That's how you explore the world!

When you stroke over a smooth surface, you can feel the slightest rough spot. This is called your *sense of touch*. [Prepare a "feely" box with a cotton ball, a feather, piece of sand paper, etc. Let the children guess what's in it with their sense of touch.]

A great amount of knowledge gets into your mind through the tips of your fingers. Messages go from your fingertips through nerves to your brain. Blind people read with their fingers. Have you heard of Braille reading?

Blind people pass their fingertips over tiny bumps which represent the letters of the alphabet.

Mind

The Bible tells us that God made man in His own image (Genesis 1:27). We are not like animals; we do not have to act on instinct. We have a mind that can think and make decisions. We are far more intelligent than animals. We can design and make things, appreciate beauty, write poetry, and do arithmetic. We can be creative; we can paint pictures, compose music, invent machines and build houses.

Only people are able to make expressions on their faces that correspond with their feelings. We smile when we are happy and we cry when we are sad. We laugh at funny things, even at ourselves when we do silly things.

God created mankind to take care of the animals and to tend the trees and crops. God created mankind in His own image so that He could have a friendship with us. We can know God as well as we know our own daddies. Animals can't know God. He created humans with the ability to think about God and have feelings of love and appreciation for Him. Animals can't do that.

God has also given man a conscience that makes us aware of right and wrong. We can choose whether or not we will obey our parents. And, best of all, we have a spirit made to fellowship with God.

Speech

Only humans have the ability to develop languages and speak. He created us with the ability to speak so that we can talk to Him and so that He can talk to us. The most important way God talks to us is when we read the Bible. We're the only part of God's creation that can understand His word.

Conclusion

We are special in God's creation. God knows and loves each of us personally. Even in our deepest sorrow, God cares! David wrote in the Psalms that God puts our tears into a bottle (Psalm 56:8). God knows every problem we have and sees every tear that we shed. He even knows the number of hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30).

How many of you know God as your best Friend?

Closing Prayer

Father our bodies are so wonderful it proves to us that we did not just come about by chance, but that You designed us. Thank You for showing us today just how marvelous we are. We know that You have a reason and a purpose for everything You do. Show us each day how we might fit into Your master plan for our lives. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose one of the following craft projects:

1. Make Your Own Skin Prints

Get a soft-lead pencil (#2) and rub it on a paper until you get a dark blob. Pick up a smudge of that blob with your finger. Take a clean piece of sticky tape and put that on your dirty fingertip. Then take the tape off, and lay the tape on a clean piece of paper. Presto; your very own fingerprint!

2. Thummies (Fingerprint Pictures)

Your fingerprints are unique. So are your talents and abilities. Use your fingerprints to create a unique scene.



Materials

- White paper
- Washable ink
- Inkpad
- Pencils or a fine-point felt-tip pen
- Crayons or markers

Directions

1. Use pencils, pens, or markers to sketch a picture. Be sure to leave areas where fingerprints can be incorporated into your sketch.
2. Pour washable (non-waterproof) ink on an empty inkpad.
3. Press your thumb on an inkpad, and then press it on a piece of paper. With a fine-point felt-tip pen, add details to your thumbprint to create an animal, a person, or a silly character. Draw ears, whiskers, and a tail to make a cat, or add spots, legs, and antennae to make a ladybug. There are many fun creations you can make with thummies. Try using your pinky or index finger for prints in different sizes and shapes. Or press four or five thummies in a row to make a caterpillar. Use thummies to decorate greeting cards and stationery or to illustrate a story.
4. Write the memory verse at the bottom.

Fun House

(Game Center)

1. Telephone

Test your sense of hearing. Play the “telephone” game where one person whispers something in another’s ear and that person begins to pass the message down the line. See if the end person gets the right message!

2. Creation Bean Bag Toss

As suggested in Lesson Two, make seven large circle targets. Decorate each to depict a day of creation. Divide the children into two teams and ask them questions about today’s lesson (see below). If a team gets a correct answer, one child gets to toss a beanbag for points. Make the points 1,000 times the # of the day of creation. For example, if the bag lands on Day #5, the team gets 5,000 points. Give prizes for all.

Review Questions for Bean Bag Toss

1. What did God create on the sixth day of creation? (*animals and humans*)
2. When were fish and birds created? (*On the fifth day of creation*)
3. What was created after the sixth day? (*Nothing!*)
4. What does the Bible mean when it says that God created things “according to its kind?” (*Things reproduce their own kind*)
5. Did God think snakes were good when He created them? (*Yes*)
6. Why did God create mankind? (*To have someone to talk to and to love*)
7. Why does God use the plural form, “let us make man in our image” is verse 26? (*God is three persons*)
8. How did God create Adam? (*He took some dust from the ground and made a man. Then put breath into the man and made him alive.*)
9. How did God create Eve? (*He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam’s ribs and made woman from it.*)
10. What do you think it means that God “created man in His own image”? (*We can think and be creative. We have the ability to love, be patient, forgiving, kind and faithful. We can know God and have a real friendship with Him and talk to Him and love Him.*)
11. Why did God want mankind to reign over the animals? (*God wanted us to be His representative to take care of them and to enjoy them.*)
12. What did all the animals and people eat at first? (*Only vegetables and fruits*)
13. How many actual 24-hour days did it take God to create the world? (*Six*)

3. Staying Cool

What You Need

- An oral thermometer
- A watch
- An adult partner
- A pencil and paper to record your results

What You Need to Do

- Record your temperature
- Record the # of breaths you take in a minute
- Find your pulse and record your heart rate (# of beats per minute)
- Do 5 minutes of aerobic exercise (run in place, jumping jacks, etc.)
- Repeat the measurements

What Do You See?

The exercise caused your body to heat up and your heart and breathing rates to increase. If you're fair-skinned, your face, neck and shoulders may have turned redder. That's because your blood was heated by the exercise. This may have caused you to sweat. But, as you rested, your body sent your hot blood closer to your skin so the heat could escape. God designed us to sweat; it helps us to cool off.

God designed you to need rest. It's good for you to exercise, but your body could never keep it up non-stop. Your body needs rest; it puts everything in order!

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Discover How Fearfully and Wonderfully You are Made

How many of you realize just how neat your body is? Within the next minute, the following things will happen inside your body:

- Your heart will beat approximately 75 times.
- Four quarts (1 gallon) of blood will pass through your heart.
- You will breathe eighteen times.
- Your lungs will process over six quarts (12 gallons) of air.
- Your skin will tell you whether the air around you is hot or cold.
- Your ears will hear dozens of noises.
- Your eyes will see thousands of colors.
- Your brain will block out all unnecessary information.

Your body is a wonderful machine, with all the parts working together to enable you to live, move, and grow.

1. Appreciate Your Eyes

God gave you two eyes so that you can see distances correctly. This helps you watch a ball.

Balance yourself on one foot with your arms at your sides with your eyes wide open. Stand that way for a full minute. Then close your eyes. Try to stand that way for a minute.

Now, try catching a ball with only one eye open.

2. Appreciate Your Hands

Spread out your hands and look at your thumbs. Now move your thumbs into the palms of your hands. Because you can move your thumbs like that you can eat pizza, telephone a friend, and write a letter.

(You'll need help with this one) Put your thumb in the palm of your hand, and then tape it there with masking tape. Do the same with the other thumb. Then tape the rest of your fingers on each hand together. Try to pick up a pencil and write your name. After a while, you'll thank God for fingers.

3. Appreciate Your Skin

Your very own birthday suit fits you perfectly with folds and pleats in all the right places. It grows as you grow, mends itself when torn, is waterproof and germproof, and comes with a lifetime guarantee.

4. Make Your Own Skin Prints

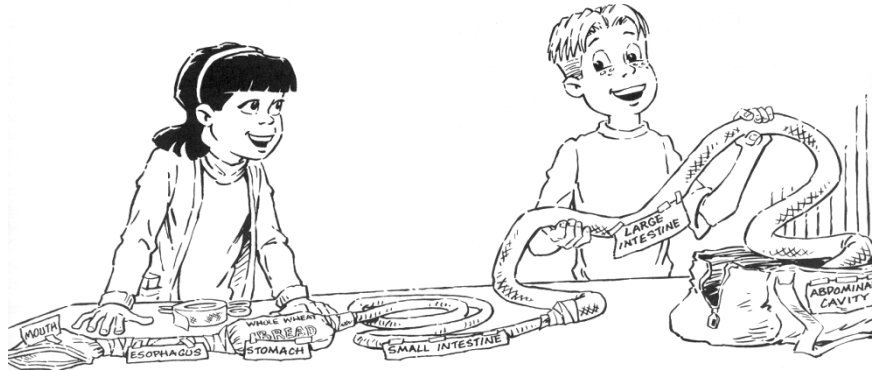
Get a soft-lead pencil (#2) and rub it on a paper until you get a dark blob. Pick up a smudge of that blob with your finger. Take a clean piece of sticky tape and put that on your dirty fingertip. Then take the tape off, and lay the tape on a clean piece of paper. Presto C your very own fingerprint!

5. How Long Is the Digestive Tract?

Let's make a model of the digestive tract and see how scientists use models to understand what they're studying.

What You Need

- Duct tape
- A bread bag
- A small re-closable plastic bag
- A 5 foot vacuum cleaner hose
- A tube from a roll of paper towels
- A 20 foot garden hose or thick piece of rope
- A small travel or gym bag



What You Need to Do

- Start with the re-closable plastic bag. This is the mouth.
- Cut a hole in one corner of the bottom.
- Tape one end of the paper towel tube (the esophagus) to the edges of the hole.
- Tape the other end to the top opening of the bread bag (the stomach).
- Make a small hole in the bottom of the bread bag.
- Tape it to one end of the garden hose (the small intestine).
- Tape the other end of the garden hose to one end of the vacuum cleaner hose (the large intestine).
- Now, starting with the vacuum cleaner hose, stuff the digestive tract into the travel bag (the abdominal cavity).
- Keep going until the bread bag is in the travel bag, leaving the paper towel tube and the "mouth" sticking out.

Having a bit of trouble fitting it all in? The digestive tract is made of very flexible materials that allow them to be packed into a small space.

6. Take Your Breath Away

How much air do you think your lungs can hold? One liter? Five liters? Here's a device that will allow you to find out. It's called a *spirometer*.

What You Need

- A large jar with a lid
- A measuring cup
- A bowl or basin
- A 3-foot piece of tubing (e.g., a piece of garden hose.)
- Masking tape
- A felt marker
- An assistant

What You Need to Do

Pour 2 cups of water into the jar. Attach a small piece of tape to mark the height of the water. Continue adding 2- cup



portions of water and marking the height of the water after each addition until the jar is full. Put the lid on the jar. Fill the bowl halfway with water. Turn the jar upside down and stand it in the bowl of water. Carefully remove the lid and insert one end of the tube into the jar, without letting any air get into the jar. You are now ready to measure your lung capacity.

Take a deep breath. Come on, you can take a deeper breath than that! Try again. That's better! Now, blow into the tube as hard as you can and keep blowing until you can't blow anymore. Feeling a little dizzy? Take it easy, then. Maybe even sit down for a minute. Now, check how much the level of the water has changed.

What Did You See?

When you blew air into the jar, it forced water out. Your lung capacity equals the volume of water you forced out of the jar by blowing in the tube. See who has the greatest lung capacity. Your lung capacity will depend upon how old you are, how big you are, and whether you are a girl or a boy.

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministylessons.com>]

Creation

Day #7 of Creation: Sabbath Rest
(Genesis 2:1-3)

INTRODUCTION

Today we're going to learn that God rested on the seventh day of creation. We're going to talk about what it means to rest in the Lord and we will find out resting in the Lord is not just taking a nap. It can be active and fun.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, give us hearts that desire to show You how much we love You. Teach us this morning what it means to worship You and to give You praise and honor. In Jesus name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

*All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom.
(Psalm 145:10-12)*

LESSON

Today we're going to talk about what God did on the 7th day of creation, but before we do, let's review what we've learned so far.

What did God create on the first day of creation? (*The heavens and the Earth, light and time*) Then, what did God create on the second day of creation? (*God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky.*) What did He create on the third day? (*The land, oceans, and the plants.*) What about the fourth day? (*The sun, moon, and stars.*) What did He create on the fifth day? (*Birds and fish.*) And, what did He create on day number six? (*Animals and people*)

So, in six actual days God created all the wonders of the universe.

Genesis 2:1

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

The creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed; God has not created anything new since the sixth day of creation.

Genesis 2:2

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

So, on the seventh day God finished his work and rested.

Genesis 2:3

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Ask: Why do you think that God rested on the seventh day? Does this mean that God was tired after all the work of creating the earth, the plants, the sun, moon and stars, the fish, birds and land animals, and then people? Did He need a rest and perhaps even a sleep to recover His strength?

No! God did not rest because He was tired, for God does not get tired; He is all-powerful. Psalm 121:4 tells us that God never sleeps. He's running the universe 24X7.

God rested for two reasons:

- First it was because His work of creation was finished. The world was perfect. It could not be better or more beautiful.

- Second, He rested because He wanted to set an example for us.

By the way, this is why a week is seven days long, not six days or eight. It is based on the way God made the universe during Creation Week.

God certainly did not need six days to make everything any more than He needed billions of years. He could have done it in an instant, with the snap of His fingers. He can do anything. Nothing is too hard for God.

God had a very good reason for taking six complete days to do it. He set the seventh day apart for Adam and Eve to think about Him. By doing this, He set a pattern for us to work six days a week and then on the seventh day we are to rest from our jobs and think about how wonderful God is.

God made humans because He wanted to have fellowship with us. That's why He wanted us to have at least one day a week with nothing to distract us from spending time with Him. It refreshes our hearts.

That's why God included a rule about this in the Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:8-11 (Commandment #4)

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Sabbath is another word for "rest." We Christians have our Sabbath rest on Sunday because Jesus rose from the grave on that day. We call it the *Lord's Day*. It's the day we gather as a church family to worship God.

Ask: Do you know what worship is?

The word "worship" comes from the word "worth-ship" which means *to give value to*. When we worship God, we are telling Him He is valuable to us.

Just going to church does not mean you are worshiping God.

Worship is not just watching someone else sing to God. It is thinking about God yourself. Worship is taking time to appreciate who God is, what He has done, and what He is doing in our lives. Thoughts of God should fill our hearts with joy and make us want to praise Him.

We shouldn't wait for Sunday to worship God. We should be thinking about God and thanking Him for who He is and what He does for us in our lives every day. In fact, everything we think and say and do should honor God.

Let's talk about some things we can praise God for:

We have been learning about how God created the universe and it makes me want to praise God for His creation.

When you look at the things God has made, it should fill your hearts with love for Him. He's given us an amazing place to live, hasn't He? As you watch a bee fly or a spider spinning its web, or a humming bird hovering like a helicopter; doesn't that make you marvel at God's wisdom and greatness? This should fill your hearts with love and reverence for our Creator.

But there are lots of things to praise God for.

When you think about what Jesus did for you in taking your place upon the cross and paying the penalty for your sins, it should fill your heart with praise and thanksgiving.

Ask: What are some other things you can praise God for?

You can worship God anytime, anywhere. As you do your schoolwork or your chores, watch your fingers work. Just think! The marvelous God who made you, and all things, goes through your day with you. Tell Him how glad you are for His love. You worship God by thinking about Him as you pray, sing, and learn from His Word.

Ask: What are some things you can do to keep the Sabbath holy?

Yes, going to church, reading your Bibles, and praying help you worship God. But remember, you must have the right heart attitude for doing these things, or it is not really pleasing to the Lord.

Ask: What is the right heart attitude for worshipping God?

God is pleased when you are grateful to Him.

Worship is exciting! Those who make worship a natural part of their daily lives will discover the secret of true and lasting joy.

God gave us a day of rest and worship because He loves us.

Let's remember to thank Him for loving us.

Closing Prayer

Psalms are songs we can sing or pray to God. Let's close with

Psalms 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Father, thank You for commanding us to set aside one day a week to rest in You so that we can spend time thinking about how great and awesome You are and for appreciating Your love and provision for us in our lives. We love You, Lord, and want to give You all the praise and honor You deserve. In Jesus name, Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Musical Praise Craft

David praised the Lord by writing the songs we call Psalms in our Bibles. He wrote many of them when he was a shepherd. He may have played a harp or a wind instrument made from a hollow reed when he was out tending the sheep. In these Psalms, he tells people to get out their musical instruments and worship God with music and dancing! In Bible times, people got together often to celebrate or worship. They used tambourines, cymbals, and other instruments.

Here are instructions for making two musical instruments:

1. Tambourine from a paper plate & jingle bells

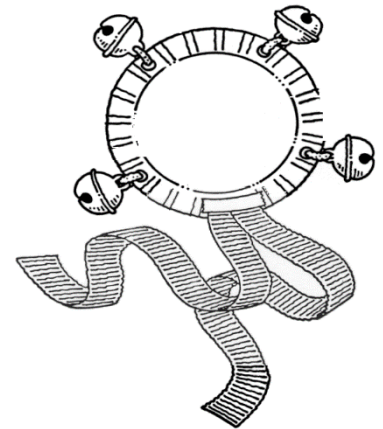
Psalms 149:3, "Praise his name with dancing, accompanied by tambourine and harp."

Materials

- Crepe paper streamers
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Hole punches
- Chenille wires
- Transparent tape
- Marking pens
- One sturdy paper plate for each child
- Four jingle bells for each tambourine

Preparation

- Cut chenille wires into 4-inch lengths – four for each child.
- Cut crepe paper into 12-inch lengths – two for each child.



Procedures

- Use a hole-punch to punch four holes around edge of the paper plate.
- Thread a chenille wire piece through one of the holes.
- Thread a bell onto the chenille wire.
- Twist the ends of the wire together to secure.
- Repeat the previous three steps to add three more bells to the tambourine.
- Tape streamers to the edge of the tambourine.
- Tap your finger in the center or shake the tambourine to play.

2. Finger Cymbals from large buttons

In Bible times, cymbals were a popular instrument used to worship God. They were made of metal and were about the size of dinner plates. When two cymbals were hit together they made a loud crashing sound.

Psalm 150:5, "Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!"

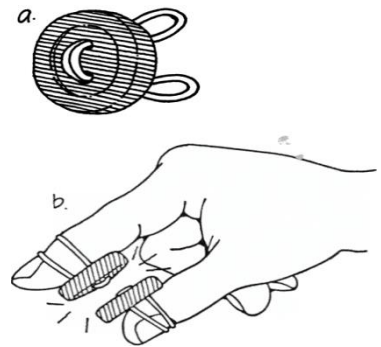
Materials

For each child:

- Two large buttons with large holes
- Two size 14 rubber bands
- One toothpick

Procedures

- Using the toothpick, thread a rubber band through two holes in button.
- Repeat to make second cymbal.
- To play, fasten cymbals to your fingers and tap out a rhythm.

**Sing to the Tune of "Away in a Manger"**

The Lord is right in all of His ways and loving toward all of those He has made. The Lord is near to all who will call and saves and protects those who fear and who fall! (Based on Psalm 145:17-19)

Fun House

(Game Center)

Choose one of the following games to review the days of creation:

Sequence game

Divide children into 2 teams. Have them race to see how quickly they can place the Creation visuals in proper sequence—first to 7th day.

"What is missing?" game

Arrange Creation visuals on chalkboard ledge. Have the entire group close their eyes while one child removes the visual. When the signal is given to open their eyes, the first child to hold up his hand gets to answer what is missing. He must also say the day of Creation it represents.

"Who Am I?" game

Pin/tape the name of an object of Creation on the back of each child (a star, tree, bird, etc.). Children may move around and ask any question that can be answered with a "yes" or a "no" until they find out what they are. Then, they have to tell which day of Creation they were made (for example: flower is 3rd day).

Or, discuss the following questions with your class:

1. What is worship? (Worship is singing God's praise, talking to Him in prayer, giving money for God's work, and listening to instruction from God's Word)
2. What is the difference between praise and worship? (Praise is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us. It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving as we offer back to God appreciation for His mighty works on our behalf. We can also give praise to our family and friends for things they have done. Praise can be a part of worship, but worship goes beyond praise. Worship comes from a different place within our spirits. Luke 4:8 says that worship should be reserved for God alone. Often, worship is coupled with the act of bowing or kneeling. It is through true worship that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, and comfort us. Often, services begin with joyous praise songs and transition to a quieter, more introspective opportunity for worship.)
3. Why should we praise God? (For His creation, for our salvation, for the promise of heaven, for the blessing of prayer.)
4. Why should we worship God? (God alone deserves our worship!)
5. Who is to praise God? (The holy angels, those of us who have accepted Jesus as their personal savior from sin, all of creation—even the rocks will cry out!)

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Create a Flute from a drinking straw

- Pinch a straw flat at one end.
- Cut off the corners to form "reeds."
- Put the straw in your mouth, but don't let your lips go past the corners.
- Blow hard! (Don't pucker)
- You may want to cut three small holes in the straw about an inch apart.
- Cover these holes one at a time with your fingers to change the sound.

You may want to cut three small holes in the straw about an inch apart.

Cover these holes one at a time with your fingers to change the sound.



Discuss why you can make various sounds from a wind instrument

Sound on a woodwind instrument comes from a vibrating column of air inside the instrument. The player makes this column of air vibrate in one of three ways: as air is blown across the top of an instrument (like the flute), across a single reed (like the clarinet), or across two reeds (like the oboe).

The flute is made in the form of an open cylindrical air column about 66 cm long. Its fundamental pitch is middle C (C4) and it has a range of about three octaves to C7. Sound is produced from a flute by blowing onto a sharp edge, causing air enclosed in a tube to vibrate.

[For more expository lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Genesis

Sin Enters The World
(Genesis 2:8 - 3:24)

INTRODUCTION

Pass out to each child a bean wrapped in a candy wrapper. Tell them you're giving them a special treat. Let the children react as they open the "candies." Discuss how false things can look good and right on the outside, but that they can turn out NOT to be what they thought they were. Explain how it is easy to be deceived.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, the world must have been such a beautiful and perfect place when You first created it. Help us to understand what a terrible thing it was for Adam and Eve to sin. They ruined Your perfect creation. And help us to understand what a terrible thing it is for us to sin. But, Lord, we are so grateful that You are forgiving. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)

LESSON

Today we're going to learn what happened after God had created man out of the dust of the earth.

Genesis 2:8-9

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God planted a garden full of beautiful trees. Not only were they pleasant to look at, they provided delicious fruit for food.

Notice that there were two special trees in the garden. One was called the *tree of life* and the other was called the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. We'll talk more about these in a while...

Genesis 2:10

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

God provided everything that Adam and all the animals needed. There was plenty of food and water and a gorgeous place to live.

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

God wanted Adam to be in charge of the garden and all the animals in it. He still wants people to take care of them and to enjoy them. God wants us to be His representatives, ruling creation as God would rule it.

Genesis 2:16-17

*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "**You may surely eat of every tree** of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of **it you shall surely die.**"*

God gave Adam only one rule to follow.

Ask: Do you have rules in your home? [Discuss how many and the consequences for disobedience.]

Ask: Are rules good to have? [Discuss why our parents give us rules. For our protection?]

Adam could eat freely of any other tree in the garden, just not from that one tree. He had plenty of things to do, taking care of the garden and the animals. He also had plenty to eat. He just couldn't eat of that one single tree in the middle of the garden.

Ask: Why would God place that one rule on Adam and Eve? (God wanted to know if they loved Him enough to obey Him.)

One day Eve found herself near the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Ask: Who is the snake? (Satan!)

Notice that he didn't quote God correctly. Look back at Genesis 2:16.

Ask: What did God actually say? What did Satan say that was wrong? But what does Eve tell Satan?

Genesis 3:2-3

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Ask: Did God tell Eve not to touch the fruit?

Satan mixed God's word up, and now Eve adds to what God said...

Genesis 3:4-5

*But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil."*

Here Satan tells the woman that God didn't mean what He says. God told them in Genesis 2:17 that they would **surely** die if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan tells Eve that God was wrong and that she won't really die. But we know that God never lies.

The death God was speaking of when he warned Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was separation from God forever. That is the punishment we all deserve for our sin, too.

God's word tells us that God must punish all sin. If you and I do not receive forgiveness for our sins, we will be forever separated from God. Thankfully we have been given a way to be forgiven when we sin against God. [Review today's verse.]

God means what He says, and says what He means. That's why I'm so thankful to have the Bible. It's important for us to study God's Word and to memorize it, so that we understand exactly what God said. You can trust God's word to be exactly right.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Eve was overcome with the desire to be like God (see 3:5). The temptation for power overcame her desire to obey and please God.

This is how sin entered the world. Since then, every person who has been born has a sinful nature, a nature that does not want to please God. Sin is the wrong things we do. It's the "want to" to do things our own way.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Up to this point, "... *they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*" (Genesis 2:25) But now that their sin was exposed, they knew they were naked and they were very ashamed.

Genesis 3:8-10

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Adam and Eve were afraid; they knew they had disobeyed God.

Ask: Have you ever done something wrong and ran off to hide because you didn't want to get caught?

That's what Adam and Eve tried to do. But you can't hide from God. He knows everything.

Genesis 3:12-13

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

As God questioned them about their sin, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.

Ask: Have you ever tried to blame someone else for something you've done? Has anyone ever blamed you for something they did?

Genesis 3:14-15

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Here God gives us the first and most important prophecy in the whole Bible. This is God's promise to send the Messiah, who would be born of a human mother and be the Savior of the world.

When God said, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring...*" God was talking to Satan and telling him that from now on (since he lied to Eve and tricked her into disobeying God) there would be hostility (or hatred) between his offspring (Satan's demons and all who choose to serve the devil) and Eve's offspring (all of mankind).

When God says, "*you shall bruise his heel,*" He is telling Satan that even though he will try over and over again to defeat Christ, he would only bruise Him. On the other hand, God is saying that Christ will strike a deathblow to Satan's head.

This is the message of the cross. Satan caused Christ Jesus to suffer at the cross. But when Jesus rose from the dead, He proved once and for all that He is almighty God and one day, will throw Satan and all his demons into the lake of fire for all eternity.

This is the Good News that Jesus came and died in our place on the cross and rescued us from Satan's desire to see us all in the lake of fire with him because of our sins. But Jesus came and took the punishment for our sins and offers all who trust in Him eternal life.

This prophesy in Genesis 3:15 is the promise that He will send a Savior to the world. The Lord Jesus is the Savior that God promised to send so long ago right after the first sin.

Genesis 3:21

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them."

God made clothes from animal skins to cover Adam and Eve. This was the very first death in the newly created world. An animal had to be killed (its blood had to be shed) to cover Adam and Eve's sin and shamefulness. This was an example of what God the Son, Jesus, would have to do on the cross to make the final and complete payment for our sin.

Genesis 3:23-24

...therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

God punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience and rebellion by sending them out of the garden.

In His mercy, God set an angel with a sword of fire to guard the entrance of the garden. In this way, God protected Adam and Eve from reentering the garden where they may have eaten from the tree of life and be doomed to live forever in their sin.

Sin is very serious! It causes great unhappiness; it ruined God's perfect creation. How sad that Adam and Eve disobeyed God and caused sin to enter the world. But God didn't want us to stay in our sinfulness; that's why He gave us a way to be forgiven. [Review verse for today.]

Closing Prayer

Lord, because of Adam and Eve's disobedience, everyone is born deserving Your punishment for sin. But we thank Jesus for taking that punishment for us when He died on the cross. Now we can live with You someday and have everlasting life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from the following craft activities:

1. Mystery Pictures

Make pictures using disappearing ink. I saw some Vanishing Crayons in Erick's catalog (see web site listed below) but I'm not sure how they work.

2. Mystery Boxes

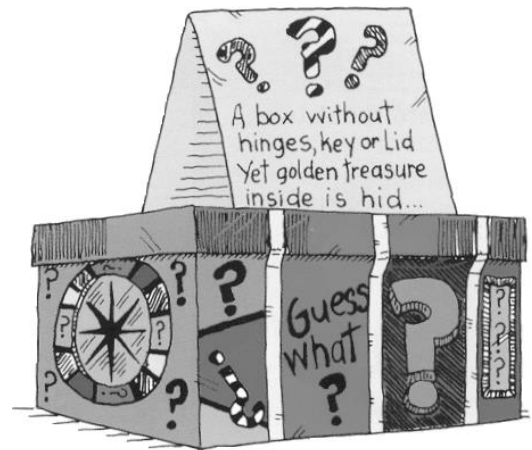
Challenge your friends to discover—by touch only—what lies in your mystery boxes!

Materials

- Shoe box
- Tape
- Scissors
- Paper or fabric
- Markers
- Nature objects
- Index cards

Procedure

For each mystery box, tape the lid onto a shoebox and cut a hole in one end large enough to put your hand through. Cover the hole with paper. Cut slits in the paper in a star shape, so that you can put your hand through, but the hole will still be covered. Alternately, instead of paper, you could hang a small piece of fabric inside the box to cover the hole by forming a curtain. Then decorate the box with markers. (You can also make "feel-y" boxes from oatmeal containers.)



Now put a mystery object inside the box. Remember that your friends trust you, so only use objects that won't harm them or make them feel bad in any way. Try shells, rocks, driftwood, leaves, twigs, or cones. Make up a riddle or a poem to go with each object. Write it on a card and put it on the box.

Let your friends put a hand through the hole and try to guess what the object is. After everyone has made a guess, let someone take the object out for all to see.

Fun House

(Game Center)

True/False Game

1. Before class, write several short sentences about the lesson on slips of paper. Write both true and false statements. Fold the strips of paper and put them in a box.
2. Divide the class into two or more teams. Have the children take turns going to the box and drawing a slip of paper. Read aloud the statement; then let the child say whether the statement is true or false. If the answer is correct, give the child's team 100 points. The team with the most points after the last slip of paper is drawn is the winner.
3. Stress the point that there is only one Truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. There are no gray areas about truth.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Perform some illusions and talk about how there is only one truth, but lies can look like truth.

1. The Illusion of the Cut and Restored Rope

Use the illusion of the cut and restored rope to illustrate the Fall in the garden. Start off by showing a long rope. Explain that in the beginning God and man had a strong, solid relationship.

But then, along came the serpent... (Drop one end of the rope, and let it wiggle like a snake.) The serpent said, "Did God REALLY say...?" And from then on, every sin for the rest of history can be traced back to those four little words.

Bring up the center of the rope, and as you cut the "center", suggest that sin separates us from God. It changes the relationship. But Adam and Eve tried to "hide" from God — (this is where you tie the ropes together, apparently showing both halves connected by the central knot). They tried to make things like they were, but they could "KNOT" do it. Things were "KNOT" the same. Even though they tried to cover their sin (place your hand over the knot, and make it appear as if the rope were the same as in the beginning), they could "KNOT". (This is where it would "seem" as if the rope were one long piece to someone on the outside looking in, but God knows the truth.)

Then, roll up the rope and tell the children the only way to be forgiven of our sins is to place our trust in Jesus and ask Him for forgiveness. Execute the final move to "restore" the rope and then show it fully complete.

This is a fabulous illustration. If you go to the local library you are sure to find several books on magic tricks, most of which will show you the handling for cutting and restoring a rope. All you get are instructions and one piece of rope.

2. Traffic Light Trick

Another trick for making the point of "things aren't always as they seem", is called the Traffic Light Trick. The basic premise is: some people are (green card) going to heaven because they believe in Christ and have received Him as personal savior. Others are (red card) not going to heaven because they do not accept the Lordship of Jesus. (You can expound on these much more.) And there is no such thing as the "yellow light" (show the yellow

card) when it comes to the Kingdom of Heaven. No, Jesus said, you are either for me or against me, there is no middle ground. And in Revelation, He said, "I wish that you were either hot or cold, but because you are lukewarm, I will spew you out of My mouth!"

Then, place all three cards into a folder, and remove them one at a time, asking the kids to help you remember "going" or "not going", based upon the color card you remove. Take out the red, and the green, both times reinforcing the point you made earlier. Then ask, "what color is left over?" At the same time, OBVIOUSLY turn the whole folder around.

When the kids say "yellow", say, "No, remember yellow isn't an option. If you thought yellow was still here, you would be WRONG!" Open the folder to show the word WRONG on the front (former back) side of the card. The kids will all yell for you to turn it around because they will catch your sneaky move. Play with this, turn the FOLDER around... they will yell some more, and so turn the card OVER, so WRONG is spelled upside down. They will yell some more, so show them your back, they will scream even more.

Then, when they can't handle any more — suggest that "maybe, just maybe", one or two of them figured out your trick. But the Bible is clear — there is no trick there — we are either for Jesus or against Him. We're either going to Heaven or we're not. And if you are still looking for the middle ground, or the yellow card, you are not only WRONG... but (turn the card around and it reads...) WRONG AGAIN!

This is a VERY profound illustration — and SOLID from both a Biblical perspective, and technically from the illusion's point of view. It is also very simple. You might want to tailor it specifically to the Genesis story, suggesting the lights represent obeying or disobeying — no shades of gray (or yellow, as the case may be).

There are MANY other illusions that come to mind that would be perfect for illustrating the myriad of concepts you will be teaching.

(For more information on Christian illusions check out www.illustratedillusions.com, or e-mail Erick Reamer at Erick@illustratedillusions.com or call him at 970-521-9571 and he can help you out.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Genesis

Cain and Abel
(Genesis 4:1-16)

INTRODUCTION

What's something that makes you sad or unhappy? [Let the children respond.]

What makes God sad or unhappy? [Lead the children into a discussion of specific sins. Summarize by saying that doing things our own way and not God's way makes Him very sad.]

Today we're going to learn about a guy who learned a very hard lesson about how much unhappiness his sin caused himself and others...

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, this morning we're going to learn about how bad our sins really are to You. But, before we begin, we just want to thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen now as we study Your word. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is more pleased when we do what is right...than when we offer Him sacrifices. (Proverbs 21:3 NLT)

A *sacrifice* is a gift that costs you a lot. Say you were rude to your mother and it caused her to be unhappy with you. So, you spent every penny you had in your piggy bank and bought her bouquet of flowers. You were hoping she wouldn't be unhappy with you anymore. Well, she liked the flowers, but she really wished that you hadn't sinned against her in the first place.

When we sin against God, we sometimes think we can make it up to Him by giving Him something of value. For example, you might think that if you did a good deed for someone, such as cleaning your room or taking time to read to a lonely old person down the street, that God would overlook your sin. But you can't buy forgiveness. God might appreciate your sacrifice of time spent with that lonely old person, but He would rather that you didn't sin in the first place.

Ask: How do you get forgiveness for your sin?

1 John 1:9 tells us that when we come to God and confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us.

LESSON

Last week we learned that when Adam and Eve sinned against God, He punished them by sending them out of the Garden of Eden. Life was not the same for them outside the lovely garden.

Genesis 4:1

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.."

Adam and Eve had a baby boy. Oh, how happy they were! They valued him more than anything else in the world.

Genesis 4:2

And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

Cain grew up to be a farmer and Abel became a shepherd; he raised sheep.

Genesis 4:3-4a

In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.

Each brother brought an offering to the Lord. Cain brought some fruit and vegetables from his garden, but Abel brought his best lamb from his flock. Cain's gift was not brought out of a heart of love and thankfulness but Abel wanted to please God.

Genesis 4b-5a

And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.

We learned in our last lesson that after Adam and Eve had sinned, they suddenly became ashamed of their nakedness before God.

Ask: Do you remember what God clothed them with? (*Animal skins*)

God had to kill an animal to cover their shame. In this way, God showed mankind the seriousness of sin. A life had to be given; blood had to be shed. God was giving them a picture of what Jesus would someday do by coming to earth to die and give His life for all of mankind.

The Bible tells us that our sins cannot be forgiven *without shedding of blood*.

Hebrews 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

This is why God valued Abel's offering of his best lamb from his flock and did not appreciate Cain's offering of fruit and vegetables. Cain knew that God required the sacrifice of an animal. But he evidently didn't believe God. He wanted to have his own way.

The Bible says, we are all born with a sinful, selfish nature.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

No one had to teach you how to sin because we are all born with a "want to" to do things our own way. Being selfish is sin. God loves you very much, but your sin must be punished.

Genesis 4:5b

So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Cain was furious. He was jealous of his brother because God accepted Abel's offering. He was also angry with God for rejecting his offering. Cain's jealousy led to anger and his anger to hatred.

Ask: Have you ever been jealous or angry? How did that make you feel? Did it rob you of your joy?

Sin brings much unhappiness to you, God, and every person around.

Genesis 4:6-7

The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

God gave Cain another chance to do the right thing; God was telling Cain that if he would change his attitude, believe God, and do what He said, everything would be fine. All he had to do was bring the offering that God required; a perfect lamb.

God provided a way of forgiveness to solve Cain's sin problem. All Cain had to do is come to God, God's way.

Genesis 4:8

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

Cain's jealousy of Abel and anger against God led him to murder his brother Abel.

Jealousy and anger always lead you to sin.

Genesis 4:9-10

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.

God tried to get Cain to confess his sin and admit that he had killed his brother, but Cain refused. Cain lied to God; he knew what happened to his brother.

Genesis 4:11-12 (God speaking...)

And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

Here God tells Cain, "No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

Because Cain refused to do things God's way, he had to suffer sin's unhappy consequences. No doubt, this caused much unhappiness to his parents, Adam and Eve.

Ask: Are their consequences at your house if you are disobedient?

It gives your parents much heartache to have to discipline you. But God has given them the responsibility to train you up in the ways of the Lord.

Genesis 4:13-14

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Cain thought his punishment was too severe. Cain thought the Lord wasn't being fair.

Ask: Have you ever felt that way when you get disciplined?

Genesis 4:15

Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

In His mercy, God put a mark of protection on Cain.

Genesis 4:16

Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Sin always separates loved ones from each other and from God. That's why sin has to be punished, but thankfully God loved you and me so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sins. This is God's way and the *only* way of forgiveness.

Closing Prayer

Lord, our sins are not funny or cute to You. They bring You so much unhappiness. Help us to realize how serious our sins are. And, Lord, thank You for providing a way for us to receive forgiveness from You. Help us to want to do things Your way. Let bringing You happiness be our greatest joy in life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose one of the following craft project ideas:

1. Acceptable Sacrifice to God

Discuss what an acceptable sacrifice to God is. Have them draw pictures to illustrate.

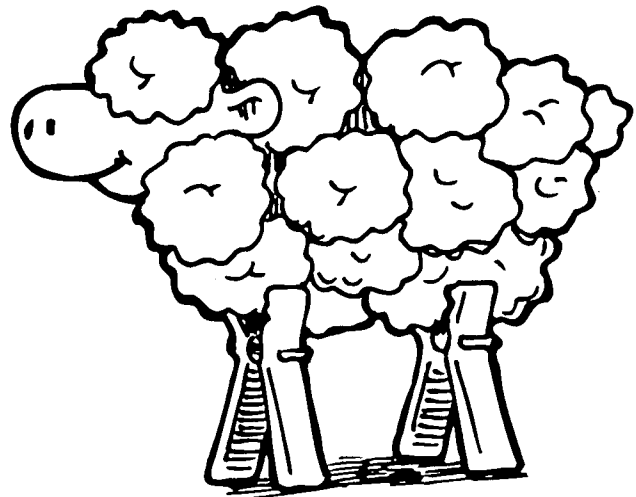
2. Cotton Ball Lamb

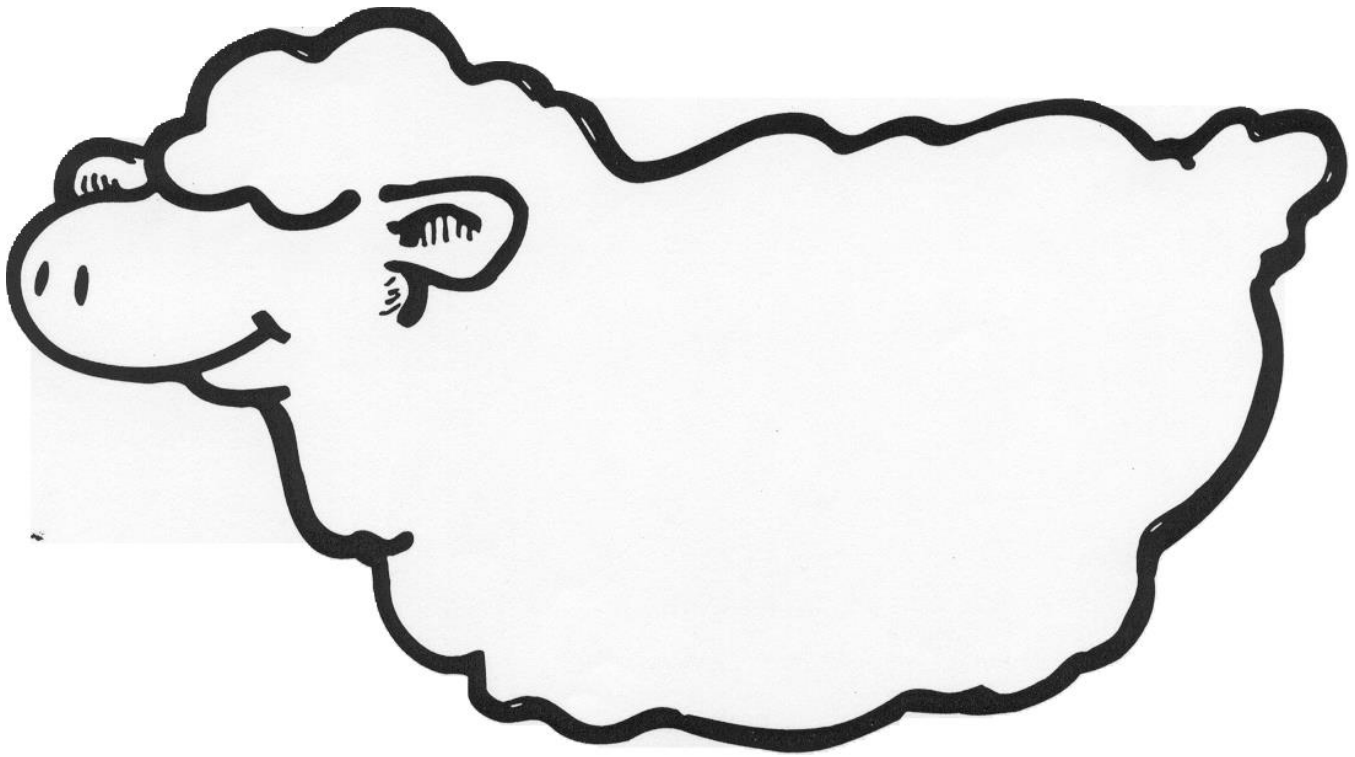
Materials

- White card stock
- Cotton Balls
- 2 spring-style clothespins
- Black and red markers
- Paste or glue

Directions

1. Copy the lamb pattern shown on the next page onto card stock.
2. Cut out a lamb for each child.
3. Use a red marker to color the lamb's mouth.
4. Use a black marker to color both clothespins and to outline the lamb's facial features.
5. Cover the lamb's body (but not the face) with paste or glue. Attach the cotton balls to the body.
6. Clip the black clothespins to the bottom of the lamb so it can stand alone.





Fun House

(Game Center)

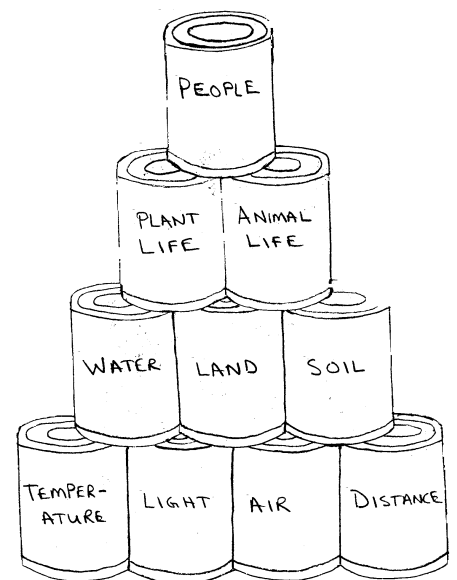
Cain's choice to sin had consequences. Play a rendition of "Truth or Consequences."

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

God's Wonderful Plan of Creation

The perfect conditions for human life on Earth are very much like the pyramid of cans shown below. Each part of creation is a building block that is set just right in order to sustain life on this planet. The pieces fit together perfectly, and not one can be removed without the whole structure tumbling down. The pieces build upon each other and interact with each other to provide an ideal physical environment for us to live in. For example, God placed this planet at just the right distance from the sun to provide the correct amount of light and just the right temperature we need. Water, soil and plant life work together to give us food to eat and fresh air to breathe. God, in His infinite wisdom, engineered this marvelous world in which each piece is perfectly designed and fits together perfectly with all the other parts, in just the right way, so we can survive. This could not have happened by accident! God put this all together out of His love for us!



How Much Do You Know About God's Weird and Wonderful World?

1. 93 million miles is the approximate _____ from the Earth to the sun.
2. Although many different gases make up the _____ we breathe, oxygen is most important to us.
3. Photosynthesis is the process where plants use _____ from the sun to convert water, carbon dioxide and minerals into oxygen and other important stuff we need to stay alive.
4. As the planet orbits the sun the distance between them changes somewhat, resulting in the changes in the _____ we relate to the four seasons.
5. Dry _____ is our living space and makes up about one-third of the total area of the planet.
6. The other two-thirds of Earth is covered by _____ which is essential to life on the planet as well as home to many species of plants and animals.
7. The top layer of the land is called _____ and it provides the base for land plants to grow and living space for many insects.
8. Both _____ life and _____ life depend on all the other parts of creation to survive.
9. God put _____ at the top of this pyramid because He made this weird and wonderful world for our pleasure and so that we'll be in awe of Him and give Him all the glory due His name!

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Genesis

Civilization, Not Cave Men!

(Genesis 4:17-22)

INTRODUCTION

What do you think life was like for the first human beings? Do you think they lived in caves? What kinds of tools did they have and use? Only clubs? Did the first humans only make grunting noises at each other; did they have to develop language over a long period of time?

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we love You and want to learn to know and appreciate You more each day. Open our minds up this morning, Lord, so that we might see how truly wonderful You are and how magnificent Your creation really is. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Cain built a city. ...Jabal was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock... Jubal was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ... Tubal-cain was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. (excerpts from Genesis 4:17, 20, 21, and 22 ESV)

LESSON

The Bible says that man was created in God's image and was highly intelligent right from the first day. After all, Adam was able to name all the animals on the sixth day of Creation. He obviously had a good command of language and a large vocabulary.

The Bible also tells us that life for the first humans was quite good. In Genesis 4:2 it says that Abel was a keeper of flocks. This means that he knew a lot about how to take care of animals. It also tells us that Cain was a tiller of the ground. This tells us that he knew a lot about farming, how to grow and care for plants, as well as about seasons, and irrigation, etc.

Genesis 4:17

Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.

It says that Cain built a city. That tells us they didn't just live in mud huts or in caves! They had a sophisticated way of life.

Genesis 4:20

Adah bore Jubal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.

These people made tents to live in. They must have known how to make fabric and how to sew. It's pretty complicated to figure out how to rig up a tent.

It also says they had livestock. They probably lived in tents so that as the seasons changed, they could move with their animals to where the grass and water was plentiful and the climate was mild for living. That tells us that they had to know the times and the seasons so they would know when to migrate to the next place. They also had to know the geography and how to make maps to the places with the right climate conditions.

Genesis 4:21

His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

These people, who are the first in the whole human race, made and played musical instruments. It takes a lot of intelligence to write music and to make and play musical instruments.

Ask: What kind of instruments do you think they made? (Flutes, drums, stringed harps, rams horn, etc.)

Genesis 4:22

Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

Wow! This tells us these first human beings were metal workers. That means they were miners! They knew how to dig metal ore out of the earth. Then, they figured out how to forge the metal. That's a process of purifying the ore. You have to melt it down over fire and separate the iron or bronze from all the bad stuff. Archeologists have found all sorts of tools and instruments that proves the first human beings didn't just have clubs and grunt at each other. They made weapons, farming tools, artwork, and dishes from bronze and iron.

The Bible also tells us that Noah built a tremendous ship and that the people built a tower in Babel. They obviously knew how to design and build buildings. They were architects, engineers, and carpenters. And, they must have had sophisticated tools.

Ask: What kind of tools did ancient men need? (Axes for chopping wood for fire or making homes and furniture, knives, shovels, hammers, etc.)

Modern men, who don't believe the Bible, try to tell us that mankind evolved from apes; that they started out dumb and had to develop languages, tools, and a whole way of life over long periods of time. But history has shown some amazing accomplishments of people from the ancient world.

Ask: Have you heard of the pyramids of ancient Egypt? They are incredible engineering feats by even today's standards.

Discoveries have found not only bronze tools, they have also found a battery that generated electricity back in the so called "pre-civilization" eras.

This just proves that God's world and His word agree! The Bible is true. God created the world and, it was perfect in every way!

We can believe the Bible about spiritual things, as well. It tells us that God loves us and has provided a way for us to live with Him in Heaven.

God loved you and me so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sins. You can tell God you are sorry for your sins and you can ask Jesus to be your Savior. This is God's way, and the only way of forgiveness.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the Bible. It tells us that You created the world we live in. Earth is such a beautiful and wonderful place to live; it makes us anxious to see the world to come. The Bible tells us that Heaven is an even more wonderful place. Thank You that You have made a way for us to live there with You after we die. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins and to take the punishment that we deserve so that we do not have to go to hell. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

1. Metal Crafts

Early man knew how to get metals and use them for various purposes. He found minerals and metals in rocks and melted them and pounded them. Scientists have found weapons, farming tools, artwork and "dishes" made from bronze, and iron.

Aluminum is a metal. Although early man did not use it because of the difficult process of making it, we can use it in our craft as a reminder that they did use some of the metals.

Choose one of the following craft projects

A. Make tools

What kind of tools did ancient men need? (Axes for chopping wood for fire or making homes and furniture, knives, shovels, hammers, etc.)



Cut out cardboard forms for the children to cover in aluminum foil. As they work talk about how we can use God's word like a tool, but we need to memorize it to put it into our "tool box". Discuss how you can use God's word like a tool to build up your life or someone else's.

B. Make Artful Designs

Have pieces of aluminum foil cut approximately six inches by six inches. Have each child either carefully tape or hold a piece of foil firmly onto the table and gently make a design by lightly pressing a pencil or pen into it. The aluminum foil tears easily, so they must be careful. They may want to draw a design of what early man may have seen. Or, using their finger, they can press the backside of a maple leaf into the foil to make a pretty design. Hold up their foil and look at both sides of their design.

C. Foil Printmaking

This printing technique allows you to transfer a picture piece by piece. (Note: They can use the design they made in the previous craft idea.)

Materials

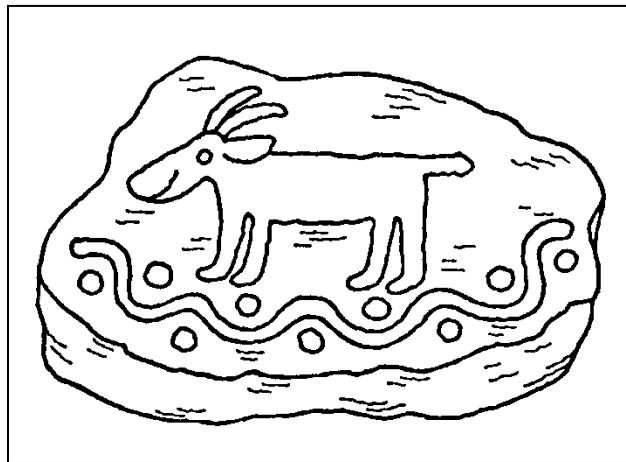
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Poster paints
- Paintbrush
- Drawing paper
- Paper towels

Procedure

- Cover your work surface with newspaper.
- Draw a square on a sheet of foil. Make the square slightly smaller than the paper sheet you will print on. Use your ruler to make sure.
- Draw a picture in the foil square.
- Select one color of paint and paint in the parts of the picture using that color.
- Place a sheet of paper over the foil print and press.
- Carefully peel off the paper and let the paint dry.
- Use a damp paper towel to wipe off the old color from the foil.
- Select a different color and paint in another area of the picture.
- Reprint it on the paper as before.
- Continue reprinting the paper until you use all your colors and your picture is complete.

2. Stone Carving

Life in Bible times: We can find out about life in Bible times by looking at pictures carved in stone during that time. Stone carvings often showed scenes from everyday life, such as a woman spinning thread, a family eating or an army going off to battle. What picture of life in Bible times will you carve into your rock? In the Bible, God is called a rock. In what way is God like a rock?



The Lord Lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. (Psalm 18:46)

Materials

- ☐ Water color dyes (such as Dr. Martin's) and paintbrushes or permanent felt pens in muted colors
- ☐ Utility knife
- ☐ Plastic containers
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Craft sticks

- ❑ Soft rock that can be carved with a stick.
- ❑ Optional: If soft rocks are not available, you can make imitation rocks. You will need the following:
 - A bowl or bucket
 - A stick for mixing
 - Milk cartons or small frozen food containers to use as molds
 - Plaster of Paris
 - Vermiculite (available at garden supply stores)
 - Measuring cup
 - Water

Preparation

- Use a utility knife to sharpen one end of each craft stick.
- Cover work area with newspaper.
- Fill containers with water.
- Optional: to make imitation rocks, combine the following in a large bowl:
 - 1 cup plaster of Paris
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vermiculite
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
 - Mix well and pour into molds.
 - Allow mixture to harden.
 - Peel away molds.

Procedures

1. Use craft stick to scratch a simple design in the rock.
2. Paint or color parts of your design.
3. Allow to dry.

Fun House

(Game Center)

Exercising the Brain Activity

Materials

- ❑ Tray
- ❑ About 20 items
- ❑ Cloth to cover

Game One

- Tell the kids that we are going to play a game that will exercise our brain.
- Divide them into two groups. Give each group a pencil and a piece of paper. They must choose a “recorder” for their group.
- Have both groups gather around the tray; let them look at the items for about 30 seconds, then return to their stations and cover up the tray.
- The groups need to write down as many items as they can remember.
- Suggest different ways to help them remember. For example, they could organize by color, size or shape.
- Repeat viewing and recording. Compare second list with first’s results.

Game Two

- While the children close their eyes remove an items from the tray.
- Upon opening their eyes, see who can guess what is missing.

Spiritual Connection: We are created in the image of God. Man is unique from animals and one of our unique features is the great capacity of our brain.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

1. Discover the Brain

Materials

- A cow's brain

You may have to call several markets to get one, but it will be fresher than from a science catalog. Place it in a bowl and cover with plastic wrap so that the kids can see and touch it.

Discuss the uniqueness of a human brain and the greater capacity that we have than the animals. Tell them that it is all the folds and wrinkles that help to give us the ability to learn so many new things. The size of our brain enables us to remember things.

Interesting fact: If the human brain were unfolded and flattened out, it would cover an area the size of an ironing board!

2. Magnetic Minerals

Is there iron in your cereal? With a little help from science, you can perform some breakfast table magic.

Materials

- Cereal
- Plastic bag
- Rolling pin
- Strong magnet

Procedure

The iron your body requires in order to make healthy blood is the same iron that is found in the earth. If the cereal you eat for breakfast is high in iron, it should be attracted to a magnet.

Pour some cereal in a plastic bag and use a rolling pin to crush it into powder. Then, touch the magnet to the powder. Does the cereal cling to the magnet? If so, you're well on your way to fulfilling your daily iron requirement!



[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Genesis

Noah and the Great Flood

(Genesis 6:1- 9:17)

INTRODUCTION

Do you know what “peer pressure” is? [Teacher, discuss situations of negative peer pressure, such as music, clothes styles, makeup, vocabulary, gossip, choosing friends.] Standing up to peer pressure takes courage. Sometimes it's very hard to keep on doing right when you seem to be the only one who loves the Lord and wants to please Him. But if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you to keep on doing right no matter what others do.

A man in our lesson today loved God and stood up for what was right even though everyone else was doing wrong.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we want everything we think, say, and do to be pleasing to You. Help to be strong in our faith so that others will be drawn to have faith in You, too. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

*When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.
(Genesis 9:16 NLT)*

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved... (John 10:9a)

LESSON

We've been studying through the book of Genesis. Adam and Eve had many children because they lived for hundreds of years (Adam lived 930 years). Soon there was a population explosion upon the earth. And as time went on, people drifted farther and farther away from God. They became selfish, hateful, and evil.

Genesis 6:5-6

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

God saw that everything mankind thought or imagined was totally evil and He was sorry He had ever made humans and put them on the earth. It broke His heart, so He decided to blot out the whole human race from the face of the earth and the animals, too.

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time. He always tried to follow God's will. So, God warned Noah that He would destroy the world and instructed him to build a boat.

Genesis 6:14

Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

God told Noah to make a boat out of gopher wood which is sticky or tacky. Then He told Noah to cover it inside and out with tar (which is like the stuff they repair roads with) because it would make the boat water tight.

Genesis 6:15-16

This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

God told Noah to make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. That's 1½ football fields long, as wide as a city block, and as tall as a four-story building. Over 400 railroad box cars could fit on this boat; plenty of room for two of every kind of animal in the world.

It took about 75 years for Noah to build the ark. While he was working on it, his neighbors must have wondered what he was doing.

Genesis 6:17

For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

God told Noah, "Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes."

Up to that point in time there had not been any rain and probably no clouds either. So, when Noah told people what God was going to do, they must have thought he was crazy. They probably laughed at Noah and made fun of the boat he was building.

But Noah continued to obey God. He knew that no matter what other people thought about him, it's important to obey God.

Ask: Has it ever been hard for you to obey God because you knew your friends didn't understand? Sometimes we have to make hard choices to do the right thing, even when your friends make fun of you. For example, it may seem easier to copy someone else's homework or cheat on a test like some kids do. Or, it may seem easier to do a halfway job on your chores to get them done faster.

Others around you may not be doing what is right, and they may even try to make you feel foolish for not wanting to join in with them. But God says to keep doing right and not give up. Remember, God is with you every minute of the day. He will give you the strength to make the right choices in life, just like He did Noah.

People no doubt made fun of him as he built the ark, but he continued to be faithful to God. Finally, the day came to get in the ark.

When Noah was 600 years old, all of a sudden, the underground waters erupted from the earth and the rain began to fall in mighty torrents.

Genesis 7:12-16

And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and

every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

God closed the big door of the ark.

Genesis 7:19-20

And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

This was no ordinary rainstorm.

Remember that on the second day of creation, God separated the waters below from the waters above to make a space for the sky? Well, it was at this point that the waters began to spurt up from beneath the ground and the waters above the sky began to come down in great torrents to flood the whole earth. The water rose up and covered even the highest mountain peaks on the earth more than 22 feet above the highest peak. Everything and everybody outside of the ark was covered with water.

But Noah and his family and all the animals were safe inside the ark resting in God's love and care. Why? Because they had followed God's directions.

We can rest in God's love, too, when we obey Him like Noah did.

Genesis 7:24

And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

That's five months of being cooped up in a boat with a lot of stinky animals, isn't it?!

Genesis 8:1-3

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated.

The underground waters stopped spurting up and the torrential rains stopped falling down. When the floodwaters began to recede, Noah opened the window to look out. He saw that the ark was surrounded by water so they couldn't leave the boat yet.

One day Noah set a dove free. The bird flew out and then returned with some fresh leaves in her beak, so Noah knew that plants were beginning to grow again. When Noah released another dove. This time the bird did not come back, so Noah knew that it had found good food and a place to live. Finally, it was time to get off the boat.

Genesis 8:15-17

Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

From Noah's family and the animals put on the ark, the whole earth was repopulated. So, you can say that we are all related to Noah. He was our great, great.... grandpa and we're all cousins!

Let's find out what the first thing Noah did when he got off the boat:

Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Noah was so thankful to be alive and to be off the boat that the first thing he wanted to do was worship God. And, God was so pleased with Noah's offering, He made a promise to all mankind.

Genesis 9:14-16

When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

God promised that He will never again destroy all life with a flood. He told Noah that every time He sees a rainbow, He will remember this promise. And each time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's many promises to us.

Ask: What is a promise God has made to you? (*He will never leave us, His love for us is everlasting, He will forgive our sins if we ask Him to...*) God has promised to help you to keep on doing right no matter what others do.

Noah's experience was written down for us in the Bible so that we might see how it applies to us. Noah's ark is a picture of Jesus. Think of Jesus as the ark.

- Because of man's wickedness, God decided to blot out the whole human race from the face of the earth. When God said He was going to destroy the whole world, He invited Noah to "Come into the ark" (Gen 7:1). Only the people that got into the boat survived the great flood. In the same way, God invites us to come into Jesus, our ark, by trusting and believing in Him.
- God was with Noah and his family throughout that frightening year-long ordeal, comforting and protecting them. When we place our faith in Jesus as our Savior, God gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort and protect us our whole life through.
- The Ark had only one door that Noah, his family, and all the animals had to enter in order to be saved from the flood. Likewise, the only way we can be saved from eternal punishment is by coming to God through the only Door He has provided.

Jesus said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved..." (John 10:9a)

Jesus also said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

He is the only Door to eternal life. We must get in the boat with Jesus!

- After Noah entered the Ark, God Himself closed the door (Gen 7:16). Those people outside who chose not to enter the Ark's door were left to face the destruction of the flood.

Now, even though God promised Noah that He would never destroy the earth by water again, the Bible tells us there is a day coming when God will judge the sins of mankind with fire. Only those who place their faith in what Jesus did on the cross will survive God's judgement of sin.

There is only one place for you to be safe from God's punishment for sin. The only place of safety is the Lord Jesus Christ. You must place your faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took our punishment for our sins so that we would not have to face God's judgement of sin. If you believe that, you are *in Christ*—that is like getting into Noah's ark.

We must trust and obey God, so that we won't be left outside the boat when that happens.

Closing Prayer

Thank You God for inspiring Moses to write down what happened with Noah. There is so much for us to learn from his life. Just as You preserved Noah's life as You promised Him, so You will preserve our life as You have promised us. We want to always remember to trust and obey You in everything we do. And we always want to remember to thank You for all the good things that You do for us. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from the following suggested activities:

1. Let It Rain

Rain forms when growing cloud droplets become too heavy to remain in the cloud and, as a result, fall toward the earth's surface in the form of rain. But did you know that rain can also begin as ice crystals that collect to form large snowflakes? As the falling snow passes into warmer air, the flakes melt and collapse into raindrops.

Use raindrops to create beautiful and unique paintings you can frame and hang on a wall.

Materials:

- Water-soluble paint
- Paintbrush
- Markers
- Poster board
- Spray bottles

Procedure:

Use water-soluble paint or markers to make solid blocks of color on poster board. Then put the paper in the rain for a short time. (You may use squirt bottles, if it's not raining outside.) Watch as the rain "paints" your paper. Take the paper out of the rain when you think the painting is finished (before all the color is washed away). Experiment by making raindrop paintings in a light rain or drizzle, a steady rain, and a real downpour.

2. Rainbow Treats

Serve your Rainbow Treats garnished with whipped topping and rainbow sprinkles. This will surely bring a smile and goes great with the Bible lesson on Noah and the Ark!



Materials:

- 6 small boxes of Jell-O in the following colors: purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red.
- Clear plastic cups
- Water

Procedure:

Start preparing the Rainbow Treats 6 days prior to serving, as follows:

- Day 1: Prepare the purple Jell-O, pour a small amount into each plastic cup. Refrigerate overnight to set.
- Day 2: Prepare the blue Jell-O and pour a small amount over the purple Jell-O in each cup. Refrigerate overnight to set.
- Day 3: Prepare the green Jell-O.
- Day 4: Prepare the yellow Jell-O.
- Day 5: Prepare the orange Jell-O.
- Day 6: Prepare the red Jell-O.

3. Make a Fossil

Mix plaster of Paris with a little water in a paper cup with a wide bottom.

Let it harden about five minutes — just enough for the child to place a shell into it. A scalloped type shell makes a nice print. But, there are various things found in fossils so if shells aren't available just use your imagination.

Let the "fossils" harden about twenty minutes

Have the children peel the paper off their "fossils".

4. Make a Model of the Ark

You can order the pattern for a visual presentation of Noah's Ark from the Institute for Creation Research, P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021. Have the pieces pre-cut and let the children assemble, paint and decorate.

5. Make a Promise Keeper Mobile

The rainbow was—and is—God's sign of the covenant he made with all life on earth (Gen 9:8-17). How cool that the Creator of the whole universe remembers His promise every time a rainbow appears!

Here's something to help you remember to live for God.

1. Cut a paper plate in half. Color or paint a rainbow on the plate half.
2. Cut large raindrop shapes from heavy paper. On each raindrop write a promise to God.
3. Tape lengths of yarn to the raindrops, then tape the yarn to the back of the rainbow.
4. Hang your rainbow in a window where you'll see it every day. Remember your promises, just like God remembers His.

Fun House

(Game Center)

Choose from one of the following game ideas:

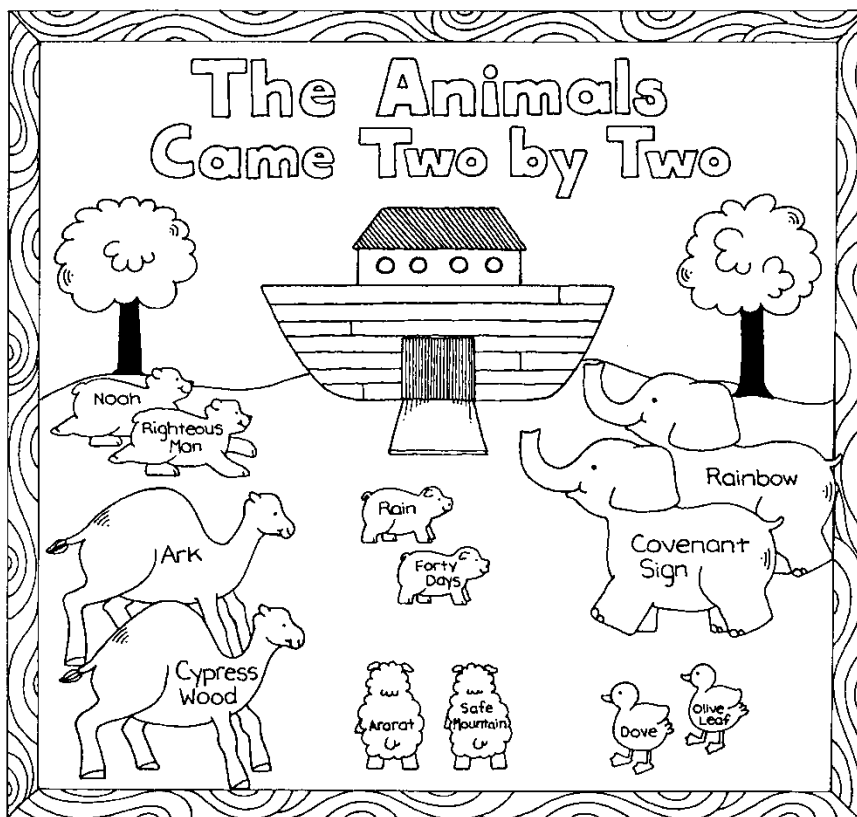
1. Animal Match Game

Object

To teach children the story of Noah

Procedure

Cover the bulletin board with white butcher paper or newsprint. Make letters on construction paper or print "The Animals Came Two by Two" and position it at the top center. Reproduce large ark and place it on the board as shown. Trees may be added. Before class make two copies of each animal. On one of the animals print "Noah" and on the matching animal print "Righteous Man." Continue with the remaining five sets of animals using the following title pairs: "Ark" and "Cypress Wood," "Rain" and "Forty Days," "Rainbow" and "Covenant Sign," "Dove" and "Olive Leaf," "Ararat" and "Safe Mountain." Before class, scatter the animals around the room.



Game Time

Instruct children to find the animals. When all twelve are found, have each child find the person who has the matching animal. Have children attach their pairs to the board with tacks or tape. Lead a discussion about the words on each matching pair and what they mean.

2. Noah's Ark Toss

Preparation

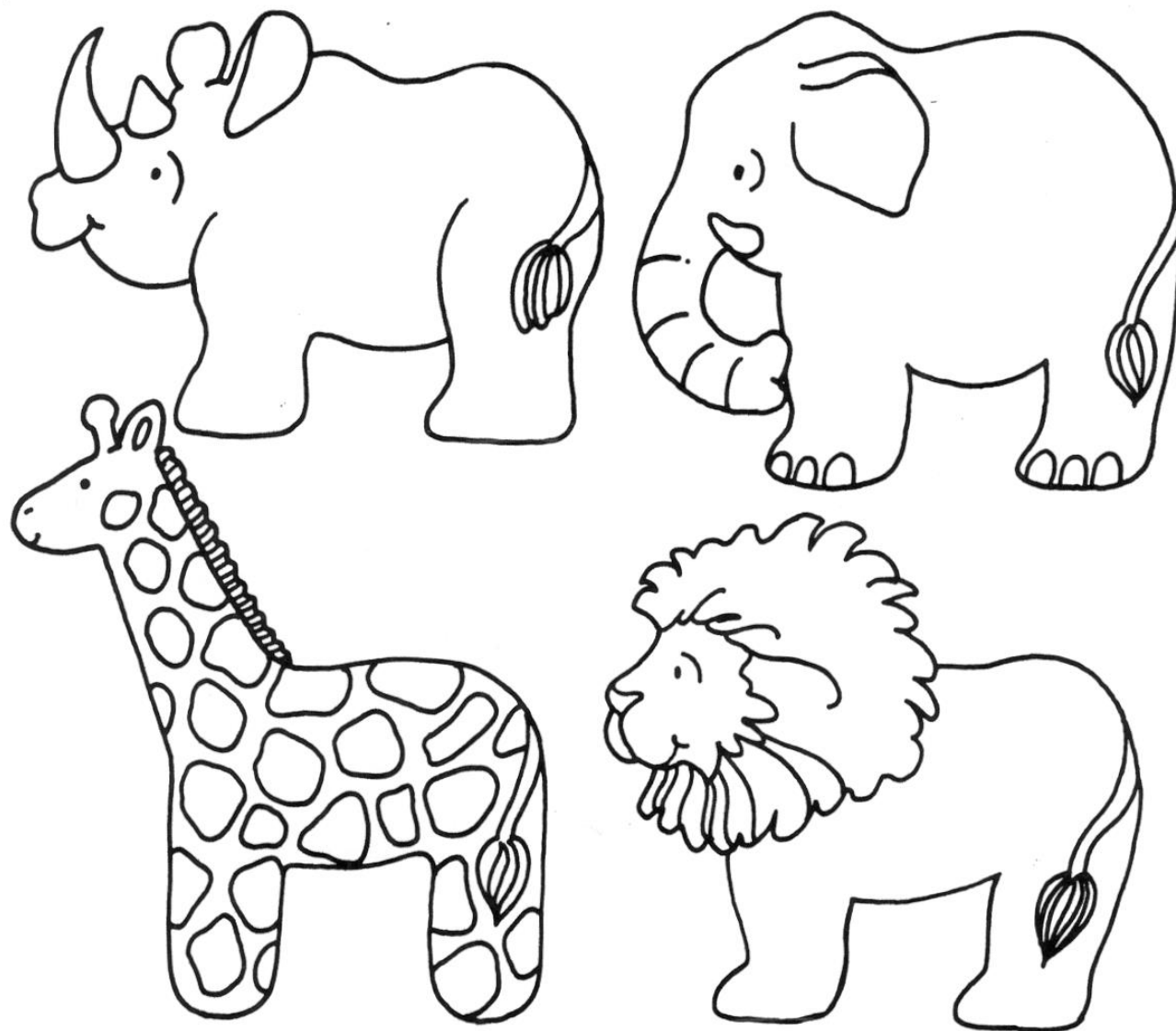
- Make two copies of each of the animals pictured on the next page.
- Color the animals and laminate them, if possible, then cut them out.
- Use rubber bands and/or paper clips to attach them to weighted cartons.
- Put a clothespin at the top of each carton and set the cartons in two rows.
- Make five rings to toss by cutting out sections of round ice-cream containers or other round containers.

Game Time

- Divide the children into two teams.
- If the player can answer a question about today's lesson correctly, he gets a chance to toss the five rings.
- The player stands behind a line about six feet from the containers. If a ring lands around any of the

clothespins on the animal cartons, the player wins 100 points for his team.

- Give candy to all, two candies for each on the winning team.



Review Questions:

1. What book in the Bible tells us about Noah? (Genesis)
2. How did God feel about the evil on the earth? (He was sorry He made humans.)
3. What is an Ark? (A large boat)
4. Who designed the Ark? (God)
5. How big was the Ark? (450 feet long; 400 railroad box cars could fit on this boat.)
6. Why did Noah find favor with God? (He lived his life in a way that pleased God.)
7. Did Noah ignore all the wicked people that lived around him? (No, he preached to them.)
8. What do you think Noah's neighbors thought about him? (That he was crazy.)

9. How did Noah ever find two of every kind of animal to bring on the Ark? (God brought them to the Ark.)
10. Were there dinosaurs on the Ark? (Yes; they could have been in eggs or they could have been babies.)
11. Who closed the door of the Ark?
12. How did Noah feel when he stepped back on land? (He worshipped God with thanksgiving.)
13. What does the rainbow mean? (A reminder of God's promise not to flood the earth again.)
14. How many doors did the Ark have? (One) And, Jesus said, "I am the door."
15. Did the Flood cover the entire earth? (Yes, it went 22 feet above the highest mountain.)
16. How many people survived the Flood? (8 – Noah and his 3 sons and their wives.)
17. The only safe place during the Flood was in the Ark. Where is the only safe place for us to be? (In Christ!)
18. How do you get "in Christ"? (By believing that Jesus paid the price for our sin.)
19. When we are "in Christ" what are we safe from? (Satan and the everlasting damnation of hell.)
20. What are some promises that God has made to us? (He will never leave us; His love for us is everlasting; He will forgive our sins if we ask Him to...)

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose from the following suggested activities:

1. Discover Rainbows

Rainbows are made from sunlight hitting rain droplets that reflect the white light into its spectrum of colors. (Illustrate with a prism if possible.)

Discuss the fact that God gave us the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would never again cut off all flesh by the waters of a flood. When God makes a promise, He always keeps it. We can put our trust in Him.

2. Discover Fossils

Evolutionists say that life started as very simple animals (like algae) and continuously evolved, over long periods of time, a little bit at a time, into very complex ones (like man). The fossil record is the basis for the evolutionist viewpoint.

If the fossil record is the basis for the evolutionist view, what do you think that the fossil record would have to show to "prove" the evolutionists theory? The fossil record would have to show examples of fossils with only slight changes between them as they got more complicated. (Teacher, use the white board to draw the evolutionary sequence, beginning with a simple celled creature, going through a worm, a coral, a fish, a frog, a dinosaur, an ape and a man. To encourage participation, ask the kids to suggest what might come next after you draw the first one.)

Observing Fossils

Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that become petrified and are preserved in rock. If you have some actual fossils to examine, note how some look like things that we can see today, and how some are like things that don't exist today.

What Fossil Evidence Would Show Us That Evolution Was the Right Theory?

A fossil record that shows simple plants and animals in very old rocks, and very complex plants and animals in very young rocks. In addition, many fossils show the slow change between the simple and the complex in the middle-aged rocks.

What Fossil Evidence Would Show Us That Creation Was the Right Theory?

Simple plant and animal fossils in very old rocks would generally look like simple plants and animals that we see today. Complex plants and animals in old rocks would be similar to complex plants and animals found today. There would be no fossils that showed a link between different plant and animal groups.

What Does the Fossil Record That We See Today Suggest?

First, the record lacks "transition" fossils that link different groups. See <http://emporium.turnpike.net/C/cs/evid1.htm> for a thorough discussion. Second, there are some good examples of both complex and simple fossils in the same geologic rock formations (Paloxi River formation, etc.). See <http://pathlights.com/.htm> for a thorough discussion.

Darwin was troubled about the lack of evidence in the fossil record to support his theory of evolution. He felt in time that intermediate fossils would be discovered as more fossils were found. But the opposite has in fact taken place. As time has gone by, millions of fossils have been found and yet there is still no evidence that one kind of plant or animal evolved into another. The more fossils we have, the less evidence there is for evolutionist. They are now changing their story from gradual evolution to spontaneous appearances of new life forms.

Additional Notes

See <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/4881/frameset.html> for a more comprehensive listing of anti-evolution arguments. This is part of the Creation Science Resource website.

Demonstrate How to Make a Carbon Fossil

Before you begin, show the children a real carbon fossil of a delicate leaf found on a rock. Then make carbon as follows:

- Hold a piece of aluminum foil about an inch above a candle flame until carbon from the flame coats the foil. (Caution them never to attempt this without an adult!)
- Place the foil carbon side up on the table and place a leaf on top of the carbon.
- Place a paper towel on top of the leaf and firmly press upon it so that the carbon adheres to the leaf.
- Carefully lift the leaf off and place it on a white piece of construction paper.
- Place a clean piece of paper towel on top of the leaf and press down so that the carbon leaves a nice print on the paper.

3. Discover How God Brought the Animals to the Ark**Key Points:**

- Discuss possible ways of gathering all the animals. Since God does not give us details on this point, then we can only imagine what the possibilities are.
- Just as God made sure that all the animals were on the ark, so He has put mysterious instincts into animals of our day.
- How could all the animals have been cared for by Noah and his family? Do the children have any ideas as to how this could have been carried out?
- God has also made provisions for animals in our day to be able to withstand the weather and lack of available food.

Background Information

Due to the probable worldwide warm climate, animals were probably more widely distributed than they are today.

God may well have used supernatural intervention to bring the animals to the ark.

God may have used the ability of some animals to hibernate as one means of dealing with the tremendous workload that Noah and his family would have faced.

Science Activity:

Take the children on an imagined migration route of a Canadian goose (or another creature found locally).

Make the migration route a set of stations where the children learn about the various stages of the Canadian goose's life. For example, the first stop explains where the geese are born, what the habitat is like, and so forth. "Migrate" to other stations that explain the various stages of a goose's life including the fact that they mate for life, where they have their young, where they go every winter, etc. End the migration route with the Canadian goose dying. Have the youngest children reenact the dying goose.

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Genesis

Tower of Babel
(Genesis 11:1-9)

INTRODUCTION

What does the word “babble” mean? (*A confusion of sounds or voices.*) How do you think that sounds?

What would you think if you woke up one day and couldn't understand a word anybody around you was speaking? At first you might think it was funny, but after a while you might get pretty frustrated.

Today we're going to learn about a whole city where that happened. The story took place in a town called Babel, which means “Gate of God” in the people's native tongue.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we want to learn how to honor You in everything we do. Please help us to learn from the mistakes the people of Babel made, who lifted themselves up in pride before You. We want never to do that, so open our ears and the eyes of our hearts this morning as we read and study Your word. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined...the exact places where they should live. (Acts 17:26 NIV84)

LESSON

Last week we learned that after the great flood, when Noah and his family first got off the Ark, God told them to populate the whole earth.

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

God wanted people to spread out and fill the whole earth; not just all stay together in one spot.

Well, Noah's sons and their wives began to have children who grew up and had more children. Soon there was another population explosion just like before the flood. So, they were obeying the first part of God's command; they were being fruitful and multiplying! Let's see if they were obedient to the second part of God's command, to “*fill the earth.*”

Genesis 11:1-2

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ²And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

At this point, the people probably lived in tents and moved around as the seasons changed so they could lead their animals to good pastures. When they came to a valley called Shinar, they decided that it would be a great place to settle down and make a city for themselves.

Genesis 11:3

And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.

[Teacher: Bitumen is tar or asphalt, like we use for road repair.]

The people began to talk about building a great city, so they went to work making bricks and they used tar for mortar.

Ask: How do you make bricks?

Remember the Israelites in Egypt were forced to make bricks out of mud and they added straw to the mud to make the bricks stronger.

Ask: Do you think that these man-made bricks would hold up and be as sturdy for building as God-made stones? What do you think might happen to bricks made of mud over time?

Genesis 11:4

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Ask: Look at verse 4, why did they want to build this great city and a tower that reached heaven? (To make a name for themselves.)

The people wanted to build a temple-tower reaching to the skies, not to glorify God, but to glorify themselves. They wanted to make a name for themselves! They wanted to show off how smart and clever they were and make themselves famous. Their hearts were full of pride.

[Teacher, show a picture of the Tower of Babel, if available.]

The tower they built most likely looked like a pyramid with steps or ramps leading up the sides. It probably stood about 300 feet high. They wanted this tower to be the central focal point of the city.

The tower of Babel was a monument to themselves. Sometimes we do things to call attention to ourselves, too. Have you ever known someone who tried to impress others into thinking they were better than others? For example, someone might try to impress others by buying expensive name-brand clothes or a fancy bicycle. When that happens "things" take God's place in our lives.

Ask: Can you think of other ways that people call attention to themselves? (By bragging or acting silly in class.)

And notice the people wanted this tower to bring the people together. It says they wanted this tower to keep them from being scattered all over the world. This was prideful disobedience to the Lord's command to "*fill the earth*."

Last week we learned that because of the wickedness of mankind, God wiped the whole human race off the face of the earth with the great flood, except for Noah and his three sons and daughters-in-law. You would think they would have learned their lesson, right?

But here it is only about 100 years later and wickedness is ruling in the hearts of mankind again! It just goes to show you that wickedness is born with a person.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

People are not born good and then turn bad later. No, we are born sinners and must learn to be kind and loving and thoughtful and courteous. That's why God gave us the Ten Commandments; He knew it's natural for us to steal or lie or not honor our parents.

Genesis 11:5-7

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."

I think it is funny that the people thought they were doing such an impressive thing by building a tower that would reach heaven. But it must not have been very high if God had to come down to see it!

Who is talking in verse 7? Who is the “Us?” (The trinity!)

When God saw what they were doing, He knew that they had left Him out of their lives thinking only of how clever they were. God also knew that soon they would become as evil as the people who had lived before the Flood.

For their own good, God had to stop them. God had to force them to spread out and populate the whole earth as He had commanded them when Noah and his family first got off the ark.

Now God could have knocked down the tower, but He knew they would just try to rebuild it. So, He decided to confuse their language. By giving them different languages, they wouldn't be able to understand each other. Wouldn't that be confusing?

One morning when the people came to work on the tower something weird happened. Suddenly, throughout the city, people were not speaking the same language anymore. They couldn't understand each other.

One man would ask, “*May I borrow your tools*” and the other man would think he had asked for more bricks. All was confusion. They became frustrated. No matter how loud they shouted they couldn't make themselves understood. Nothing was getting accomplished.

Soon they gave up trying to work together and the tower building stopped. The people got fed up with all the confusion. Groups of people that could understand each other decided to move away.

Genesis 11:8-9

*So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.
Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

God has placed a very funny joke here in His word. The Babylonian word “babel” means, “gate of god.” (*Bab* = ‘gate’ and *el* = ‘god’.) But it sounds like the Hebrew word for “confusion”. So, it's a play on words. The humor is that their so-called “gate of god” was destroyed by “confusion.”

The people stopped building the city and the Lord scattered them all over the world.

God had shown that as clever as the people of Babel thought they were, they couldn't accomplish anything of lasting value if they wouldn't honor and obey God.

Now you know how all the different nations developed; God spread the population out over all the earth by confusing the languages at Babel. All the people who could understand each other grouped together.

All people came from Noah. Through his three sons came all the colors and nationalities of the world. Today many different languages are spoken. Each country has its own language like Chinese, Spanish, French and German. But God is the God of all peoples, of every nation and of every tongue.

Closing Prayer

However good the work is that we are doing, Lord, it will fail if You don't bless it. That's why we should always consult You in prayer so our plans will be according to Your plan for our lives. Keep us from building towers in our lives to promote our own greatness. Keep us humble before You. And help us always to keep You high and lifted up as the center of our lives. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

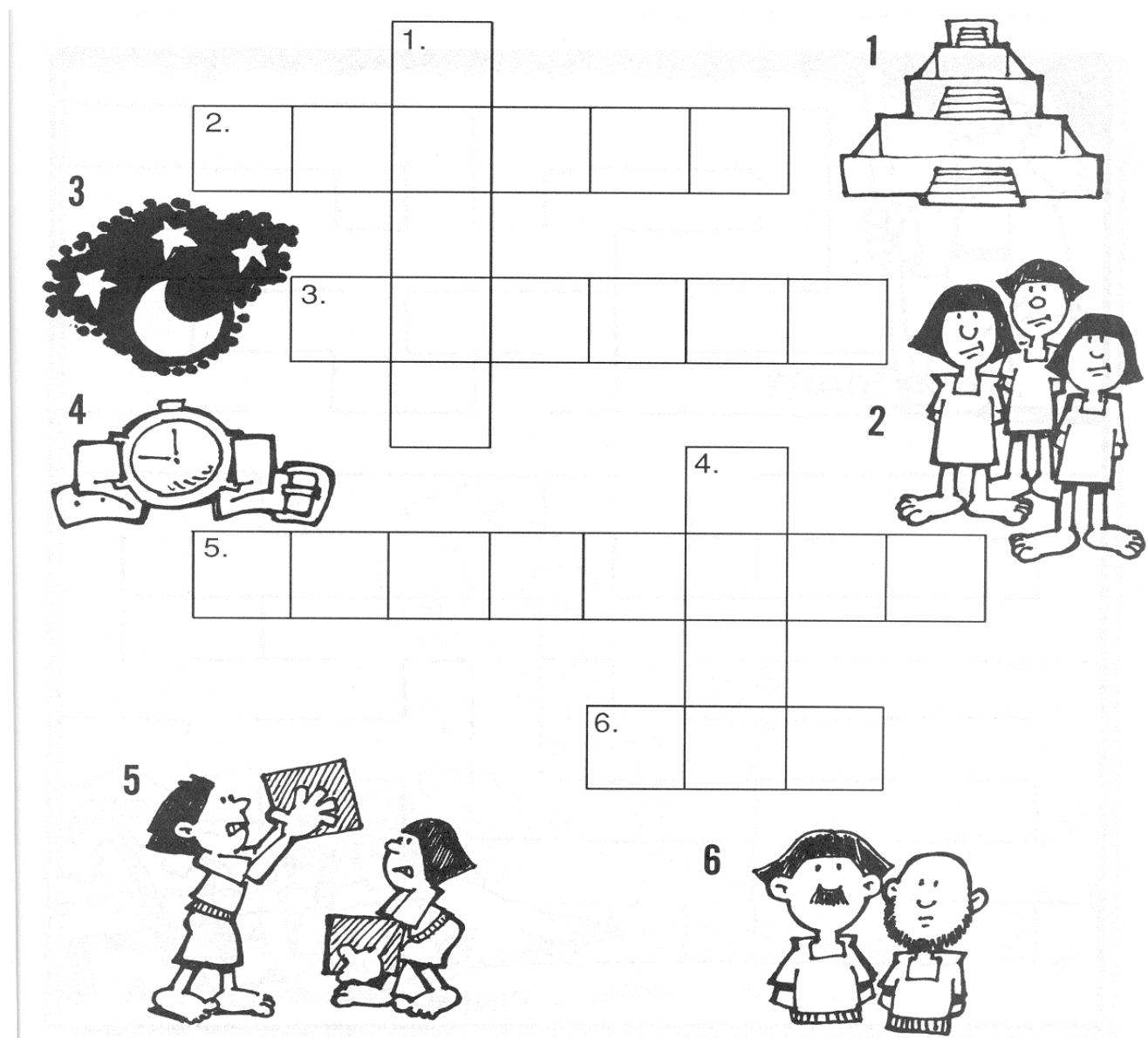
Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Tower of Babel Crossword Puzzle

Write in the words and color the pictures on the following crossword puzzle. Hint: To help you solve the crossword puzzle, you can use the picture clues or you can find the words for the crossword in the following sentence:

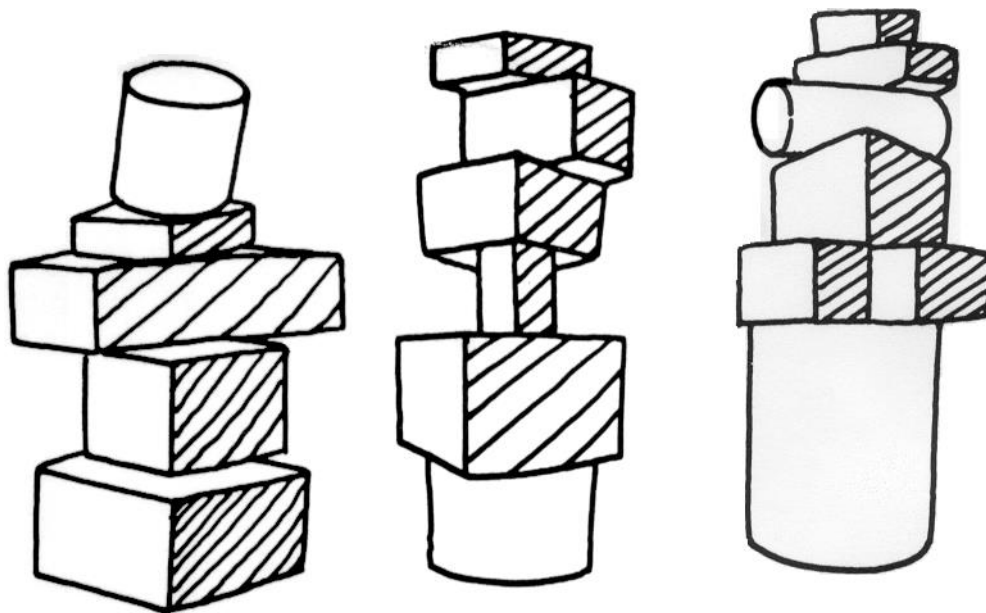
As time passed, people began building a tower to reach heaven. To stop the men from building the tower, God caused them to speak different languages (Genesis 11:3-9).



Fun House

(Game Center)

1. Tower of Babel Relay



Materials

You will need the same number and kind of stackable objects for each team, such as:

- Blocks
- Boxes
- Empty containers

Game Rules

Divide children into two teams. Teams line up about twenty feet from their stacking materials. The first player stacks one of the objects on top of another, runs back to the starting line, tags the next player, and goes to the end of the line. Players take turns stacking an object onto the tower. If a player knocks down the tower, he must leave the objects as they are and return to the end of the line. The next player may restack one object. The game continues until one team has completed their “Tower of Babel.”

2. Groupies

On small pieces of paper write an animal name. Have at least two of each animal. On “GO” have the children find the member(s) of their species by just uttering the sound of their animal. Thus, all the “moos” gather together as cows and all the “quacks” gather together as ducks, etc. This demonstrates how the people of Babel grouped together by like languages.

3. Language Game

The following game will demonstrate man's ability to reason and put together complicated ideas.

Divide the children into various groups and give each group ten different words written on separate pieces of paper. Each group should receive the same words. Give the groups a set amount of time to see how many

different sentences they can create out of the ten words. One person in each group needs to write down the sentences so that they don't have any duplicates within their group. See which group can make the most sentences.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

1. Discover Where Races Came From

Key Points

- Very tiny things called cells make up the human body.
- In the nucleus of our cells is genetic material, which determines what characteristics we are born with, such as eye color, skin color, height, intelligence, etc.
- We receive half of this genetic material or genes, from each parent.
- We notice similarities in those who are related.
- This genetic material started with the first parents—Adam and Eve. They passed their genetic material onto their children who passed it onto their children.
- Following the flood, all human races were descendants of Noah's three married sons and their wives. They passed their genes onto the human race.

Background Facts

In order for races to arise, a population must split into small, isolated groups, leading to "inbreeding". (Gish, pg.92) In that way traits become common among a people. This is what happened at the Tower of Babel.

"According to a recent summary of modern biological knowledge on human racial characteristics, the difference in human genes linked to race is only .012%. Humans all have the cellular machinery to make them very white or very black. What color you are reflects only trivial genetic differences. In transplant surgery, an organ from a white donor can make a more acceptable match for a black patient, and vice versa" (Discover, November 1994, pp. 72, 73).

Science Activity

Compare traits among your students. How many can roll the end of their tongue, or raise an eyebrow? Who has dimples, or free ear lobes versus those that are attached? When they fold their hands naturally, does their left thumb cross over their right thumb? All these traits were there even when they were in their mother's womb.

Give each child a piece of paper with a cell in the middle and the following instructions: Imagine that the cell represented on the paper is the beginning of a unique life form—YOU! We know that we each began as a single cell with all the information needed to make a human being. Think about your unique self—then add words or phrases that describe you to complete your genetic puzzle.

Spiritual Lesson

God allowed each of us to inherit special and unique traits from our parents. He created different colors, sizes and shapes of people but really what matters to Him is what is inside our heart. God wants us to view people the same way and realize that we all have one thing in common. That one thing is the need for a savior!

Genetic Oddities

Black and white twins—twins with different skin color have been noted in both England and New Zealand. A couple in New Zealand have twin daughters, one light and one dark, who have become less alike as they have grown older. Melissa is taller, with dark brown eyes and black curly hair. Marianna has the light European tone of

her mother, with straight red hair. There is also documentation of boys in New Zealand who are known as the "black and white" twins because one looks European while the other has Maori features. Doctors in Britain said the chances of producing such black and white twins were a million to one" (The Dominion, Wellington, NZ, Aug. 31, 1994, p. 8).

There is a very rare condition of excessive body hairiness that has not been known to afflict anyone outside of a large family in rural Mexico. Newborn males are born with hair all over their face, including the eyelids, with only the lips remaining hairless. Men with the condition have inch-long hair all over their face, and parts of their upper body. Women with the condition, while not being affected to the same degree as the men, have random patches of hair on the face and the body. Scientists have written that the gene has "reawakened from a long sleep during human evolution", meaning that it is a leftover trait from our alleged ape-type ancestry. Another, just as viable explanation is that it is simply a mutated gene changing the amount of hair that has existed in humans since creation (Creation ex nihilo vol. 18 no. 1, December 1995 – February 1996).

2. Discover Languages

Look at the confusion of languages. Discuss how different nations developed out of this and how Jesus will be Lord of all Nations.

Key Points

The primary objective is to communicate how so many different nations came about, viewed from a Biblical perspective.

Differences of languages are one of the reasons for the divisions in the human race. Others are culture and religion.

Illustrate how frustrating it would have been for people of Babel. Invite someone to Sunday School who speaks a foreign language. Have them try to communicate a fairly difficult message to another person who doesn't speak the same language.

Have the children name as many different languages that they can. Do the people that speak these languages get along with each other? Help the children to realize that one day all nations shall live together in peace under Christ's rule (Isaiah 2:1-4).

Where did our ability to speak come from? Were we born with this ability or did we learn it from people around us? Have the children give their answers to these questions.

One theory is that language developed from animal grunts or calls, or from people making instinctive sounds caused by pain. Another theory is that people reacted to the stimuli of their surroundings. An example is the expression, "bye, bye" which supposedly simulate the lips and tongue waving goodbye.

There are cases of children who were reared in the wild by animals or kept isolated from all social contact. Most attempts to teach them had no success.

We know, of course, that God created the first man with the ability to speak and that as babies, we hear our parents talk and therefore advance in our God given abilities to use language.

Have the children think about the different features that God has given them to enable them to speak. What parts of their body are being used when they speak? The vast majority of speech sounds are made using lung air. Before we can speak, lung air has to be changed into audible vibrations using the various organs within the vocal tract. The most important source of vibration for the production of sounds is in the lower region of the vocal tract, at the larynx. The front part of the larynx can be easily felt and we refer to it as the "Adam's apple".

There are several other types of speech sounds which do not use air stream from the lungs such as click sounds, like, "tut tut," and "tsk tsk" which are made by the tongue against the top of the mouth.

Have the children say the following words and identify what parts of their bodies besides their lungs that are being used to make these sounds

"Thin" - uses upper the teeth.

"Tall" - uses the ridge behind the upper teeth.

"You" - uses the hard palate.

"Paw" - uses the lips.

Have them grit their teeth and say something. They use their jaw for this.

Animals also have the ability to communicate but it is not the same as man. Man has a unique gift of using language, not only spoken, but written.

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