

LightUnit 101

Items Needed in this LightUnit

- glue stick
- colored pencils
- scissors
- crayons

Lesson 1: First Three Days

GENESIS 1:1-13

Lesson 1 introduces the first three days of Creation.

Teacher's Story 1

Attribute: God is All-Powerful

Teacher's Meditation: God spoke the words . . . and things appeared out of nothing. After He created light and darkness, water and the earth, they not only came into being, but also obeyed when He commanded them to divide. God is all-powerful and can do anything. This all-powerful God is here today with you! *“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee” (Jeremiah 32:17).*

Teacher tip: Whether you read or tell the stories, you will need to acquaint yourself with the many details, which not only add interest but are also important to this story.

Remember to use good oral and facial expressions.

Complete Story to Read

Long, long ago, longer ago than anyone can think, nothing existed but God. No light, no plants or animals, no sun, moon, or stars. No people. Not even a world. Only God—a God so powerful He could do anything He wanted to do.

And God decided to make a world. So way back in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Creating a heaven and earth was easy for an all-powerful God. He simply said, “Let there be . . .” and things appeared out of nothing. We cannot explain how He could do that, but we believe it. The Bible says, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God.”

When the Bible story begins, the earth was dark and empty. Water covered everything. In the darkness the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Over the world flooded light from God Himself. And God saw that the light was good.

Then God separated the light from the darkness. He named the light *Day* and called the darkness *Night*. And that's what God did on the first day of Creation.

On the second day, God said, “Let there be a firmament above the world, and let the water on the earth be separated from the water above the earth.”

Instantly the waters did what God said. They divided from each other. Some of the water went up, up, into the air above the world. Some stayed on the earth. A wide blue sky arched over it all. God called the firmament *heaven*. This was not the heaven where God lives. It was the blue sky that we see above us. The firmament is what God created on the second day.

On the third day, God told the water on the earth to gather together in one place so that dry land could appear. The instant God spoke, all the water ran to the low places on the earth. These bodies of water God named *seas*. The dry land that now appeared above the seas, God called *earth*.

God needed the dry land for what he made next. On this same day He said, “Let the earth bring forth grass and herbs and trees.” Because God is so powerful, His word made it happen. Instantly all kinds of grasses, shrubs, vines, trees, flowers, and bushes appeared out of nothing. The bare brown earth all around the world was covered with beautiful green plants of all sorts.

God said that every plant should produce seeds that would grow into plants just like the one on which it grew. So from that day on, through thousands of years until now, all plants have done what God said on the third day of creation. Every seed from a cherry tree grows into a cherry tree—not a peach or a pine tree or a tomato plant. A hundred seeds from a watermelon all grow into watermelons, never into cucumbers or rosebushes. God’s power that created thousands of kinds of plants keeps each plant bearing seeds after its kind.

Three days of creation week have gone by. Now the world floats in space under a blue, blue firmament. Around the broad shining oceans stretch the varied greens of trees, grass, and shrubs. But a vast stillness hangs over the earth. No living creature moves on the land or in the air or water.

Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verse that goes with each picture.

1. “And God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night” (Genesis 1:5).
2. “And God called the firmament Heaven” (Genesis 1:8).
3. “God called the dry land Earth” (Genesis 1:10).

Do not expect the students to memorize these verses. Rather, explain how they relate to the story and activity.

Do the Lesson.

Briefly discuss the accompanying activity, then have students work during class period or assign it as seatwork.

The activity includes three pictures and numbers to color. They illustrate the earth as void, and the creation process of the first three days of Creation. Each picture is numbered to correspond with the day it represents.

Apply the Lesson.

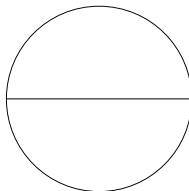
To illustrate the story: Day 1: Turn lights off to demonstrate darkness, and turn them on when God says, “Let there be light.” Day 2: Have children imagine water going up, up, up, and forming the sky. Day 3: Talk about dry land appearing; then have the students name plants God made—tomatoes, roses, trees, etc. Ask, “Could you make the sky? Roses? An ocean? Could your dad? Who can? God, of course!”

Optional Activity

Let the students plant seeds in Styrofoam cups or egg cartons.

Lesson 1

Color the top part yellow. Color the bottom part black.




And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. Genesis 1:5

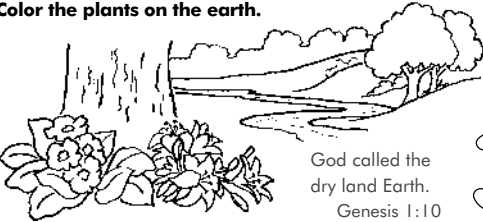
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Color the sky and the sea.

And God called the firmament Heaven. Genesis 1:8



2



God called the dry land Earth. Genesis 1:10

3

3

Lesson 2: Three More Days

GENESIS 1:14-31

Lesson 2 introduces the fourth, fifth, and sixth days of creation.

Teacher's Story 2

Attribute: God is All-Powerful

Teacher's Meditation: When God spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence, He didn't stop there. He also put thousands and thousands and thousands of other stars and planets in outer space. Just think of all the different kinds of land and sea animals, birds, fish, and insects He spoke into being. Then to top off His creation, He made His prize creation—man and woman. He made it all by the word of His great power. *“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”* (Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31).

Teacher tip: Become familiar with the complete story, then read or tell it. Remember to use good oral and facial expressions.

Complete Story to Read

After three days of creating, God still had other things He wanted to make. Plants of all shapes and sizes were growing under the wide blue firmament, but they were the only living things in the whole world.

The things God created on the fourth day were not alive either. In fact, they were not even on the earth. On that day God spoke, and the sun, moon, and stars came out in the sky.

Out of the billions of heavenly bodies that God made that day, He gave two to light the earth. God put the sun close to the earth to rule the day with its heat and light. God also put the moon close to the earth to rule the night. The moon is only a cold dark ball wheeling around the earth. Sometimes we can see it in the daytime if it is where the sun shines on it. But only after dark, when it reflects the light of the sun, does the moon shed a soft golden glow on the earth.

Though most of the stars are many times bigger than the earth, they are so far away they look like mere pinheads. We would not know they are there if they weren't blazing worlds of fire. Even then we can't see them except on a clear night. All those countless heavenly bodies are what God set in the firmament on the fourth day of creation.

On the fifth day God spoke again. Suddenly out of nothing appeared all kinds of birds fluttering in the air and singing in the trees. Then monstrous whales and fish of all sizes began cruising through the oceans. Lakes and rivers swarmed with other fish of many kinds. God saw that everything He had made on the fifth day was good. Yet He was not finished making things for His new world.

On the sixth day He said, “Let the earth bring forth animals and every living creature that crawls on the ground.” Instantly all kinds of creeping and crawling creatures appeared. Some ran. Some hopped. Some galloped. Some wiggled.

New sounds filled the air. Squeaking, squawking, roaring, barking, snorting, bleating, howling, warbling, grunting, peeping, twittering. What a chorus rang across the world as thousands of newly created animals and birds began life there! All were perfect, doing exactly what God planned for them to do. God saw that everything He had just made was good.

There remained but one more thing God wanted to create. So far, everything that He had made was new and different from all the other living things. But God could not talk with any of the birds and animals. They could not talk with Him. Now God said, “Let us make man in our own image—someone like us.”

So God made a man and a woman. He made them in His own image and breathed life into them. The man and woman were different from all the other living things. God had given them souls that would never die. God put the man and woman in charge of the earth to take care of it.

At last God was finished with His new world. He looked at what He had made and saw it was all very good. And that is how the world began. That is how plants and animals came to be. That is where rocks and seas and stars came from. Our great God made it all by the Word of His power.

Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verses.

4. "God made two great lights . . . to rule the day, and . . . night: he made the stars also" (Genesis 1:16).
5. "And God said, Let the waters bring forth [creatures] abundantly . . . and fowl that . . . fly above" (Genesis 1:20).
6. "And God said . . . Let the earth bring forth the living creature." "Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:24, 26).

Do the Lesson.

The activity includes three pictures and numbers to color. They illustrate the days of creation: the sun, moon, and stars for Day 4; fish and birds for Day 5; animals and man for Day 6.

Have the students name things made on each day. Day 4: sun, moon, stars; Day 5: wrens, robins, octopus, shark, etc.; Day 6: deer, bunnies, cats, worms, etc.

Do during class period or assign as seatwork.

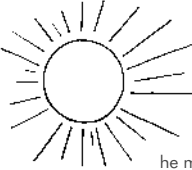


Optional Activity

Show them a variety of fish from an encyclopedia—compare a huge fish to a very small one, or compare fish with fascinating features.

Lesson 2

Color the pictures of Creation.


God made two great lights . . . to rule the day, and . . . night:

4

he made the stars also. Genesis 1:16

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth [creatures] abundantly . . ."




5

and fowl that . . . fly above." Genesis 1:20

And God said . . .

"Let the earth bring forth the living creature."
"Let us make man in our image."

Genesis 1:24, 26



6

5

Lesson 3: God Gave a Day of Rest

GENESIS 2:1-3

Lesson 3 introduces the seventh day of creation—a day of rest.

Teacher's Story 3

Attribute: God is Good

Teacher's Meditation: God not only loves us, He also thinks about what is good for us. He knew that if man worked all the time he would get too tired, so He made a seventh day in which to rest. In this life, we

need to rest, but we can look forward to the day when our rest will be complete! Truly, God is good. *“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9).*

Teacher Tip: Tell or read the story. Use good oral and facial expressions.

Complete Story to Read

Only six days ago the world lay in pitch darkness covered with water—a cold, lonely, frightening place to be. But not one person or living thing existed in all the world. During those six days the all-powerful God had turned this earth into a wonderful place of beauty and light. By the word of His power He made it all. He simply spoke and what He said appeared out of nowhere, new and fresh and perfect. We cannot explain or understand such power.

Why did God make the sun to give light and warmth to the world? Why did He direct the waters into lakes and rivers and then fill them with fish? Why did He create thousands of plants and animals that today provide us with food and clothes and houses and countless other products? Why did He make so many birds and butterflies and flowers that we enjoy just for their beauty? God did all of this simply because He is good.

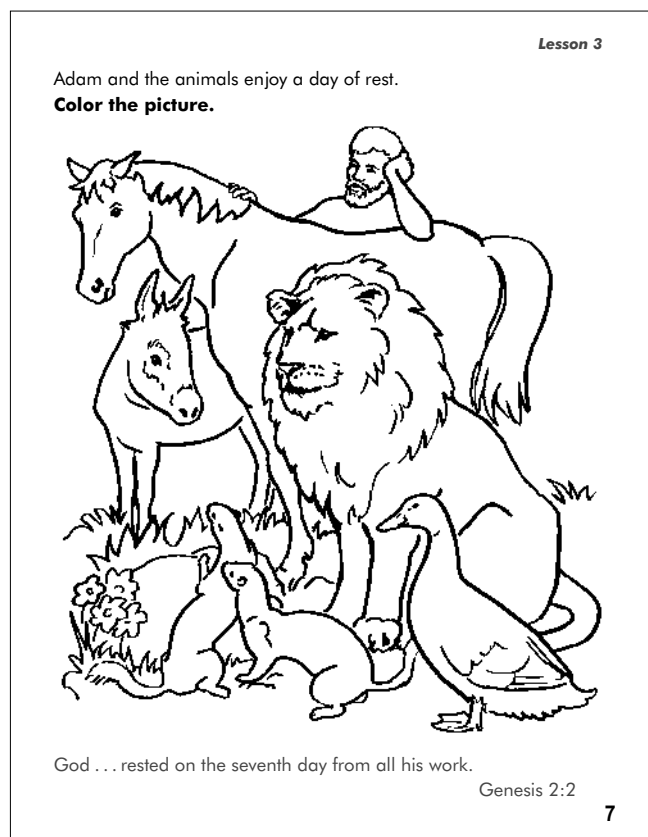
God put all these beautiful and useful things on the earth before He created Adam and Eve. He made everything for the first man and woman to use and enjoy. He made them also for all the people who would live on the earth after Adam and Eve.

Now God was finished with His new world. He would never need to create any new thing. The plants would bear seeds after their kind and spread around the world. Animals and man, too, would multiply and fill the earth. All was finished in six days. So God rested on the seventh day.

Of course, God was not tired from working. He never gets tired. The Bible says God does not slumber or sleep. To God, resting meant only that He stopped working. No, God was not tired after working six days. But He thought of Adam. He had given Adam work to do. Adam was only a man. God knew he would be tired after working six days. So God decided to make the seventh day a special day of rest for the man. He said Adam should rest on the seventh day, just as He Himself had rested after creating the earth.

God thought of the animals too. He had created some of them to help man in his work. Man would use horses and donkeys to ride and to carry things. Oxen would pull loaded wagons and pull the plows that prepared the soil for planting crops. Other animals would turn the mills that ground the grain into flour. These animals would get tired after working all week. So God made the seventh day a day of rest for all working animals as well as for the man He had created.

The LORD had created a world full of beautiful useful things for Adam. Now He gave the man a special day in which to rest and enjoy it. It is a day we, too, enjoy because of the goodness of our Heavenly Father.



Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verse. “God . . . rested on the seventh day from all his work” (Genesis 2:2).

Do the Lesson.

Color the picture of Adam and the animals resting.

Discuss with the children what they think they would have done on that first “Sunday” if they had been Adam or Eve. Example: Lie in the shade of an apple tree and munch on an apple!

Optional Activity

If appropriate for your classroom, sing “God Is so Good” to emphasize the attribute.

Lesson 4: God Made a Home

GENESIS 2:8-23

Teacher’s Story 4

Attribute: God is Good

Teacher’s Meditation: How good of God to think of Adam’s need for a home. He prepared a very special one with everything that Adam and Eve needed. God was also good to tell them about the one tree in the garden they were not to eat from, so that they would not just “happen” to eat of its fruit. Today, as God’s children, we can trust the Holy Spirit to show us God’s will. *“For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” (Matthew 6:8).*

Teacher tip: Use good expressions.

Complete Story to Read

God had given Adam the seventh day for a day of rest. He gave it to all people who would live after Adam and Eve. That is why we have Sunday as a day to rest and worship our good heavenly Father.

Now God wanted to give Adam a good place to live. He looked over the beautiful earth and chose a place toward the east. It was in a land called Eden. There God planted a special garden for Adam’s home.

This was not a vegetable garden with rows of corn and beans and lettuce. It was more like a cool, shady park full of beautiful trees and flowers. A clear river flowed through the garden to water it. Outside of the garden the stream divided into four rivers that ran in different directions over the land.

In this garden of Eden God planted many trees with delicious fruit for Adam. He planted other trees just because they were pretty to look at.

In the garden God also put two very different trees. They had names that sound strange to us. One He called the Tree of Life. The other, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God put these two trees in the middle of the garden.

Then God took Adam and put him in his new home. He told him to cultivate the garden and take care of it. He said, “Adam, you may eat the fruit from all the trees in the garden except one. That is the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is in the middle of the garden. Do not eat the fruit from that tree or you will die.”

Just one tree in all the big garden was not safe to eat from. How good of God to explain exactly what would happen if he ate from it. Now Adam could stay away from that tree and safely enjoy the beautiful new home God had given him.

Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verse. “The LORD God planted a garden . . . in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed” (Genesis 2:8).

Do the Lesson.

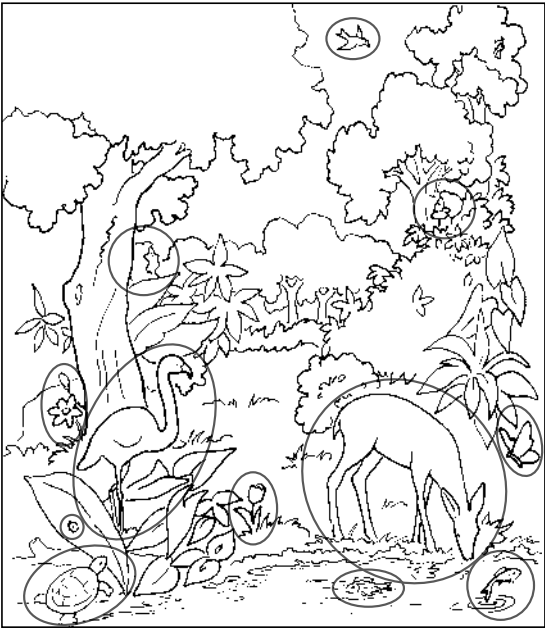
Find and circle 12 hidden pictures in the Garden of Eden scene. There are two each of these: *people, birds, bugs, fish, animals, flowers.*

Apply the Lesson.

God planned homes for all the animals, as well as for Adam and Eve. Have students name the perfect homes that our good God planned for a variety of animals—such as the beaver, bee, elephant, rabbit. God knew each animal’s needs and provided for them.

Lesson 4

Find and circle 12 hidden pictures. There are 2 each of these: people, birds, bugs, fish, animals, and flowers.



The LORD God planted a garden . . . in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:8

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Lesson 5: Adam and Eve Disobey

GENESIS 3:1-11

Teacher’s Story 5

Attribute: God is Holy

Teacher’s Meditation: God is sinless and holy; He created the world sinless. He created man and woman sinless too. The world was perfect—more perfect than we can imagine. Because God is holy, He could not, and still cannot, tolerate sin. “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6:23).

Teacher tip: Use good expressions.

Complete Story to Read

God had finished creating the world. The first man and woman were settled in the lovely home God made for them. No place on earth was quite as beautiful as the Garden of Eden. No people who have lived since then have been quite as happy as Adam and Eve. This was because they knew nothing about sin. God had created the earth free from sin, and He wanted it to stay that way because He Himself is perfectly sinless.