

# God Creates the World

## **Key Themes**

- The Bible tells us how God created the universe.
- · God reveals His omnipotence through creation.

## **Key Passage**

Genesis 1

## **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Identify one of the attributes God displayed at creation— His omnipotence.
- Compare and contrast the biblical account of creation with the evolution model.

# **Lesson Overview**



#### Come On In

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Students get answers to some Big Questions about creation as they pull questions from the cup and determine the answers from the Bible.



## Activity 1: Days of Creation Worksheet

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Students will fill out the Days of Creation worksheet as you study the lesson.



# Studying God's Word

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The account of God's creation—by the Word of His mouth—reveals He is the all-powerful, omnipotent Creator. The evolution model of creation conflicts dramatically with the biblical creation account of Genesis 1. We must rely on God's Word alone for the truth.



## Activity 2: Creation vs. Evolution Cards

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Students will distinguish biblical truth about creation from some of the evolutionary lies the world believes by sorting the truth from the lies.

# **Lesson Preparation**

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO

#### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Come On In

- ☐ Print the Big Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM
- ☐ Cut and fold strips and put in a cup.
- ☐ Print the Big Questions answer key from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- ☐ Cup with Big Questions
- $\square$  Big Questions answer key



Days of Creation Worksheet

- ☐ Print one Days of Creation worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Pass the worksheets out before you begin the lesson.
- ☐ Print one Days of Creation worksheet answer key for your use.
- ☐ Days of Creation worksheet for each student
- ☐ Days of Creation worksheet answer key
- ☐ Pencils



Studying God's Word

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- $\square$  Go Before the Throne.

☐ Student Take Home Sheets



Creation vs. Evolution Cards

- ☐ Print one set of Creation vs. Evolution cards (preferably on cardstock) from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 3–4 students in your class.
- ☐ Cut out the cards and place the sets in small plastic bags.
- ☐ Creation vs. Evolution cards in small plastic bag for every 3–4 students



Memory Verse

**Exodus 20:11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

➤ Pace your lesson! You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.



#### SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

In order to best prepare your heart and mind for the lesson this week, take time to read through Genesis 1:1–2:3 and John 1:1–3.

What scriptural background can we possibly give here? Before Genesis nothing but God in eternity past existed. Genesis 1 is the beginning of the universe, time, space, history, and all of life as we know it. In addition, Genesis is foundational to the rest of Scripture. It sets the tone for God's eternal plan of redemption.

From the very first verse, Scripture assumes God's existence without trying to prove it in any way. We must avoid using arguments that attempt to prove God by demanding evidence in the natural world. Man's need to prove God implies his intention to elevate his own autonomous reason above God's Word.

Though obviously presented with very little "background," the information given to us in the early chapters of Genesis is foundational to many important doctrines. Included in these are the Trinity (Genesis 1:26), death (2:17), marriage (2:24), sin (3:6), the gospel (3:15), and clothing (3:21). The book of Genesis is to be taken as literal history provided by God to give us a glimpse of His majesty, wonder, creativity, and eternal purpose.

#### **APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This first verse in the Bible answers many questions for us, such as "Where did everything come from?" "Is there a God?" "When did time begin?" These are questions Christians often have trouble answering—not because they lack faith, but because they don't realize that answers to questions like these can be found in Scripture when it is examined closely.

When did time begin? Time itself began when God began to create the universe. He created time for man, but He Himself is not bound by time. He is eternal—the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8). God confirms this concept when He tells us that to Him a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day (2 Peter 3:8).

There are many opposing views of the Genesis account of creation that manipulate God's Word to include millions of years (the old-earth view). Many will try to persuade us that the creation account must be "proven" before being believed. Realistically, however, no account of origins can be proven—it must be accepted by faith. Christians must stand firm on biblical authority—God told us in His Word what happened and how He created: "By faith we understand that the worlds [universe] were framed [created] by the word of

God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3).

Does the order of creation matter? God specifically and systematically presents the order of His creation over a six-day period—so, yes, it does matter. The creation and evolution positions are in direct opposition to each other. Creationists believe God's Word as recorded. Evolutionists believe in millions of years of slow change, from non-life to simple cells, to more complex plants and animals, and eventually to the organisms that exist today, including man. Those who embrace this position must reject God's Word because evolution does not harmonize with God's account of creation. Here are a few examples of the more obvious differences:

Evolutionary Ideas—Not True	Creation in Genesis—True	Reference
Sun before earth	Earth (Day 1) before sun (Day 4)	Genesis 1:1
Sun before light on earth	Light (Day 1) before sun (Day 4)	Genesis 1:3
Earth at same time as planets	Earth (Day 1) before other planets (Day 4)	Genesis 1:1, 1:14-15
Sea creatures before land plants	Land plants (Day 3) before sea creatures (Day 5)	Genesis 1:12–13, 1:20–23
Reptiles before birds	Birds (Day 5) before reptiles (Day 6)	Genesis 1:20, 1:23-24, 1:31
Creation took billions of years	God created in six normal 24-hour days.	Genesis 2:1-2

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Over the past 200 years, many scientists have developed unbiblical ideas and taught that the earth formed around 4.5 billion years ago. Unfortunately, many Christians have attempted to merge these long ages of geological time into the Bible's account of creation. A few of these views are:

- 1. The day-age view: a compromise belief that the days of Genesis 1 are actually vast ages of different lengths; based on secular dating methods.
- 2. The gap theory: a compromise belief that a vast period of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 into which the geologic eras can be fit.
- 3. The framework hypothesis: a compromise belief that Genesis 1 is written in a non-literal, non-chronological way; based on secular dating methods.

- 4. Theistic evolution: a compromise belief that suggests God used evolutionary processes to create the universe and life on earth over billions of years.
- 5. Progressive creation: a compromise belief accepting that God has created organisms in a progressive manner over billions of years to accommodate secular dating methods.

These are all theories that attempt to fit evolution and/or millions of years into the Bible rather than taking God's Word for what it says.

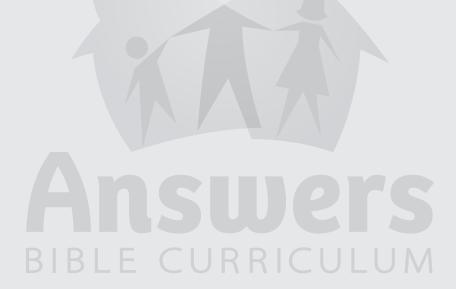
Many Christians feel that the age of the earth is an unimportant side issue and that discussing it detracts from the gospel message. However, Christians must understand that *all* of Scripture is foundational to our faith. If we can set aside a literal six-day creation because it is considered "unscientific" or unpopular, then at what point do we determine the rest of the Bible to be true? Can we teach a virgin birth or a literal Resurrection? When we read the genealogy of Christ, which goes back to Adam, can it be taken literally? Believing the historical account of Genesis 1–11 is foundational to believing

the rest of the Bible, and essential for understanding the gospel message.

For more information on this topic, go to the Online Resource Page.

#### **BEFORE THE THRONE**

Eternal Lord, you are my Creator. Please bless my class this week. Where I am weak, be my strength. Help me be gentle and patient as you are so patient with me. Use me as a vessel to speak the truth of your Word clearly and accurately. You are a loving God. Help me to love my students with your love, Lord. You know my students intimately. Please meet their needs this week. Minister to their individual families, their growing minds, and their precious souls. Draw them in such a way that they come to class this week thirsty to learn more about you!





#### COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- Have them pick Big Questions about creation from a cup or container and read them aloud.
- Encourage them to look up the Scripture on the question slip to determine the correct answer. (Refer to the Big Questions answer key for answers.)
- Make sure you keep the cup and questions! This activity will be repeated in future lessons.



Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Children learn by repetition. These posters will reference the lesson title with an illustration to review the key elements of the lesson.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



# Days of Creation Worksheet

#### **MATERIALS**

- ☐ Days of Creation worksheet for each student
- ☐ Pencils

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Pass out the Days of Creation worksheets and pencils to each student.

We will be filling these worksheets in as the class continues. Don't fill in anything right now. Wait until we get to it—even if you think you know the answers now. OK?

#### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As you begin to understand who God is and what He is like, your trust in Him will grow. Many lies about what God is like are spread in movies and books, songs and conversations. If we want to know who God truly is, we look to His Word where He makes Himself known to us. Our starting point for understanding God is the Bible. And we have an omnipotent, eternal, sovereign, merciful, just God who desires for us to know Him. Go to the Attributes of God poster and review what these attributes mean.



#### **READ THE WORD**

We are starting a new quarter of lessons this week, and we have a lot to learn about God's Word, beginning in the very first book of the Bible.

Our lesson today is about God's creation—and how He created it. Turn to the first book of the Bible, Genesis. We are going to read all of chapter 1. These passages cover the creation of the universe—the first C of the Seven C's of History. We're going to read it in parts, then stop and answer questions. We'll fill in our worksheets as we go along. Refer to the Seven C's Timeline to remind the students of each C.

Genesis 1:1-5

Let's start by reading Genesis 1:1–5. Choose a reader for this section.

#### **EXAMINE THE WORD**

#### **Observe the Text**

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

Now let's ask questions about what we read to make sure we understand it. You will fill in your worksheets are we go through the verses we just read.

- What did God create on Day One of creation? Heavens, earth, light.
- What did God do with the light? Look at verse 4. He separated it from the darkness.
- What did He call the light and the dark? Day and night.
- Let's fill in Day 1 on our worksheets. Who can tell me what the answers are? Worksheet words for number 1 are: "heavens, earth, light, light, darkness, day, night."
- That's right. God created light and darkness and when he separated the light from the darkness He created a day and night cycle. Now, does this verse say anything about the sun? No.

He did not create the sun until three days later. He only created light on Day One. This light came before the sun according to God—and He was there! We believe this because we take the Word of God for what it says. We stand on biblical authority.

Genesis 1:6-8

Now let's move on. Who would like to read Genesis 1:6–8? Assign a reader.

- We are on Day Two. What did God create? A firmament to separate the waters.
- **Does anyone know what a firmament is?** If no one answers, explain to the students that it is an expanse.



There was a lot of water. And God separated the waters above from the waters below. The expanse between the waters is the firmament.

What do you think appeared in this expanse or firmament? Allow students to answer. Air.

That's right. It was what we call the atmosphere—or the stuff we breathe. We know it as the air we breathe. And God knew it was exactly what the plants, animals, and people would need to live when He later created them.

Who knows what we need to fill in on our worksheets for Day Two? Call on someone or discuss. Worksheet words for number 2 are: "firmament, expanse, waters, atmosphere, breathe."

Now onto Day Three. Who will read Genesis 1:9–13? Assign a reader.

What did God create on Day Three? Let's fill in our worksheets. Worksheet words for number 3 are: "dry land, earth, seas, grass, herbs, plants, fruit trees."

God is so good! He was preparing for life. Just like with the atmosphere He created on Day Two, He knew we'd need something to eat, so He created the plants!

Ok. Moving to Day Four. Who will read Genesis 1:14–19? Assign a reader.

- What did God create on Day Four? Lights in the firmament of heaven.
- Right. Now what does that mean exactly? Verse 16 tells us a little more specifically. Sun, the greater light to rule the day. Moon, the lesser light to rule the night. And the stars.
- How would you fill in your worksheet? Can someone tell me? Worksheet words for number 4 are: "sun, day, moon, night, stars."

Now we are going on to Day Five. God has been revealing His power—His omnipotence. He has spoken and the universe is being created. Who will read Genesis 1:20–23? Assign a reader.

What did God create on Day Five? Sea creatures and birds.

That's right. Creatures to fill the seas and birds to fill the earth.

Let's fill our worksheets in. Who can help us? These words are from verse 21. Worksheet words for number 5 are: "sea creatures, winged birds."

God is showing us His omnipotence over and over. He is speaking with His all-powerful voice. His Words are to be obeyed. Refer here to the Attributes of God poster.

And now Day Six. God's creation is nearly completed. Who will read Genesis 1:24–27? Assign a reader.

**What kind of animals were created on Day Six?** Cattle, creeping things, beasts of the earth.

Genesis 1:9-13

Genesis 1:14–19

Genesis 1:20-23

OMNIPOTENT (Refer to Attributes poster)

Genesis 1:24-27

- So now we have land animals. And what else did God create on Day Six? The first people.
- What is special about man? You can find the answer in verse 27. God created man and woman in His own image.

That's right. Nothing else was created in God's image. This made man a special creation—different from everything else God created. Man is created in God's image.

- Who were the first people ever created? Adam and Eve.
- **So how will you fill in your blanks for Day Six?** Worksheet words for number 6 are: "land animals, people, Adam, Eve, God's image."

So there we have it. The six days of creation. God's power displayed from the very beginning; His omnipotence being revealed by the words of His mouth. Who will read Genesis 1:31 for me? Assign a reader.

What did God think of everything He had created? It was very good.

Go ahead and fill in number 7 on your worksheet. Worksheet words for number 7 are: "very good."

#### **Discover the Truth**

God created the entire universe in six days. He revealed His omnipotence—His power—by speaking everything that exists into being. God is truly worthy of our praise, honor, and worship.

Genesis 1 tells us how history began. The Bible is the history book of the universe. And God was careful to give us many details about how He did it. God doesn't give information like this unless He wants us to take notice. We know that His Word is true and that He will not lie! And we need to realize that this account of creation is, in fact, true history. No matter what we hear people say or what we see on TV—Genesis 1 is truth—this is the way it happened!

It is all true and shows us just how omnipotent our God is.



Genesis 1:5, 1:8, 1:13, 1:19, 1:23, 1:31

Genesis 1:31

#### **READ THE WORD**

We are going back to take another look at some of the verses from Genesis 1. Assign each of these verses to a different child to look up. Have each child read his or her verse: Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31.

#### **EXAMINE THE WORD**

#### **Observe the Text**

**What phrase is the same in all of the verses?** "So the evening and the morning were the [first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth] day."

**Great. Fill in number 8 on your worksheets.** Worksheet words for number 8 are: "evening, morning, day."

This phrase, repeated six times, is God's way of confirming that these were normal 24-hour days. Because it says "evening and morning" and it tells which day it was (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth), we know it was a normal 24-hour day.

Fill out the next line—number 9—on your worksheets. Worksheet words for number 9 are: "normal, 24-hour."

#### **Discover the Truth**

Who knows why this is an important thing to remember? Allow for answers.

It is very important because you will hear a lot of people say that these days in Genesis 1 were not 24 hours but may have been millions of years each. In other words, people try to fit millions of years into Genesis chapter 1 because they believe scientists who insist that the world is older than God says it is. These people believe in evolution—and they believe that evolution and man's word are more reliable than God's Word.

But we can't have it both ways. We either believe the Bible or we believe the lies about evolution. God's Word indicates that the days were normal 24-hour days. Because we stand on the authority of God's Word, this is what we believe.

You must beware. You will hear evolutionists say things that are the opposite of what God's Word says. They talk about a lot of different things—including the millions of years. They may seem right and you might want to believe it because you saw it on TV, read it in a book or magazine, or saw it at a museum. You have to stop—and compare it with God's Word. The worksheet we just filled out will help you to remember what God created when. And remember, God was very specific and we can't change His Word.

His Word is our foundation.



# Creation vs. Evolution Cards

#### **MATERIALS**

- ☐ Creation vs. Evolution cards in plastic bags
- ☐ Creation worksheet pages just completed during class

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Divide students into teams of 3 or 4. Pass out a complete set of the Creation Vs. Evolution cards to each team of students participating. Cards should be mixed up.

The cards I am passing out have biblical statements about creation on some, and evolutionary lies about creation on some. Your mission is to go through the cards carefully. Compare the statements with your worksheets and with the Bible. You need to make two rows of cards.

First, find the two special cards. One says "Creation in Genesis—True" and the other says "Evolutionary Ideas—Not True." These will head up your rows of sorted cards. Then sort the cards—and put them each in the proper row.

This is kind of tricky. You need to think carefully about the six days of creation and what God did on each day. Again, check out your Bible and the worksheets. Allow students to work in teams in sorting the cards.

#### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

OK. Now let's see which cards belong in which pile. Allow students to tell you which cards are in the Genesis row and which are in the evolution row.

Great. Now let's look at each biblical truth and see what the evolutionary lie might

be against God's Word. Go through the cards discussing what the Bible says and how it is different from what we often hear from the world. See below for the parallels.

Evolutionary Ideas—Not True	Creation in Genesis—True	Reference
Sun before earth	Earth (Day 1) before sun (Day 4)	Genesis 1:1
Sun before light on earth	Light (Day 1) before sun (Day 4)	Genesis 1:3
Earth at same time as planets	Earth (Day 1) before other planets (Day 4)	Genesis 1:1, 1:14-15
Sea creatures before land plants	Land plants (Day 3) before sea creatures (Day 5)	Genesis 1:12– 13, 1:20–23
Reptiles before birds	Birds (Day 5) before reptiles (Day 6)	Genesis 1:20, 1:23-24, 1:31
Creation took billions of years	God created in six normal 24-hour days.	Genesis 2:1–2

We need to be very careful that we don't believe everything we hear. Some of the things from the world don't sound too bad. And we tend to think that if we hear things enough they must be true. But this is not the case. The world is always trying to tell us lies that lead us to believe that the Bible is not true. We need to trust God's Word alone. We need to look at everything through biblical glasses knowing that what God says is true!



#### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Bible tells us how God created the universe. We need no other proof but God's Word. It is reliable, trustworthy, and true. Through this account we clearly see His omnipotence—that by the Word of His mouth the universe appeared in all of its complexity and glory. He is all powerful and worthy of our worship and praise. He created it all in six 24-hour days. Anything you hear that contradicts the infallible Word of God is not true. Refer to Lesson Theme Poster for additional review.

#### GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

All of creation sings of who God is and should remind us of His omnipotence—His amazing power.

When you hear things on TV or from a friend, classmate, or teacher that might contradict the Bible, you must stop and ask yourself, "What does God's Word say?"

Please be especially aware of things that have to do with creation. Always compare what you hear with what God tells us in Genesis. And remember He is an eyewitness—He was there! He is the Creator—no man can claim that!

Don't believe everything you hear or see on TV. Wear your biblical glasses when you are looking at the people, world, and situations around you. *Refer to the Biblical Glasses poster.* 

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



#### **MEMORY VERSE**

**Exodus 20:11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

The Genesis creation account is referenced throughout the Bible. Our memory verse is taken from the book of Exodus. God confirmed His creation work when He included it in the Ten Commandments.

- Who can find our new memory verse on the Ten Commandments poster? Call on someone to find it after referring to the new Memory Verse poster.
- Which commandment is this verse part of? Fourth.

Good. Now, take a quick look at our Books of the Bible poster. Notice where Exodus is? It is the second book of the Bible, right after Genesis.

**Let's read Exodus 20:11 together.** Read the verse from the Memory Verse poster.



#### **GROUP PRAYER TIME**

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Praise God for His wonderful creation and thank Him for revealing this account in His Word.
- Ask God to deepen the faith of the students in His Word, that they might accept it for what it truly is—the Word of the all-powerful, all-knowing God.

