

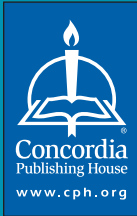
CROSS EXPLORATIONS®: GOD CREATES A WORLD AND A PEOPLE		
LESSON	TITLE/SCRIPTURE	KEY POINT
1	God Creates the World Genesis 1:1–2:3	God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. All creation is God’s blessing to us.
2	God Creates Adam and Eve Genesis 1:26–2:25	God has made us in His image, provides all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.
3	Sin Enters the World Genesis 3	Through Adam, sin spreads to all people. Through Christ, God offers forgiveness to all people.
4	Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1–16	Even though Cain sinned, God still loved and preserved him. Even though we sin, God, in Christ, still loves and preserves us.
5	Noah and the Flood Genesis 6:1–9:17	In the flood, God destroyed sinful people. God’s Son, Jesus, destroyed sin, once and for all, through His death and resurrection to give life to sinful people.
6	God’s Covenant with Abram Genesis 12:1–9; 15:1–6; 17	God chose Abram (Abraham) and gave him faith to trust His promises to save His people. God gives us faith in Jesus, our Savior.
7	Abraham’s Visitors from Heaven Genesis 18:1–15; 21:1–7	God came to Abraham with the promise of a son. Abraham’s descendant, our Lord Jesus, comes to us in Word and Sacraments, telling us that in Him all things are possible.
8	Abraham and Isaac Genesis 21:1–7; 22:1–19	God provided a ram as a sacrifice for Abraham and Isaac. He provides the perfect sacrifice for our sin: His Son, Jesus, the Lamb of God.
9	Isaac and Rebekah Genesis 24	God worked His plan of salvation through the lives of Isaac and Rebekah. God’s plan for our salvation is fulfilled through Jesus, their descendant.
10	Jacob and Esau Genesis 25:19–34; 27:1–40	God worked through Jacob and Esau, despite their sin, to advance His plan of salvation. In spite of our sinful actions, God accomplishes His will and plan for our lives.
11	Jacob’s Dream Genesis 27:41–28:22	God revealed the certainty of His presence now and forever to Jacob in a dream. God reveals Himself and His plan of salvation for us in His Word and Sacraments. We respond with praise and worship.
12	Jacob’s Family Genesis 29:1–30:24	Through Jacob’s family, God brought forth the Savior, Jesus Christ, who endured lies, deception, and the schemes of sinful mankind to work our salvation on the cross.
13	Esau Forgives Jacob Genesis 31:3; 32–33	Though Jacob was sinful and deceived his brother, God preserved his life and reconciled him with his brother, Esau. Through His Son, God preserves our lives. Jesus overcame sin and death on the cross to win our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Level
1

EXPLORE

God Creates a World
and a People
OLD TESTAMENT 1





Concordia
Publishing House
www.cph.org

ISBN 978-0-7586-5353-6



9 780758 653536

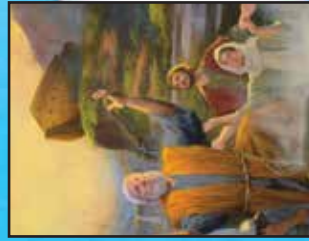
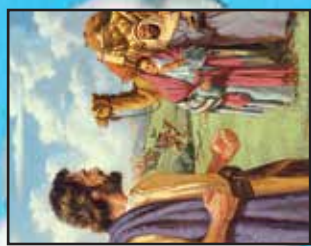
Christian Education
48-0120

Lessons 1–11 copyright © 2006, 2014, 2016 Concordia Publishing House; Lessons 12–13 copyright © 2007, 2016 Concordia Publishing House • 1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org • Edited by Amy N. Luckemeyer • Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. • Cross Explorations® is published by Concordia Publishing House. Your comments and suggestions concerning this material are appreciated. Email us at sundayschool@cph.org. • Cover art © CPH/Robert Papp • Printed in the USA



Teacher Leaflets
Grades 1–3

FAITH WORDS



God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Date of Use



Psalm 104:30 also portray the Spirit as an agent of creation. God's Word does what it says ("Let there be . . . and there was"). What God declares is true; God's Word is truth (John 17:17).

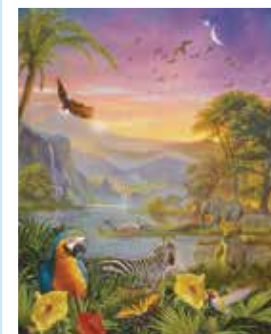
God begins His creation by creating light on the first day. God is the real source of light. Each day, God adds dramatically to the world that He calls "good"—heaven; earth and seas; plants; sun, moon, and stars; creatures that swim and fly; creatures that walk and crawl on the ground; and finally, man, both male and female. Some mistakenly worship the sun or other elements of creation that merely do what God assigns to them. However, they were not made to be worshiped but to be used.

The creation of people on the sixth day serves as the climax of creation. God creates both male and female in His image. Our image is not physical likeness but spiritual likeness, or righteousness. Note that man's rule over all other creatures and marriage/procreation are part of the sinless creation, which God declares "very good." God gives plants as food; death for humans and animals is not part of this perfect creation. Everything is intended to work for good.

Because God rested on the seventh day (our Saturday), the Sabbath ("rest") day was set apart ("made holy"). The ceremonial laws regarding the Sabbath have their fulfillment in Christ, who, having finished His work on Good Friday (John 19:30), rested in the tomb on the Sabbath.

Christians from the earliest times met on Sundays to celebrate His resurrection. The commandment concerning the Sabbath no longer pertains to a particular day of the week but rather to setting aside time so that God might re-create us through His Word. Creation's patterns give us a sense of how things "ought to be."

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Robert Papp © CPH

Review

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|--------|------------------|-------|------|---------|-----|
| Light | Sky | Plants | Sun, Moon, Stars | Birds | Fish | Animals | Man |
|-------|-----|--------|------------------|-------|------|---------|-----|

Long ago, God created the world by the power of His Word. He

made  on the first day. Then on the second day, God made

On the third day, God spoke and there were . The fourth day,

God added  to the sky. He created  and  on the

fifth day. On the sixth day, God's words created many wonderful .

That day was also special because God formed  to rule over all

the creatures. Everything God made was good! It was perfect! So God rested on the seventh day.



God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Get Ready

To prepare, read the Bible story and page 1 of this Teacher Leaflet.

Bring play dough to class.

Put up the Faith Words Poster (the poster inside the Teacher Leaflet cover).

Choose activities from pages 2 and 3 that work best for you. Look at the review on page 4.

Bible Memory Verse

God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.
Genesis 1:31

Start

Welcome your students. Then challenge them to use play dough to make a favorite animal and tell about it. While they are working, introduce the meaning of the word *create*—to make out of nothing.

Say

Before I gave you play dough, you had nothing in your hands. When God created the world, He made it out of nothing. At first, the world was like this play dough. It didn't have any shape. Today, we will read how God created the world.

Write the word *create* on the Faith Words Poster. (A complete list of Faith Words can be found on the Director CD.)

Say

Today's Bible lesson comes from the first book in the Bible, the Book of Genesis. Show the students the location of the Book of Genesis.

Do

- ☐ Give students the leaflet and have them write their names on page 1.
- ☐ Look at the story picture on page 1. Identify the characters and the setting. Then read The True Story on the next page.

Read

The True Story

In the beginning, there was nothing but God. He said four words: "Let there be light." And there was light. * God saw that the light was good. God called the light "day," and the darkness "night." There was evening and there was morning, the first day.

On the second day, God said, "Let there be an area between the water on earth and the water in the sky." And it was so. God called the space "the heavens." *

On the third day, God said, "Let dry land appear." God called the dry land "earth," and the water became seas, lakes, oceans, rivers, and ponds. God created even more that day. He said, "Let the earth sprout plants and fruit trees. And God liked what He had created. It was good. *

It was now the fourth day, and God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to separate day from night. Let there be seasons, days, and years." God made two of the lights special. The bigger light, the sun, was for day. The smaller light and the stars were for night. And God saw that it was good. *

On the fifth day, God said, "Let the waters be full of living creatures, and let birds fly in the sky." God liked what He created. It was all good. *

On the sixth day, God said the earth should bring forth all kinds of living creatures. Now God made a person. He made man in His image and wanted him to rule over everything He had made. *

On the seventh day, God finished His work and rested. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

Look

- ☐ Ask volunteers to read the sections in red while you read the other parts. Then review Bible account using the illustrations as a guide.
- ☐ Explain that God inspired Moses to write the first five books of the Bible, including Genesis. Together, name the other books.

Find

- ☐ If your students are capable, have them work together to read the Bible verses and answer the questions.

Genesis 1:1–2

In the beginning, what was the earth like?

The earth was without form. It was shapeless. There was darkness. The Spirit of God hovered over the waters.

Genesis 2:1–3

What was God's "work" in verse 3? What did He do next?

God rested on the seventh day. He also blessed that day and made it holy.

Share

Do

- ☐ Encourage your students to take home their leaflet.
- ☐ Talk about the Family Time activities on page 3 of the Student Leaflet. Read the Lily's Day cartoon. Discuss what Lily is trying to teach Sprout about creation.
- ☐ Review the lesson with the activity on the back of the Student Leaflet.

Directions

Invite the students to work as partners and read the Bible story.

- ☐ Teach the Bible Memory Verse, using the cues at the bottom of the review page.
- ☐ Take time to reflect on today's lesson. What went well? What concerns do you have?

God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26–2:25

Date of Use _____



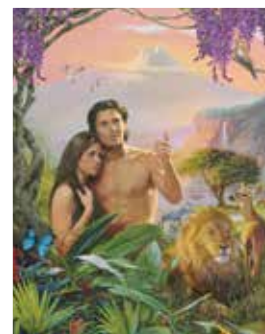
Four rivers flow from around Eden, including two that were the mainstay of Mesopotamian life and civilization: the Tigris and the Euphrates. The locations of the other two rivers have not been identified, perhaps due to changes to the earth's surface during the worldwide flood later in Genesis.

Man is given the task of working the garden. To this day, work, or vocation, remains one of our innate needs. Adam's naming of the animals shows mastery as well as intelligence.

Note the underlying pattern, hierarchy, and priority. There are things above and below; all things are good, but some are better—or could be better. Adam in Paradise needs a "suitable helper." The woman is created from his flesh so that he will care for her as for himself. Moses issues a command: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). The marriage relationship has priority even over parental obligations.

The man and woman were naked and without shame. They were open and trusting, with nothing to hide. A child with beautiful freckles may be made ashamed due to hurtful comments and insults and then may internalize that shame. Shame arises from evil without as well as from evil within; Paradise was free of both. Living according to God's Law brings earthly blessing. The man Adam foreshadows Christ, the new Adam (Romans 5:12–21), who brings believers into eternal paradise (Luke 23:43).

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Robert Papp © CPH

www.cph.org

LESSON 2

Read the questions and fill in the blanks with the answers.

Review

1. Who created everything men and women need to live on the earth?
2. Who took dirt from the ground, shaped it into a man, and breathed life into the man?
3. Who placed man in the Garden of Eden and gave him dominion over all things?
4. Who put Adam into a deep sleep and used Adam's rib to create a woman, Eve, to be a wife for Adam?
5. Who made man to be perfect and holy?
6. When the first people, and all people after that, sinned, who made a special plan to save people from the punishment of sin?
7. Who sent His very own Son, Jesus, to suffer and die on the cross for you?

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____



I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14

Start

Get Ready

To prepare, read the Bible story and page 1 of this Teacher Leaflet.

For class, attach small bows to 3 × 5 cards. Have on hand markers or crayons.

Put up the Faith Words Poster (the poster inside the Teacher Leaflet cover).

Choose activities from pages 2 and 3 that work best for you. Look at the review on page 4.

Bible Memory Verse

I praise You,
for I am
fearfully and
wonderfully
made.
Psalm 139:14

Do

- ☐ Before class attach small bows or ribbons to 3 × 5-inch cards. Set out crayons or markers. Wear a bow yourself and put one on any plants in your classroom.
- ☐ Welcome the students. Hand them a card, and give them an assignment.

Say

The Bible says all creation is a gift for man. On this card, write about or draw a picture of something in creation that you appreciate.

Give students time to reflect, write, or draw.

Say

Trade cards and bows with your neighbor. Talk about what you drew or wrote.

Give the students time to trade and share their pictures.

Say

The Bible tells us that God wanted man to rule over creation with loving care. God gave man dominion over creation. Write the word *dominion* on the Faith Words Poster. **Now think of one wise way to have dominion over the item on your card.**

Once again, as time allows, ask the students to share their ideas.

Do

- ☐ Give students the leaflet and have them write their names on page 1.
- ☐ Look at the story picture on page 1. Identify the characters and the setting. Then read The True Story on the next page. The text is written in two colors. As an option, pause at the end of reading the paragraphs in black and ask a volunteer to read the words in red.

Read

The True Story

Before God created man and woman, He made everything they would need to live on earth. He created dark and light; a sky to separate the waters above from the waters below. He created soil as well as trees and other plants. He created the sun, moon, and stars; fish and birds; and all the animals.

God made man too. He formed man from the dirt of the ground, breathed the breath of life into the man, and he came alive.

God created Adam and placed him in a beautiful home called the Garden of Eden. The garden had two special trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It also had flowing rivers. *

God gave Adam a special job to have dominion over all creation. That meant Adam would rule over everything. * Adam even named all the animals, but he was alone.

God knew that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. So God made a suitable helper for him. He had Adam fall into a deep sleep and then took a rib from Adam's side. God used the rib to form a woman, and she came alive. The woman's name was Eve, and she was a wife for Adam.

God made Adam and Eve in His image or likeness. That doesn't mean they looked like God or had His power. It means they were perfect and holy. They were without sin. *

Through Jesus, God makes us holy. He provides all things for our good. He makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.

Sadly, since Adam and Eve sinned, we are all sinners. We aren't perfect, and we don't always rule wisely over creation. But our God offers us forgiveness because of the sacrifice of His Son. In mercy, God continues His gift giving. He grants us exactly what we need for this life and our life with Him in heaven.

Look

- ☐ Assign students to work as partners and reread the story and look at the pictures in the "Look" column.

Find

- ☐ Have students work together to read the Bible verses and to answer the questions.

Genesis 2:8–10

List what was in the Garden of Eden.

There were trees that were beautiful and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God placed man in the garden. A river also flowed out of Eden.

Genesis 2:23

What does Adam call "bone of my bones" and "flesh of my flesh"?

He calls her Woman.

Share

Do

- ☐ Encourage your students to take home their leaflet.
- ☐ Talk about the Family Time activities on page 3 of the Student Leaflet. Read the Lily's Day cartoon. Ask the students to tell you why Lily is putting bows on so many things.
- ☐ Review the lesson with the activity on the back of the Student Leaflet.

Directions

Read the questions and fill in the blanks with the answers.

The answer to each question is God.

- ☐ Teach the Bible Memory Verse, using the fun cues at the bottom of the review page. Your students might enjoy making up a cheer to reflect the meaning of the words.
- ☐ Take time to reflect on today's lesson. What went well?