

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
2

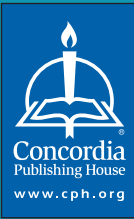
God Creates a World
and a People

OLD TESTAMENT 1

EXPLORE



Teacher Leaflets
Grades 4–6



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Christian Education

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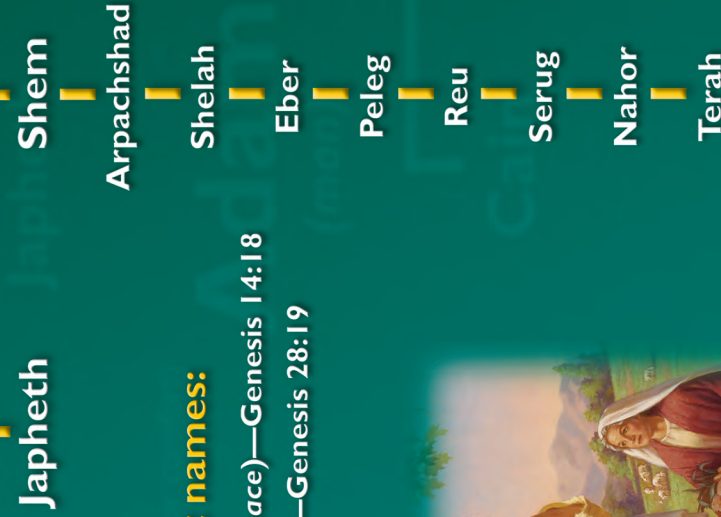
Adam
(man)

Eve
(mother of all living)



People and Names

(sounds like Hebrew for comfort)



Other important names:

Salem (Jerusalem) (peace)—Genesis 14:18
Bethel (house of God)—Genesis 28:19



Sarai/Sarah
(princess)

Abram/Abraham
(exalted father/father of a multitude)

Nahor

Haran

Lot

Hagar



Isaac
(he laughs)

Rebekah
(related to "birthright" and "blessing")

Ishmael
(God hears)

Jacob/Israel
(grasps the heel, cheater)

Esau
(hairy)



Say

Our God continues to give to us. God gave His own Son to be our Savior. Jesus came to us to pay the price for our sins and those of the world. Christ's death and resurrection made things right with the Father once again. This forgiveness is a free gift to us. Not only did He send His Son to save us from our sins, but He fills all of our earthly needs as well.

Which Gift?

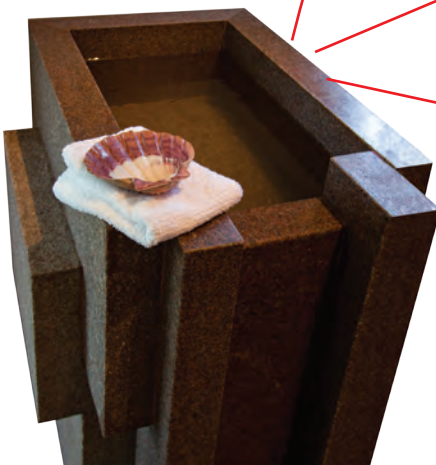
Have students draw a line from the description in the middle to the gift it describes on the left and right. More than one answer is possible for some.



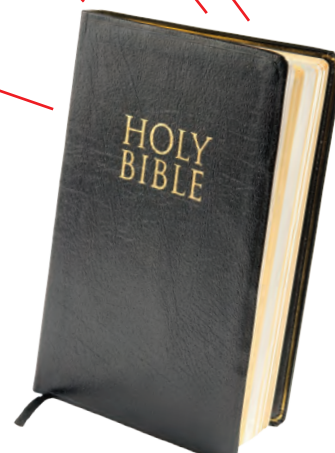
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- Made in six days
- God's gift to us
- Is God's Word
- Provides our earthly needs
- Created by God's Word
- Many authors, all inspired by God
- We receive the Holy Spirit
- One "Author," God Himself
- Provides forgiveness of sins

Preparing the Lesson

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Date of Use



Key Point

God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. All creation is God's blessing to us.

Law/Gospel

God requires that I believe that He is the only true God, the Creator and Sustainer of the world. **God gives me faith to believe that He created the earth and heavens, and He continues to provide me with all that I need to sustain this body and life, including forgiveness for my sins, through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

Context

Genesis is a family history about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (called Israel), chosen by God. The creation account and other material in Genesis 1–11 serves as foundation for the family history that follows in Genesis 12–50.

Moses is the authority behind the first five books of the Bible, called the Torah (Law). Some material was revealed directly to Moses; other material was known to generations before Moses and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, was set down by him or immediate successors.

The Genesis accounts of creation, the preflood world, the flood, and the immediate resettlement after the flood have parallels in ancient writings that predate Moses, particularly in Mesopotamia.

Commentary

The Spirit of God hovering over the waters of the formless void shows that the Spirit brings order out of chaos. This image recurs in the Baptism of Christ (Mark 1:10), where it reminds us that in Christ we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), with the Spirit bringing order out of our chaos. The Hebrew word translated "Spirit" in Genesis 1:2 also means "wind" or "breath."

Words are formed from breath. As God proceeds to speak creation into being, the Genesis account establishes a unity between God the speaker, the Word by which He created the world, and the Spirit. This Word became flesh in Christ Jesus, as proclaimed in John 1:1–14. The words of

Psalms 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).

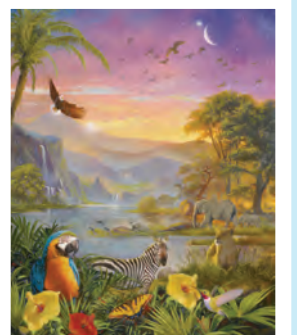
God begins His creation by creating light on the first day. God is the real source of light. Each day, God adds dramatically to the world that He calls "good"—heaven; earth and seas; plants; sun, moon, and stars; creatures that swim and fly; creatures that walk and crawl on the ground; and finally, man, 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

Start

Get Ready

Read Genesis 1:1–2:3; review the Key Point and Law/Gospel Points.

Read **Preparing the Lesson**.

Review and adapt the activities suggested in this leaflet to suit your students and the time you have available.

Pray that God blesses the students through His Word.

Bible Memory Verse

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

Bring a jigsaw puzzle with at least one hundred interlocking pieces to class. Open the box and show students the individual pieces.

Ask

How many times do you think I might have to pour the pieces from the box before they will become linked together to form the picture on the box? *Most students will agree that*

it won't ever happen. What if you threw the pieces onto the table with greater force? Some pressure is required to put pieces together, but too much force will damage or destroy the pieces. It is obvious that putting the puzzle together will require intelligent, thoughtful effort.

Have a volunteer read the text to the right of the Bible art on the leaflet cover.

Read

Say

The Bible tells us that the creation of the world was not an accident but a miraculous event, the work of our creative, all-powerful triune God. We sin when we doubt His Word or claim for ourselves the creative power He calls His own. Let's see what the Scriptures say about God, the Author and Creator of life.

Genesis 1:1 sets up the creation account with the well-known words "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." In the verses that follow, God's creative work each day is explained.

Work together to read the selected verses from Genesis 1 and 2 and complete the blanks on the chart.

ON DAY	GOD MADE	IT SAYS SO IN	AND GOD
One	Light; Day and Night	Genesis 1:3–5	saw that it was good.
Two	Heaven	Genesis 1:6–8	saw that it was good.
Three	Earth and Seas; Plants	Genesis 1:9–10, 11–13	saw that it was good.
Four	Sun, Moon, and Stars	Genesis 1:14–19	saw that it was good.
Five	Sea Creatures and Birds	Genesis 1:20–23	saw that it was good.
Six	Earth Creatures; Man and Woman	Genesis 1:24–25, 26–31	saw that all He made was very good.
Seven	God Rested	Genesis 2:1–3	blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

Look

What God Says CREATION	What Some People Claim EVOLUTION
God created a mature world and everything in it.	New creatures come into being only through mutations (changes to cells) that happen by accident.
Man was created distinctly unique from animals and to have dominion over the earth.	Man developed from animals over a long period of time.
The earth was created "very good."	The earth is imperfect and is moving toward perfection as mutations occur.
Sin is the cause of death. God gives life.	Death is necessary for the earth to become better. Survival of the fittest.

Say

A scientific theory about the origin of the universe suggests that a "big bang" millions of years ago pushed atoms together to form life, which then evolved into the world and life-forms that we know.

Review the chart comparing creation and evolution with students. Be sure to answer any questions that might come up in your discussion.

Say

People cannot scientifically prove the theory of evolution. Still, many stubbornly insist that evolution explains how the earth came into being. By faith, Christians believe what the Word of God teaches about creation.

Read together the words of Hebrews 11:3 and 1 Timothy 6:20–21.



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At Home

Briefly point out the At Home section of the leaflet and encourage the students to share the leaflet and what they have learned in this lesson with their families, especially the questions printed.

Some Very Unusual Animals

Adam had an important responsibility in naming the animals. When we think of this, we usually consider lions, bears, and other common animals that we might see. Yet, there are many animals we rarely think of. Have students share their own creative names for these animals, and then tell them the actual names listed below.



Jerboa



Kiwi



Civet



Echinda



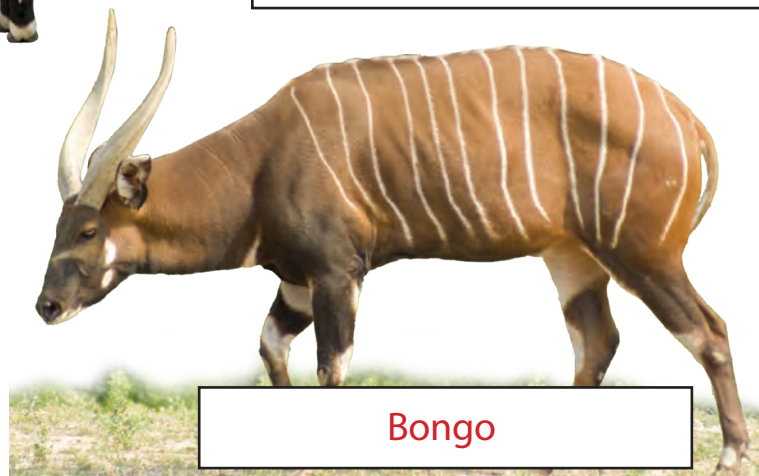
Okapi



Pangolin



Capybara



Bongo

Preparing the Lesson

God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26–2:25

Date of Use



Key Point

God has made us in His image, provides all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.

Law/Gospel

God appoints me as a caretaker of His creation and expects me to take care of it for His glory and the good of others. **God provides me with all good things for this life and forgives me for Jesus' sake when I put myself above Him and His creation or when I misuse or neglect my vocation to rule the earth properly.**

Context

Some have argued that Genesis 2 is a second account of creation. But Genesis 2 presupposes the five preceding days of creation. This chapter reviews in more detail the creation of mankind in Adam and Eve.

Commentary

The name *Adam* means “earth” and points to humanity’s material aspect. But the “breath,” or “spirit,” of God makes Adam a living being and gives him fellowship with God. God is the source of life—turning away from that source leads to death. Having God’s Spirit in Genesis 2 corresponds to being made in the image of God in Genesis 1. The earthly blessings that follow express the love God has for Adam.

Eden is sometimes called “Paradise” (garden). The tree of life within Eden may have been planted near running or “living” water—as in Psalm 1:3. Note that the tree of life and living water are linked again in Revelation 22:1–2.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is sometimes identified as an apple tree because the Latin words for *evil* and *apple* share the same root, *mal*. Jewish tradition pictures the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as a citron tree or a grapevine. But the actual fruit is never identified in Scripture.

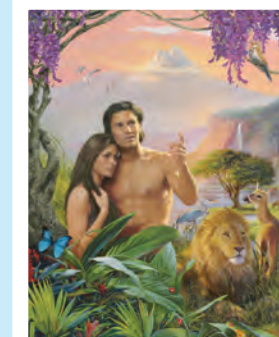
Four rivers flow from around Eden, including two that were the mainstay of Mesopotamian life and civilization: the Tigris and the Euphrates. The locations of the other two rivers have not been identified, perhaps due to changes to the earth’s surface during the worldwide flood later in Genesis.

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.



Start

Get Ready

Read Genesis 1:26–2:25; review the Key Point and Law/Gospel Points.

Read **Preparing the Lesson**.

Review and adapt the activities suggested in this leaflet to suit your students and the time you have available.

Pray that God blesses the students through His Word.

Bible Memory Verse

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

Bring one or two handmade objects to class; this could include a piece of pottery, a quilt, or a knitted or crocheted item. Show the handmade items to students as you begin.

Say

How was this made? **By hand** What is involved in making an item by hand? **A lot of time, materials, energy** What are some things you have made by hand? Allow time for answers. **When you make something by hand, you feel proud of your work, and you feel a special sort of ownership toward that item because it's unique and it's yours.** Today's lesson is about the creation of man. God made man in a way that was different from all His other creatures—He formed man as a potter forms a vessel of clay, and He breathed into man His own "breath of life."

Distribute Student Leaflet 2. Read, or have a student volunteer read, the introduction on page 1 of the student leaflet.

Read

Ask

How was God's creation of man different from all other creatures?

Genesis 1:27: **God created Adam in His own image.**

Genesis 2:7: **God personally created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into Adam the "breath of life."**

Ask

What responsibilities did God give Adam?

Genesis 1:26: **Adam had dominion over all other creatures.**

Genesis 2:15: **Adam was to work and keep the Garden of Eden.**

Genesis 2:20: **Adam was to name the other creatures in the garden.**

Ask

How did God provide for Adam's happiness?

Genesis 2:18: **God did not want Adam to be alone.**

Genesis 2:21–25: **God created Eve from Adam's rib; Adam and Eve became husband and wife.**

Ask

What did God expect of Adam and Eve?

Genesis 1:28: **Adam and Eve are to "Be fruitful and multiply." God wants them to have children.**

Genesis 2:18: **Eve was created as Adam's helper.**

Genesis 2:16–17: **God gave Adam and Eve the freedom to enjoy all things in the garden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

Say

As descendants of Adam and Eve, we also enjoy a unique place in God's creation and a unique relationship with God our heavenly Father. Like them, we praise our Creator and are called to obey Him.

Look

Say

Adam and Eve enjoyed a close relationship with their Creator that was unique among God's creatures. They were made in God's image, knowing His will and living according to it. Adam and Eve listened to God. They were without sin and lived in a world without sin. **We don't have to look far to see that our lives are not like theirs. We are sinners living in a sinful world. The image of God was destroyed by sin.**

Ask

How has sin affected our world?

	IN GOD'S IMAGE	WITHOUT GOD'S IMAGE
VOCATION 	Adam and Eve care for the earth, God's creatures, and each other. Vocation is serving our neighbor.	We do not care for God's creation. We do not serve or help others. We care more about ourselves than our neighbor.
MARRIAGE 	Adam rejoices in God's gift; he cherishes his wife, Eve. Their relationship is without conflict.	People live together outside of marriage. God's institution of marriage—one man and one woman—is corrupted. Divorce is common.
WORSHIP 	Adam and Eve worship God as their Creator and Lord; they know and follow His will. It is a joyous union.	Instead of worshiping the Creator, we worship the creation. We find worship boring and think of it as something we do for God.

Say

Thanks be to God that He does not leave us to be condemned for our sin. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be destroyed on the cross for our sin that, through faith in Christ, we might be redeemed from sin, death, and the devil.

At Home

Briefly point out the At Home section of the leaflet and encourage the students to share the leaflet and what they have learned in this lesson with their families, especially the questions printed.