

COMPASS Lesson for Week 1 -- Genesis 1:1-2:3

I V A M W I L D L I F E F
S E E D B E A R I N G L R
U G H Z S W A M V B K I U
B E O X I M A G E M L V I
D T L I K E N E S S R I T
U A Y B I B L E T W V N F
E T G E N E S I O K A G U
K I N D S K I D C I E R L
C O M P A S S X K N B Z M
F N Q M U L T I P L Y Q W

Read the words defined below, find them in the word search, then check them off.

- VEGETATION** – another name for plants
- KINDS** – groupings of similar plants or animals
- SEED-BEARING** – Any kind of plant that produces seeds
- SWARM** – many fish in one small space
- FRUITFUL** – having many babies
- MULTIPLY** – babies growing up and having more babies
- LIVESTOCK** – farm animals like cows and sheep
- WILDLIFE** – animals that live in the wild
- IMAGE** – similar to God, with a mind and a spirit
- LIKENESS** – like a painting that represents a person's face
- SUBDUE** – to tame the wild animals
- HOLY** – to set apart as something special

The Creation

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

"God created". If this is true, what does that mean for the concept that humans evolved from random molecules over a long period of time?

²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

The light in verse three is not the same as the light from the sun (that comes later on day 4). This is the light that characterizes God. What are some things about light that we could say also describe God?

The Hebrew word for Day means a literal 24 hour period of time. Its use here is one of the reasons we believe that God took six literal days to create the entire universe.

⁶Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." ⁷So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

The sky is all the air in our atmosphere that surrounds the earth. It is one of the many special things about the earth that God designed to support life. What are some other things necessary for life that God created this very first week?

⁹Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was

good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. ¹²The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³Evening came and then morning: the third day.

Do you think it might be strange that God would create all living plants that need light to survive (day 3) before he actually created the sun to shine on them (day 4)? Since most plants survive overnight without the sun, it's not too hard to believe they might survive from day 3 to day 4 without it.

¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. ¹⁵They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. ¹⁷God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

When you consider all the wonderful things we see in the night sky, and how vast and full is the universe outside of our solar system, it seems really strange that verse 16 would talk about them as sort of an add-on thought, "as well as the stars". What other wonderful things did God create that we might take not think about very often?

²⁰Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." ²³Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

God wants all living creatures to reproduce and make more of themselves through their children. God delights in seeing His creation grow and spread.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

God said, "Let Us..." This is one of the first evidences that we see in the Bible that he is one God, but found in three persons (Father, Son and Spirit). Find the another reference to this fact somewhere in the first three verses of the chapter.

²⁷So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." ²⁹God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

As bearers of God's image, we humans can think, feel emotions, and understand our own existence. What other things can people do that animals can't do that set us apart as image-bearers of our creative God?

¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ²On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

God didn't really need to rest like we would if we worked hard for 6 days. But He rested anyway to give us a pattern for how we ought to live our lives. Besides actually 'taking it easy', what other really healthy aspects of rest might we enjoy because of God's example?

Ideas for Teaching the Younger Children

Illustrating the creation story can be pretty fun. You might consider starting the story in a dark room. Then when you get to the light, turn on a flashlight or a camping lamp. Consider bringing a bucket or pan of dirt to illustrate dry land. Blow up a balloon to talk about air or sky. Bring a potted plant to illustrate the creation of living plants. Bring in some dry beans and show how they are really seeds that will grow a whole new bean plant if it's planted in the dirt. Ask about each child's pets to describe the creation of animals. Finally, talk about people as God's crowning creative achievement.

Talk about what makes people different than animals. Emphasize characteristics that we share with God that the animals do not. Things like: 1) we can make choices, 2) we can appreciate the rest of God's creation, 3) we can seek God as our Creator, 4) we can love and be loved, 5) we can sin when we choose to disobey God, etc.

Talk about the Sabbath. Discuss that physical rest is not the only reason for the Sabbath. "Brainstorm" some other Sabbath activities that would please and honor God that represent a departure of the "work" we do the other 6 days of the week. These would include worshipping with our church community, taking a special time alone to be with God, taking time to pray with your family, having family devotions, have the kids ask Mom and Dad any questions about God and his world.