

CREATION

Genesis 1 - 2:3

STRUCTURE

Key-person: God

Key-locations: Heaven and Earth

Key-repetitions:

- God's action: created (Gen 1:1, 21,27); saw (Gen 1:4, 25, 31); made (Gen 1:7, 16, 25); called (Gen 1:10); set/put (Gen 1:17); blessed (Gen 1:22, 28); gave (Gen 1:29-31).
- God commanded: let there be (Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26); be (Gen 1:28); do not (Gen 1:15).
- God said, and it was so (Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24).
- Evening came and then morning (Gen 1:3, 6, 11, 19, 23, 31).
- Separation: light from darkness (Gen 1:4); water above from water below (Gen 1:6-7); seas from dry land (Gen 1:9); work from rest (Gen 2:2).
- God saw that it was good (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31).
- Reproduce according to its own kind (Gen 1:11,12, 21, 25).
- Creation of man (Gen 1:26-27; 2:7).
- Responsibility of man to rule over the creation (Gen 1:26, 28).

Key-attitudes:

- Positive attitude; everything created was good.
- God's love; he created a paradise for mankind.

Initial-situation:

Considering that Genesis chapters one and two both deal with the beginning of all things, there is no historical context that precedes the creation event.

Initial-problem:

The earth was formless, empty of life and dark.

Final-situation:

By the seventh day, God finished his work and rested. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day, because on that day he rested from his creation work.

BIBLE STORY

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. The earth was a formless void, empty of life, and dark. God's Spirit moved around over the waters (Gen 1:1-2).

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw the light was good. God separated light from darkness and called the light "day" and he called the darkness "night." Evening came and then morning; which was the first day (Gen 1:3-5).

God said, "Let there be a space between the waters to separate water from water." And it was so. Some of the water was under the space and some of the water was high above the space. God called the space "sky." Evening came and then morning; which was the second day (Gen 1:4-8).

God said, "Let the water under the sky gather to one place so dry ground will appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land." God called the gathered waters "seas." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees with seed inside the fruit. Every seed will reproduce its own kind." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees. And God saw that it was good.

Evening came and then morning; which was the third day (Gen 1:9-13).

God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. Let these lights serve as signs to mark seasons, days, and years." And it was so.

God made two great lights in the sky: the brighter light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. God also made the stars. God put the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Evening came and then morning; which was the fourth day (Gen 1:14-19).

God said, "Let the water be filled with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth." So God created great sea creatures, every kind of fish, and every living thing that moves in the sea. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and grow in number. Let the fish and water creatures fill the waters. Let the birds grow in number on the earth."

Evening came and then morning; which was the fifth day (Gen 1:20-23).

God said, "Let the land produce every kind of animal. Let there be livestock, reptiles, and wild animals. Let each reproduce according to its own kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals, livestock, and reptiles; each one reproducing its own kind. And God saw that it was good (Gen 1:24-25).

Then God said, "Let us make man to be like us. Let them rule the fish, birds, livestock, and reptiles." So God created man to be like himself. He created male and female. God blessed them and told them, "Have many children; fill the earth with people and be its master. Rule over the fish, the birds, and every reptile (Gen 1:26-28).

"I give you every seed-bearing plant and every fruit tree to eat. I give all the green plants for food to all the livestock, wild animals, birds, and reptiles." And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Evening came and then morning; which was the sixth day (Gen 1:29-31).

By the seventh day, God had finished his work and rested. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day, because on that day he rested from his creation work (Gen 2:2-3).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were some of God's actions mentioned during the creation process?
2. What commands did God give during the creation process?
3. What was God's opinion of his creation?
4. How was the creation of people different from the creation of everything else?
5. What responsibilities did God give people?
6. What responsibilities do we have for God's creation?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **The creation story reveals many facts about God's character, actions, and abilities in seed form.** As the Bible story continues, these seed-facts will grow larger and become more visible.
2. **God is the divine ruler.** He created the universe by pronouncing his will, and it was accomplished. God created through ordering, separating, and naming the things created.
3. **Everything God created was good.** God saw that individual created items were good (Gen 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25) and that the total of his creation was very good (Gen 1:31).
4. **People were made to be similar to God.** People were made to be human but godlike (Gen 1:26). The god-likeness of people equipped them for godlike rule over the fish, birds, and animals (Gen 1:26). Of all the creation, only people were made to be like God, yet human.
5. **God created people to be responsible.** God established limitations, and he gave people responsibilities. He gave Adam the responsibility to oversee his creation. Animal life was subject to man (Gen 1:28). Man was to farm the land (Gen 2:15) and rule over the animals (Gen 1:26, 28). Man was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:15-17).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Pantomime Retelling of the Story:

Choose seven volunteers, one for each day of the week. Retell the story and each volunteer pantomimes the activity of his day at the appropriate time.

2. Chant:

Words in **bold and underlined** are stressed. Stress words by stretching them out instead of increasing volume.

ALL	
“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” (Hebrews 11:3 NIV).	
GROUP 1	GROUP 2
By <u>faith</u>	we <u>understand</u>
that the <u>universe</u> was formed	at <u>God’s</u> command
so that what <u>is seen</u>	<u>was not</u> made out of what was visible.
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