



2

Creation Days 1–4

Key Themes

- The Bible tells us how God created the universe.
- God created the universe from nothing in six days.

Key Passage

- Genesis 1:1–19

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Define the meaning of the word day (*yom*) as used in Genesis 1.
- Identify that God created plants “according to their kinds.”



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

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: Memory Verse Review

page 5

Students will practice their memory verse by putting the Memory Verse strips in the proper order.



Studying God's Word

page 6

The context of the Hebrew word *yom* in Genesis 1 confirms that the days of creation were normal 24-hour days. God created specific types of plants on Day 3 to reproduce according to their kind.



Activity 2: Consider the Seeds

page 11

Students will examine various seeds and consider what *according to its kind* means for plants.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't already done this, print the Big Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 1; cut and fold them, and put them in a cup. Keep the answer Key for your own use.

- Cup with Big Questions
- Big Questions answer key



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

- For each student, print one set of the Exodus 20:11 Memory Verse strips from the Resource DVD-ROM. Put complete sets into envelopes. Keep these sets for future lessons.

- Memory Verse strip sets in envelopes for each student



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one copy of the Drawing Creation Days instructions (Days 1–6) from the Resource DVD-ROM for use in class. You will use Days 1–4 today.
- Print and cut the Lesson mini-posters from the Resource DVD-ROM. Cut one set apart. Print on cardstock.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Drawing Creation Days instructions
- Six lesson mini-posters for each student
- Wall putty



CONSIDER THE SEEDS

- Gather various seeds.
- Make an answer key, if necessary, to identify your seed assortment.

- Container with various seeds in it
- Seed answer key



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.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for this lesson, read Genesis 1.

Through the book of Genesis, God intended for us to know specifically what He created and how long it took Him to create. The creation account allows us just a small glimpse of the power—the omnipotence—of our mighty God as He speaks, by the power of His Word, the entire universe into existence. Our lesson this week will include Days 1–4 (Genesis 1:1–19).

Day One includes the heavens, the formless earth, the waters covering the earth, and light which was separated from darkness. In addition to that, time itself began on the first day (Genesis 1:3–5).

On Day Two God created the “firmament” or “expanse.” The Hebrew word is *raqiya*, and it has the idea of something spread out. This firmament was called “heaven,” and this is what God created to separate the waters below from the waters above (Genesis 1:6–8).

God caused the dry land to appear and gathered the seas together to one place on the earth. He then spoke the grass, herbs, and trees into existence. This was Day Three (Genesis 1:9–13).

God again spoke and created lights in the expanse of the heavens—the sun, moon, stars, and other heavenly bodies appeared on Day Four (Genesis 1:14–19).

The Hebrew word for “created” is a word that depicts the making of something from nothing. God created our world *ex nihilo*—out of nothing that had previously existed (see Hebrews 11:3). The Bible reiterates that God is Creator in several other passages: Psalm 148:4–6; Isaiah 40:25–26; Colossians 1:15–16; Revelation 4:11. He spoke and it came to be. This is impossible for us to comprehend. But it should leave us breathless in the knowledge that He alone is worthy of our praise.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Those who want to fit evolution (and its millions of years) into the creation account in Genesis often reinterpret the 24-hour days in Genesis to be millions of years in length. As Christians who stand firmly on the authority of God’s Word, we believe that a day is a day—24 hours—just as the Bible says.

We can understand the length of the days of creation by exploring the Hebrew word for “day” in Genesis 1, which is *yom* (rhymes with *home*). First, almost any word can have more than one meaning, depend-

ing on context. *Yom* can have several meanings. It can mean a day (an ordinary 24-hour day), the daylight portion of an ordinary 24-hour day (i.e., day as distinct from night), or an indefinite period of time describing an era (e.g., in the day of the judges, in the day of the Lord, or in my grandfather’s day).

When determining the meaning of the word *yom* in the context of Scripture, theologians have relied on Hebrew dictionaries like the *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. This respected Hebrew resource actually gives Genesis 1 as an example of an instance in Scripture where the word *yom* refers specifically to a 24-hour day.

We also know that the Hebrew word *yom* always refers to an ordinary day when associated with a number and the words “evening” or “morning.” In fact, whenever the word *yom* is used in the Old Testament in this way it clearly refers to a 24-hour day. This simple study of the Hebrew language confirms the Genesis account of creation in six 24-hour days.

The study of Genesis and its accuracy as to the age of the earth is never far from a discussion of fossils. Fossils are the remains, traces, or imprints of dead plants or animals that have been preserved in the earth’s near-surface rock layers. Secular scientists view fossils as evidence for a long prehistory for the earth and life on it—spanning millions of years.

Creationists view the same fossil deposits around the world and understand that these had to be formed by the rapid burial of countless billions of plants and animals. This rapid burial, when looked at through the lens of Scripture, is consistent with a global, catastrophic, year-long Genesis Flood which occurred, according to the biblical time frame, about 4,300 years ago.

Why is this an important issue? Because millions of years of history create an insurmountable problem regarding the gospel. The fossil record consists of the death of billions of creatures. It is a record of death, disease, suffering, cruelty, and brutality. The Bible makes it clear that God’s creation was “very good” (Genesis 1:31) and that it was the sin of Adam that brought death, disease, and suffering into the world (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12). Death is the penalty for sin; Jesus Christ is the remedy. When Christians allow for death, suffering, and disease before sin, they are ignoring the exclusive message of the Cross and Christ’s atoning work there, and they impugn the character of God who called His creation “very good.”

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to the 1700s, few believed in an old earth. Most people accepted the biblical account of Genesis and believed that the earth was approximately 6,000 years old. The subjective concepts of old age and uniformitarian geology—the view that slow and gradual processes, rather than a global catastrophe, created the earth's rock layers—started in the mid-1700s and 1800s. This was the beginning of the surrender of the truth of Genesis and the belief in millions of years of earth's history.

These concepts have weakened the culture of the western world and have affected the church because they attack the veracity of the very Word of God. Genesis 1 tells us exactly how God created the universe and exactly how long it took Him. To deny the very beginning verses of God's Word is to open the door of compromise to many other Scriptural truths. The church is rushing down that road of compromise and must realize the urgent need to ignite a new reforma-

tion—calling believers back to the absolute authority of the Bible.

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



BEFORE THE THRONE

El Shaddai, God Almighty, I worship you as my Creator. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your Law this week. Help me to have a teachable heart as I prepare, that I will learn new truths from your Word. Then help me pass that understanding on to my class. Open their hearts so they believe the wonderful truths about creation. Help them to gain confidence to believe your Word above man's word. And please dear Father, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will pick questions from the cup or container and read them aloud.
- They will look up the Scripture on the question slip to determine the correct answer. Refer to the Big Questions answer key for answers.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

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.

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.



Memory Verse Review

MATERIALS

- Exodus 20:11 Memory Verse strip set in small plastic bag for each student (Be sure to keep these verse sets for future lessons.)

INSTRUCTIONS

I am going to pass out some strips of paper that have our memory verse printed on them. Each of you will get your own set. When I say "go" open your bag and put the verse pieces in order as quickly as possible. Stand up when you have the verse in order. But don't start until I say, "Go." *Begin passing out prepared Memory Verse strips to each student.*

"Go!" *Students should remove their strips of paper from their bag and put them in order, standing to indicate they are finished. Have the Memory Verse poster displayed somewhere in the room. Students may use that for reference.*

When everyone is finished, recite the verse as a class a couple of times. Encourage students to look away from the words of the verse as much as possible. Collect the Memory Verse strips for use again in future classes.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This verse is taken from Exodus where we read that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Bible says that these words were written by the very finger of God. It tells us the events of Creation Week in a nutshell! The Lord made all things in six days, and He rested on the seventh day.

We are going to continue working on this verse for several more weeks. God wants us to delight in His Word. Memorizing Scripture is one way we can do that.





Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Today, we are going to study more details about the first four creation days. Everyone turn to the first chapter of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. I'd like volunteers to read Genesis 1:1-5. *Choose student readers.*

Genesis 1:1-5

➤ The drawing Creation Days sheet from the DVD-ROM gives more information on how to present this.

While you are reading, I am going to draw some simple pictures to illustrate each day of Creation Week. *Have children read Genesis 1:1-5, describing the creation of the first day. Draw a picture on the board according to the instructions on the Resource DVD-ROM "Drawing Creation Days." You will be adding to the picture per the instructions as the children read the verses.*

This is a simple illustration to show the earth with space all around it. There was nothing else in all of space except the rotating, undecorated, unfilled earth. I'm going to shade half the earth—this represents the darkness that covered the earth. This non-shaded area represents the light that God spoke into existence.

Genesis 1:6-8

➤ You may want to use a poster board as you draw the six days of creation (instead of the board).

OK. Now read 1:6-8. *Assign students to read. Draw separated waters picture in second frame as the students read.*

On Day Two God created the firmament or expanse. He then separated the waters that were upon the face of the earth. The waves in this drawing represent the water below. The clouds represent the waters above the earth. The "firmament" or "expanse" is basically everything we see when we look up. That is represented in the drawing as the remaining space in the picture.

? Who remembers what we said the firmament or expanse was? We talked about it last week. *It is the stuff we breathe; the atmosphere; some may say the air or oxygen.*

Genesis 1:9-13

OK, let's read about Day Three. *Assign students to read Genesis 1:9-13. Draw earth and plants in third frame.*

The third day God gathered the water together so the dry land appeared, and He created fruit trees, grass, and herbs.

? What does the Bible mean by "herb"? *Another name for plant.*

Genesis 1:14-19

Let's move on to Genesis 1:14-19. *Assign students to read. Draw the celestial bodies on to frame one surrounding the earth.*

On Day Four of creation God created the lights of the heavens.

? What lights are listed in verse 16? *Sun, moon, stars. From the earth, planets also appear to be lights of the heavens so we include them in the drawing, too.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

This is an amazing account of Scripture. There are several things to notice as you read this; let's take a look at some of them.

Observe the Text

? Who is the main character? *God.*

Don't forget that God gave us this record. He used words and language to communicate with us. He could have left us guessing, but out of His goodness, He gave us His Word and preserved it for us through thousands of years.

? What is God doing in all these verses? Listen while I read them. *Read verses 3, 6, 9, 11, and 14. God is speaking.*

? That's right. These verses repeat the phrase "God said" five different times. *Place the "God said...repeated five times" mini-poster on the board. What does that mean? God spoke all of these things into existence.*

Absolutley, He spoke and it all became the heavens and the earth, light, firmament (or atmosphere) that divided the water from the water, dry land, grass, herbs, fruit trees.

? Now take a look at verses 5, 8, 13, and 19. What is the repeated phrase in these verses? *Evening and morning.*

God repeated that phrase four times. *Put the "evening and morning repeated four times" mini-poster on the board.*

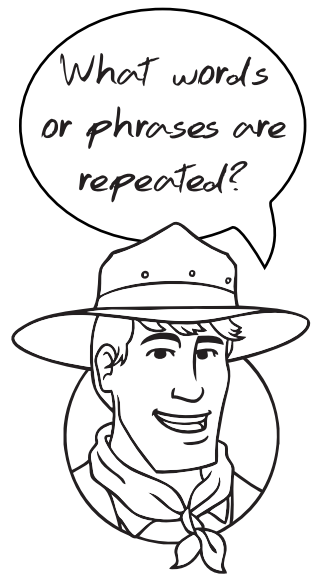
? Now someone read verses 11 and 12. There is one more phrase repeated three times. What is it? *According to its kind. Place the "according to its kind repeated three times" mini-posters on the board.*

Whenever God repeats things in His Word, He wants us to pay special attention. We have three repeated phrases. Today, we are going to see what God wants us to learn from these three repeated phrases. Let's start by looking deeper into the phrase, "God said." *Point to "God said" mini-poster.*

? What does that mean in these verses—3, 6, 9, 11, and 14. This isn't a trick question. What does "God said" mean? *It means God said it.*

That's right. All God needed to do was say the word and it all came to be. He spoke the universe into being. *Put the "God spoke the universe into being!" mini-poster on the board."*

? How do we know that this is true, that God spoke everything into existence? *This is what God's Word says. God's Word is true. God's Word is the history book of the universe and it tells us true history.*



You know, there is something here that could seem confusing. We read it earlier, but someone read Genesis 1:3 again. *Ask a student to read the verse. "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."*

- ? Wait a minute! God said what? "Let there be light?" But, how could there be light? Where does light usually come from? *The sun, moon, and stars.*
- ? Had those been created yet on Day One? *Not yet.*
- ? When were those heavenly bodies created? *Day Four. Refer to Creation drawing.*
- ? So how could there be light on Day One without the sun, moon, or stars? *Allow students to answer.*

Some people think the Bible can't be true because light must come from the sun. But the Bible says that light came without the sun, so we believe it. God didn't need a sun to give light. He is all-powerful—omnipotent. He could easily create light without creating the heavenly bodies first. And He did!

OMNIPOTENT

(Refer to Attributes poster)

Omnipotent is one of God's attributes. It means that God is all powerful and can do whatever He wants. The entire creation account is an amazing look into God's power. *Point to the Attributes of God poster and read the definition.*

- ? But what about time? Could God have possibly made time without the sun? *Allow students to answer.*

Many people have wondered if time was passing normally, just as it does today, without the sun on Days One, Two, and Three.

Questions you might hear about this could be: Since there was evening and morning on Day One, was the earth rotating already? Was it rotating at the same speed as today? Is the sun necessary to mark the normal passage of time, or can time exist without the sun, just as light existed without the sun? Does the Bible tell us this important detail? Let's see. *No need for students to respond yet.*

By studying our second repeated phrase "evening and morning" we can answer these questions. God uses this repeated phrase to indicate a specific amount of time.

- ? How much time do you think God meant with the phrase, evening and morning? *One day—24 hours.*

Take a look at Genesis 1:5. Put your finger on the word "day." That verse says, "So the evening and the morning were the first day." That word "day" has caused quite a stir. Some people think that it doesn't mean a regular 24-hour day, but many, many years instead. In the original Hebrew language this word for day is *yom*. *Place "one day = yom = 24 hours" mini-poster on the board.*

Yom (Hebrew): one day; 24 hours

- ? And in Hebrew, whenever the word *yom* is used with a number and with the words “evening and morning”, it always refers to a normal 24-hour day. Look at Genesis 1:19. Do you see a number word and the words *evening and morning* in that verse? *Yes.*

In fact, we just examined several other verses in Genesis that were written the same way giving a number and the words *evening and morning*. In each of those verses, the word *day* refers to a single, 24-hour day.

- ? Would our memory verse make sense if the first days were millions of years each? *Refer to the Memory Verse poster. No.*

No, of course not. It would have to read like this. “For in six days [millions of years?] the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh [millions of years?] day.” I don’t think God intended us to rest for millions of years, do you?

God specifically used the phrase, *evening and morning*, with the number of the day—first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth, so there would be no doubt that we would know that the days were 24 hours long—just like they are today. *Refer to “one day = yom = 24 hours” mini-poster.”*

- ? So when someone asks you to explain how you know the days of creation were normal 24-hour days, what will you say? *Show the Lesson Theme poster. God uses the phrase “evening and morning” and assigns each day a number “first,” “second,” etc. to indicate the days were 24 hours. And the Hebrew word for day, “yom,” means a normal day throughout the Bible when it is used in this way.*

Now turn back to your Bibles so we can explore another repeated phrase. Look at Genesis 1:11. Do you notice the phrase “according to its kind?” *Point to the “according to its kind” mini-poster you have already placed on the board.*

It was repeated three times. God said the plants were created according to their kinds on Day Three.

- ? What do you think that means? *That a plant seed will produce a plant like the one it came from.*
- ? And God created many, many plant kinds. For example, if you were to plant the seed from an apple, what would grow? *An apple tree. Place “God created many plant kinds apple seed=apple tree” mini-poster on the board under “God created many plant kinds.”*
- ? That’s right! And if I planted a seed from an orange? *An orange tree.*

You see, the Bible tells us that God created plants to reproduce according to their kinds. He made many plants that would bear fruit and seed, so when the seed was planted, more of the same kinds of plants would grow.

Evolution scientists teach and believe something completely different. They say that one plant changed into another which changed into another to make all the different kinds of trees, flowers, grasses, and

bushes that exist today. That idea is very different from what we read in God's Word.

Have any of you seen an apple on an orange tree? Or a grapefruit on a tomato vine? No! That kind of change has never been observed. Yet that is what evolutionists want us to believe could happen. But we know it just doesn't make sense. And, more importantly, it does not line up with what God says in His Word.

- ? What is the phrase the Bible uses to tell us that God made different kinds of plants that would only produce the same kind of plants and not a completely different plant? *"According to its kind."* Refer to the mini-poster on the board.

Discover the Truth

► Go over the mini-posters on the board to review the key points.

We have searched this passage and have discovered a whole lot of things. God's Word is full of His amazing truth. I'd like for you to remember a few very important things.

First of all, God did create by the power of His words. He spoke the entire universe into existence—and He did it in just six 24-hour days! The Hebrew word for a 24-hour "day" is *yom*. That word means 24 hours because the Bible says "evening and morning" and it says which day—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. God created the plants—all according to their kinds. An apple seed will always produce an apple tree. We know all of this is true because we know that God's Word is true. It is the history of the entire universe. God was very specific in these verses. He repeated a lot of phrases. When God repeats things in His Word, be sure to take notice. He is trying to get our attention and teach us.

You will hear stories about creation, the beginning of time, and the origins of the universe that are absolutely against what the Bible says. We have to trust His Word—God will not lie!





Consider the Seeds

MATERIALS

- A variety of seeds (see instructions below)

INSTRUCTIONS

For this activity you'll need a variety of seeds. Gather them throughout the week from your pantry or refrigerator. Suggestions of readily available seeds you may have include pits and beans. Save them from oranges, apples, avocados, tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, etc. If you have flower or garden seeds, include those as well. You may want to develop an answer key stating which seed is which. Just use clear tape to attach seeds to paper and write the seed name below.

- ? We are going to have some fun with some of the things God created on Day Three. What did He create on Day Three? *Plants, grass, trees, herbs.*

We are going to take a look at some seeds. You'll notice how different they are. Remember, each seed can only produce the kind of plant it was intended by God to produce.

Pass a container of various seeds around the table. Have each student take one out. When all students have a seed, ask them to examine their seed. Notice how large or small the seed is; whether it is smooth or bumpy; what it smells like; what color it is. Then have them guess what kind of seed it is. Go around the table, allowing each student one or two guesses. After all have guessed what kind of seed they have, reveal the answers to them.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible tells us that God made each plant with seeds to reproduce according to its kind. Look at the seed you have chosen. Take note of its size and shape. Is it possible to tell what plant it will grow into? There is nothing written on the outside that tells us.

Each seed, which looks lifeless, almost like a rock, is capable of becoming a plant that contains many more seeds. But each seed only produces the kind of plant or tree or fruit or vegetable that it was designed to create. God made plants to reproduce "according to their kinds" from the very beginning.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the drawing of Creation Week from the board or the Lesson Theme poster from Lesson 1.

We read Genesis 1:1–19 today—about the first four days of creation. As I point to the drawing on the board, I want you to call out the name of what was created on each day.

- ? On Day One, God created? *The heavens, earth, and light!*
- ? On Day Two, God created? *He separated the water above from the water below, and created the firmament or expanse between them! The atmosphere! The stuff we breathe.*
- ? On Day Three, God created? *Plants, grass, bushes, trees!*

? On Day Four, God created? *Sun, moon, planets, stars!*

On each of these days, God was getting the universe and the earth ready for animals and man which He created on Days Five and Six. We will learn more about those in our next lesson.

? What did God use to create all of this? *God simply spoke—the power of His Word.*

? When you and I say that we “created” something we really mean that we used some supplies and made something with them. When we say that God “created,” we mean that He started with no supplies and caused something to exist for the first time. The term to describe God’s way of creating is *ex nihilo*—from nothing. We do not have the power to create *ex nihilo*—we will always have to use supplies that already exist.

? What is the meaning of the word “day” or *yom* in this passage, where God says first day, second day, third day, fourth day? What kind of day does He mean? *A normal 24-hour day.*

? And who can tell me the meaning of the phrase “according to its kind” when we talk about plants and seeds? *God made many kinds of plants. Each plant can only produce other plants like it. The seed from a plant or fruit—like an apple—will only grow similar plants.*

GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Wearing biblical glasses helps us to recognize truth. When we hear teaching that contradicts the Bible, like the earth is millions or billions of years old, or all living things evolved from a single cell, we can remember that man makes mistakes. However, God’s Word has stood the test of time. We can always count on it to be true!

Always start with the Word of God. It has the answers for every area of life. This week, if a friend or family member asks you how long each day of creation was, you can answer with confidence that each day was a regular 24-hour day.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children 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.

Let’s read our verse together. Continue to study it next week.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

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

- Praise God for how He reveals Himself to us more every day through His Word.
- Pray that He will bring all of us from darkness into the light of life.