

God of Our Fathers: Genesis

Lesson 1: The Creation

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Lesson 1: The Creation

Suggested General Lesson Plan Template

Time	Activity
5 min.	Opening/Prayer
5 min.	Reviewing Background for Scripture
5-10 min.	Reading and Reacting to the Scripture
15-25 min.	Answer “Examining the Scripture” Questions
25-40 min.	Applied Scripture Activity
5 min.	Prayer requests/Closing prayer/Benediction
60-90 min.	TOTAL TIME

Lesson Introduction

- Describe a time when you created something from scratch.
- How did the creative process make you feel?
- How did you feel about your creation?
- What might your feelings suggest about God?

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, learners will:

- Discuss the events of the creation
- Identify similarities and differences in the two creation stories
- Share ideas about the significance of rest (Sabbath)
- Analyze various meanings of “the breath of life”
- Comment on the role of mankind in the Garden of Eden
- Express understanding of who God is

Background for the Scripture

The story of creation is told in Genesis 1:1-2:25. Within these verses, the account consists of two creation versions. The first is found in Genesis 1:1-2:3. This creation story describes the origin of the earth and shows how God systematically created order from chaos. Each creation event or phase follows the same general pattern that was established on day one: God issues a divine

command, there is a result, which is followed by divine approval, and the event culminates with enumeration of the day (Meeks, 1993, p. 6).

The second creation account is found in Genesis 2:4-17. According to some scholars, the second account provides a different viewpoint on creation. One scholar has noted: “The first account describes creation by a formula, which is repeated throughout the account. The second account takes a more problem-solving approach; something is missing or needed that God supplies” (Deffinbaugh, 2014). Also, in the second creation account, the characters talk to each other. This dialogue is not present in the first account; the only one speaking is God.

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (KJV) - The First Creation Account

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

² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

¹² And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

¹³ And the evening and the morning were the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸ And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

²¹ And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

²² And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

²³ And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

²⁹ And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

³¹ And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

² And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

³ And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Examining the Scripture

1. Who was present at the Creation?
2. What do you think was God's reason for creating things in a particular order?
3. Reflect on verse 1:12: "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Share your thoughts on how this pattern still relates to the cycle of life.
4. In what verse(s) are we told that humankind was made in God's image?
5. What does it mean to be made in the likeness or image of God?
6. What is the significance of the seventh day?
7. Discuss the importance of rest in daily life.

Genesis 2:4-17 - The Second Creation Account

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

⁵ And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

⁶ But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

⁹ And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

¹¹ The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

¹² And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

¹³ And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

¹⁴ And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Examining the Scripture

1. What is the significance of God's directing humankind not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
2. What might be the various meanings of death in v. 17?

Applying the Scripture

1. In Genesis 1:28 God tells humankind to be fruitful and multiply and to have "dominion" over the living creatures. How does dominion over creation manifest in modern times?
2. What does having dominion demand of us in the present day?
3. Discuss the idea that people of all races, classes, genders, and sexual orientations are made in the image of God. How might this insight influence our treatment of others?

Quest to Know God - Explanation

One of the aims of any study of the Bible is to get to know God better, for the scripture presents a record of God's movement in the world. We are reminded that it is our responsibility to pass down knowledge of God to the next generations (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). At the same time, in order to tell about God accurately, we must first know God for ourselves, using information we find in

the scriptural accounts of how God was an influence in the lives of God's chosen people. As we get to know God better, we also come to trust the God of our fathers. Our goal is to impart that same sense of trust to our progeny.

The "Quest to Know God" activity outlined below is included in every lesson from this point forward. It will help learners process their thoughts, feelings, and discernment about who God is. By the end of this book each learner will have compiled a list of characteristics about God. If learners do not have time to engage in this activity as a group, they are encouraged to complete the exercise as individuals.

Quest to Know God Activity

1. What does this scriptural account reveal about God?
2. List two or three characteristics you discerned about God as you went through this lesson.
3. What statement can you make about the God of our fathers that you can pass down to future generations?