

HOW DO I USE **GENERATIONS OF GRACE** IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?





Study the Lesson

This section of the *Teacher Book* is designed to edify and equip teachers and to guide them through the preparation of an age appropriate Bible lesson.



Teach the Lesson

This section of the *Teacher Book* is designed to provide the teacher with resources to engage children from the moment they walk into the classroom until pick-up time.



Apply the Lesson

The *Craft Book* provides the resources that are designed to engage children after you have taught the lesson. The craft is meant to not only reinforce what is taught in Sunday school but is to be a visual reminder of the lesson in the home.



Illustrate the Lesson

The *Coloring Book* provides two coloring pictures which creatively and accurately portray the Bible. Each picture communicates the truth of each lesson.



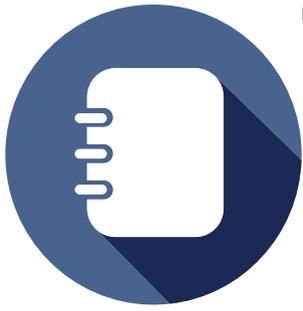
Review the Lesson

The *Activity Book* provides age-appropriate activities corresponding to the lesson. Each activity includes key truths from the lesson.



Share the Lesson

The *Family Devotional* guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.



TEACHER BOOK

Central Truth

God is the main character of the Bible and every story teaches us who He is or how man relates to Him.

Each lesson of *Generations of Grace* has a *Central Truth* which forms the core of the entire lesson.



TEACHING HINTS

Make sure to stick with **one big idea** and repeat it often as you teach, especially with younger children. It is helpful to have the class repeat it after you.

Supporting Truths

The *Supporting Truths* further develop elements of the central truth.



TEACHING HINTS

The *Supporting Truths* go from easy/primary to harder/secondary. For preschool, it is often best to pick just one. These truths allow the same lesson to be taught multiple times to the same children. Just pick a different supporting truth to emphasize.

The *Objectives* are for the children. By the time you finish teaching, ask yourself, "Can the children do your chosen objective(s)?"

LESSON 1



God created a perfect world and ruled over it.



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).

Supporting Truths

1. God created everything.
2. God created everything with the power of His words.
3. God's creation was very good.
4. God existed before anything was created.
5. God rules over His creation.

Objectives

1. List several things God created.
2. Tell someone in your family about the power of God.
3. Find three times Gen 1 calls creation good.
4. Discuss how God is different from everything else in creation.
5. Explain why God has the right to rule over His creation.

Objectives

The five *Objectives* correspond to the five *Supporting Truths*. These objective are specific ways to see if your children have learned.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3



Lesson Summary

In the beginning God created everything. From the tiniest ant to the largest elephant, God spoke everything into existence. But nobody created God. He was alive before anything was created because He has always existed. When God finished creating He said that His creation was very good. God created everything exactly as He wanted and ruled over His perfect creation.

Spotlight on the Gospel

God created a perfect world and ruled over it as King. Yet even in this perfect world man did not obey God. Man sinned against God by disobeying His command (Gen 2:17). Man has been in rebellion against the rule of God ever since. Only the salvation provided through Jesus Christ, the only one to perfectly obey God's commands, can restore man to God.

THIS WEEK



God creates the heavens and the earth
Genesis 1-2

NEXT WEEK



God creates man and woman
Genesis 1-2

IN TWO WEEKS



Man rebels against God
Genesis 3

CREATION

FALL

Lesson Summary

The *Lesson Summary* provides a brief overview of the entire story.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The Bible is God's story of redemption. The story of salvation is the story about God restoring man to the purpose God gave him. Although God's story culminates in Christ, not every story is directly about Christ. So the *Spotlight on the Gospel* shows how each story fits into the story of salvation, either by connecting the chronology or by identifying key gospel doctrines like, holiness, sin, grace, or faith.

TEACHING HINTS

The *Spotlight on the Gospel* is very helpful to avoid teaching the stories as merely moral lessons. While stories do teach us what to do and what not to do, there is always a larger context of redemption.



Redemptive Timeline

The story of God's salvation of man has five major parts or developments:

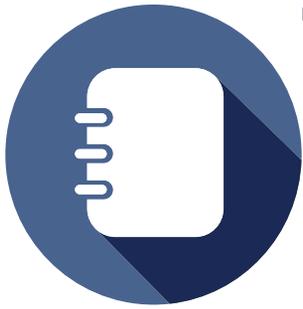
1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Promise
4. Redemption
5. Restoration

This timeline helps the teacher to remember the context of each week's lesson in God's story of redemption.

TEACHING HINTS

Review is key to understanding. Use the questions from last week to review before beginning the current lesson





TEACHER BOOK

Lesson Commentary

The *Lesson Commentary* on the passage serves to stretch and strengthen the knowledge of Sunday school teachers.

The deeper and clearer the teacher's knowledge is, the more confidently and clearly he can teach children.

As teachers grow in grace, the outpouring of their own godliness will flow into the lives of the children.



TEACHING HINTS

The *Lesson Commentary* is not meant to be read as the lesson.

THINK ABOUT IT

These boxes highlight key doctrines, applications or clarifications.



TEACHING HINTS

Do not try to teach everything in the commentary. Choose what will most help your children get the main point.

LESSON 1

Lesson Commentary

God created a perfect world and ruled over it.

Everything that exists, in both the spiritual and physical worlds, owes its existence to God (Gen 1:1). Nothing has been created apart from Him. Therefore, all things can be properly understood through the knowledge of, and a relationship with, the One who created all things.

God existed before creation (1:1-2)

In the beginning, before the creation of the heavens and the earth, there was God. This is because God always exists. Nobody created God. He is eternal, without a beginning or an end. He existed before creation and everything in creation owes its existence to Him (Col 1:16).

Genesis 1:2 indicates that the earth was empty before God created everything. This was the situation on earth before it was touched by the creative hand of God. Everything that we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch has been created by God. Even things we can't identify with our senses—things we can't see or touch like angels—all these have been created by God too!



THINK ABOUT IT
We can make things with our hands, but only God can create with His words.

God created everything (1:3-30)

The Heavens and Earth and all things in them were created or made through the power of God's spoken word. Creation was not the result of physical processes or universal laws. Rather the existence of all things came as the result of God's divine command.

DAY ONE (1:3-5)

God called for light and separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. By giving names to the light and the darkness, God was declaring His right to rule over them. God is sovereign or in control of everything.

everywhere, all the time. He is king. To name something or someone in ancient times implied dominion or ownership (2 Kgs 23:34; 24:17). Day and night belong to the Lord (Ps 74:16).

DAY TWO (1:6-8)

God created the sky. God made the sky, or visible atmosphere, with the power of His words. God spoke and the sky appeared!

Consider the great expanse of the sky. Now consider the God who spoke it into existence. What a powerful God!

DAY THREE (1:9-13)

The water below the sky (Gen 1:9) was gathered together, and God created dry land, seas, and plants. The plants were to reproduce within categories ("kinds") that were carefully distinguished from one another. The creativity of God is also seen in the variety of His creation. Even today we are still discovering and identifying new kinds of plants and animals.

DAY FOUR (1:14-19)

God created the sun and the moon. Why are the sun and the moon called the "two great lights" in Genesis 1:16? Perhaps the words sun and moon are deliberately avoided here since in ancient times pagan nations deified them and worshiped them under those names. Moses, the author of Genesis, may have wanted his readers to understand that the lights are light-bearers to be appreciated, not gods to be worshiped. It is the one true God who made both the sun and the moon.

Verse 16 also mentions the fact that God created the stars. In reading the verse, the mention of the stars seems almost an afterthought, probably because of the emphasis on the specific functions of the sun and moon. Can you number the stars? God can. He has even given names to all of them (Ps 147:4).

THINK ABOUT IT
Naming something shows personal ownership.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON



God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

DAY FIVE (1:20-23)

God created sea creatures and flying things (birds and flying insects). God showed gracious, loving concern to the animals by blessing them and telling them to fill the waters and the sky (Gen 1:22).

DAY SIX (1:24-30)

God created land animals and man. Verses 24 and 25 describe God's creation of animals that filled the land. Large and small animals, cattle, and creeping things (worms, creeping insects, and reptiles) were brought forth from the earth. From the enormous elephant to the crawling caterpillar we see God's power and wisdom on display in creation.

Included in the sixth day of creation is God's special creation—man and woman. Verse 26 reveals that man was created in the "image of God". Being created in the **image of God** means that God made man to be like Him. Think of a picture

or copy of something. Though man is not exactly like God, he is unlike the rest of creation as God created man with the ability to know Him and to have a relationship with Him.

God exalted man above the rest of creation and has "crowned man with glory and honor" and "made him to have dominion" or rule over the rest of His creation (Gen 1:26; Ps 8:5-8). Man was created by God (Gen 2:7) and is not a product of natural evolution.

Genesis 1:28 depicts God as man's provider. It is in this role that we first see His love. God provided for man's physical needs. He brought food (1:29; 2:9) and shelter (2:15) to man. (Note: 1:29-30 indicates that both people and animals were vegetarian before the flood.

See also 9:3.) God is also the provider of work (2:15, 19-20), giving man the job of cultivating the garden and naming and classifying the animals.

God also provided man with standards of right and wrong, telling man which trees in the garden he could eat from (2:16-17). God even provided relationships for man. Man was not left alone (2:21-23). The joys of friendship, the blessings of teamwork, marriage, and the family are all products of God's love. Finally, God provided mankind with purpose and hope. Ultimately, man's purpose is to glorify God by acting, thinking, and speaking in a way that praises God, pleases God, and accurately portrays God (2 Cor 5:9).

THINK ABOUT IT
God gave us life so that we would glorify Him with our lives.



Everything God created was very good (1:31-2:3)

DAY SEVEN (1:31-2:3)

God saw everything He created and said that it was "very good". God made everything exactly the way He wanted it. There were no mistakes and nothing was missing. His creation was perfect. The entire universe is a testimony to the power of God. He is **omnipotent** or **all powerful**. God is able to do anything He desires because His power is unlimited.

Then on the seventh day, God rested. God did not need to rest (He never gets tired), but stopped creating on the seventh day to set a pattern of work and rest for man to follow. The world God made was perfect. There was nothing missing or broken. Everything was just as God wanted it to be and everything obeyed God's rule.

Lesson Outline

The main lesson outline has been embedded into the *Lesson Commentary* so that from the beginning of their own study, teachers can already begin to think about how to structure their own individual lesson.



THINK ABOUT IT
Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we were made to reflect God's glory as His image bearers.

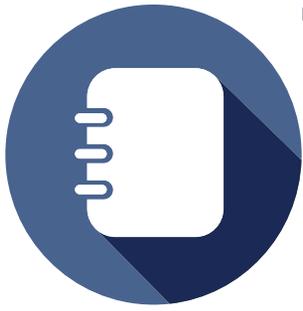
Key Words

Key Words are defined to help teachers explain deep theological truths in simple, child friendly phrases.

TEACHING HINTS

Have the children repeat back to you key words and definitions. Young children love to say interesting sounding words.





TEACHER BOOK

Lesson Outline

Children need structure when they learn. We provide lesson outlines which teachers can use while teaching. Often the *Ages 3-5 Lesson Outline* develops the doctrine while the *Ages 6-11 Lesson Outline* develops the narrative.

TEACHING HINTS

Use the outlines as they are, or modify them to make them most useful in communicating the lesson's truth.



Lesson Activities

From the time a student enters the class until the time he leaves, it is the teacher's duty to impart the truths of God's Word to him. Teaching does not occur during the Bible lesson only; it occurs throughout the entire class period.

First, there are activities to *Introduce* the lesson. Hook your students' interest and point them to the coming Bible lesson.

Second, there are activities to *Illustrate* the lesson, clarify the truth, and reawaken the children's attention.

TEACHING HINTS

Physical props are especially effective. Every prop or vivid illustration expands your children's attention span.

Third, there are activities to *Apply* the lesson. Help the children interact with the truth of the lesson.

LESSON 1

Lesson Outline

God created a perfect world and ruled over it.

AGES 3-5 LESSON OUTLINE

- God created everything (1:1-13).
- God created everything by speaking (1:14-30).
- Everything God created was very good (1:31-2:3).

AGES 6-11 LESSON OUTLINE

- God existed before creation (1:1-2).
 - In the beginning of time God spoke and created everything out of nothing (1:1).
 - The earth was formless and empty (1:2).
- God created everything (1:3-30)
 - Day 1: God created light. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night" (1:3-5).
 - Day 2: God made an expanse in the midst of the waters. The atmosphere was created (1:6-8).
 - Day 3: God gathered the waters to let dry land appear. God caused the earth to yield plants (1:9-13).
 - Day 4: God created the sun, moon, and stars (1:14-19).
 - Day 5: God created the sea creatures and birds (1:20-23).
 - Day 6: God created land animals and man (1:24-30).
- Everything God created was very good (1:31-2:3).
 - God saw all that He had created and said it was very good (1:31).
 - God rested on the seventh day and blessed it (2:1-3).

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LESSON 1

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3-5

CIRCLE TIME
Ask children the following questions about God's creation. Using their answers, explain how all of creation shows the greatness of God.

- What is your favorite kind of animal?
- What is the biggest animal you can think of?
- What is the smallest animal you can think of?
- What is the fastest animal you think of?
- If you could have any pet in the world what would it be?

SHOW AND TELL
Bring in various stuffed animals from home. Show each stuffed animal one at a time and tell the children how each different animal shows the greatness of God.

PICTURE CARDS
Use the following poster size picture cards produced by A Beka Book to create interest and improve retention (see www.abeka.com for more information).

LET THERE BE LIGHT
Turn the light off when you talk about the darkness of the earth. Turn the light on when you talk about God saying, "Let there be light." Let the children say, "Let there be light" as the lights are turned on. You may also turn the lights off during the "evening" and on during the "morning." Instead of using lights, you may ask children to open or close their eyes whenever "morning" or "evening" is mentioned.

CREATION DIAL
See Year 1 *Craft Book, Book 1*.
Materials: White cardstock, crayons or markers, scissors, and metal fasteners (brads).

Directions: Use the "Creation Dial" craft pages in craft book as a tool to help children see the days of creation. Copy the two circles onto cardstock and cut out the circles, and give a set to each child. Tell the children to color the pictures. Help children assemble the dial by placing a metal fastener (brad) in the center of the two circles. The children can rotate the bottom circle to see what God created on each day of creation.

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TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1-2:3

Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3-5 Lesson Questions

1. Who created the heavens and the earth?
God created the heavens and the earth.
2. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
God created with His words.
3. Was God's creation good or bad?
God's creation was very good.
4. How do we know that God is a powerful God?
We see God's power in His creation.



Ages 6-11 Lesson Questions

1. What existed "in the beginning"?
The Bible says, "In the beginning, God." Before all creation, God existed.
2. If God existed before the creation, where did He come from? When was God created?
No one created God, nor did He just appear. God is eternal, without a beginning or an end.
3. What does Genesis 1:1 say that God created?
"God created the heavens and the earth." This means God created everything.
4. How long did God take to complete the creation?
He took six, 24 hour days of actual creation and one day in which He rested.
5. Do you think that God needed six days to complete the creation?
Why or why not? No. God is all powerful and could have created the world instantly.
6. What did God create on each day of creation?
Day one: light; day two: sky; day three: land, plants, and trees; day four: sun, moon and stars; day five: birds and fish; day six: animals and people.
7. What was special about day seven?
On day seven, God completed His creation and rested. He set it apart (made it special) and blessed it.
8. What did God think of the work that He saw on each of the days of creation?
On days one, three, four, and five, the Bible says that God saw that it was "good." But on day six, God saw that it was "very good."

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1-2:3

AGES 6-8

Q

INTRODUCE

THE DAYS OF CREATION

Bring in various objects that represent each day of creation. Reveal the objects one at a time to children in random order, and ask children if they know on which day of the week God created each object. Explain that in today's lesson they will learn what God created on each day of creation and how each object shows God's greatness. For example, for day one bring in a flashlight, light bulb, or laser pointer.

VERY GOOD

Using Play-Doh, ask children to create various objects (a tree, a dog, a person, etc.). After the completion of each object, ask children how their work turned out. Did their objects turn out exactly how they wanted? Explain that when God was done creating He said that His creation was "very good." Tell the children that in today's lesson they will see the greatness of God through His ability to create exactly what He wanted exactly how He wanted to create it.

G

ILLUSTRATE

CLOCKS

Use the hour hand on an analog clock to demonstrate that our great God created everything in six 24-hour days. Have the children watch as you rotate the hour hand once for the evening and once for the morning. Explain that this is the amount of time it took for God to create the heavens and the earth. Rotate the hour hand twice for each of the remaining days of creation.

REVEALING GOD'S CREATION

Number six paper bags 1 through 6. These bags will correspond to the days of creation. Place an item for each day of creation into the corresponding bag. As you work through the Bible lesson, choose different children to pull items out of the bags. Be ready to explain how each item represents what God made on each day of creation.

H

APPLY

CREATION CUBE

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1. **Materials:** White cop y paper, 3x5 inch index cards, scissors, crayons, glue.

Directions: Pass out a craft page to each child. Tell the children to color each picture of the days of creation. After coloring, tell the children to cut around the outside of the cube pattern on the solid lines. Model how to fold the cube on the dotted lines and then help children make the correct folds and glue the tabs to assemble the cube.

Creation Cube
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.



Lesson Questions

We often lament about our students' apparent lack of thinking. But what are we doing in our Sunday school classrooms to help them develop that ability? Do not lecture children but ask them questions. Make them do the discovering, thinking, and speaking. Asking questions throughout your lesson helps to ensure that students participate in and understand each lesson.



TEACHING HINTS

Plan at least 1 question per minute of teaching. These questions will get you started, but think of more.



If you have a shy, quiet class, awarding points or small treats even for wrong answers can get them to answer questions until they grow more confident.

Use basic factual questions, (who, what, when where), mid-level process questions (how), and harder purpose/cause questions (why, what was the reason/purpose). If kids can't answer, simplify or even suggest the correct answer. For example, if they cannot answer, "Where did God come from?" Ask, "Was God created or did He always exist?"

To encourage clear thinking and articulate speaking, teach the children to answer in complete sentences.



Lesson Activities

Always be mindful of the age group you are teaching. These Lesson Activities are age approximate.

TEACHING HINTS

Check out ideas for all the ages to find the best one for your children. Or let these ideas spark your own creativity.





CRAFT BOOK

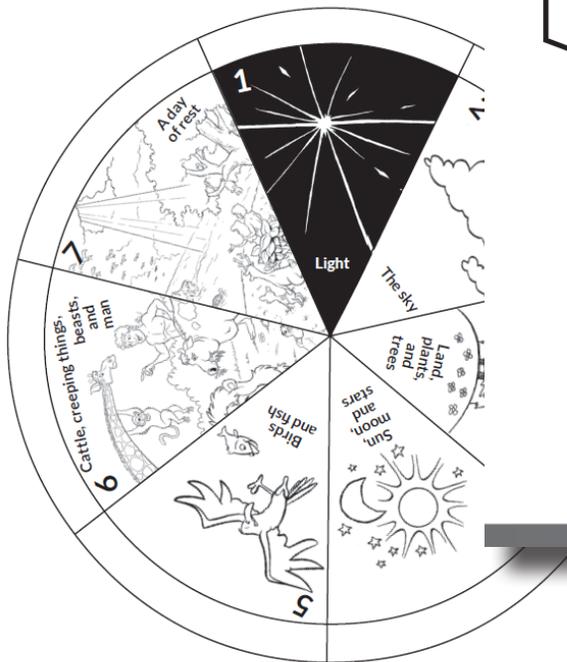
Good crafts reinforce lessons and cause them to be remembered. The *Craft Book* contains pages that are needed to do the crafts explained in the *Teacher Book*. The pages can be torn out, photocopied, or printed directly from the digital version.

LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis :

Creation Dial Bottom Circle

See page 12 of the *Teacher Book*, Year 1, Book 1



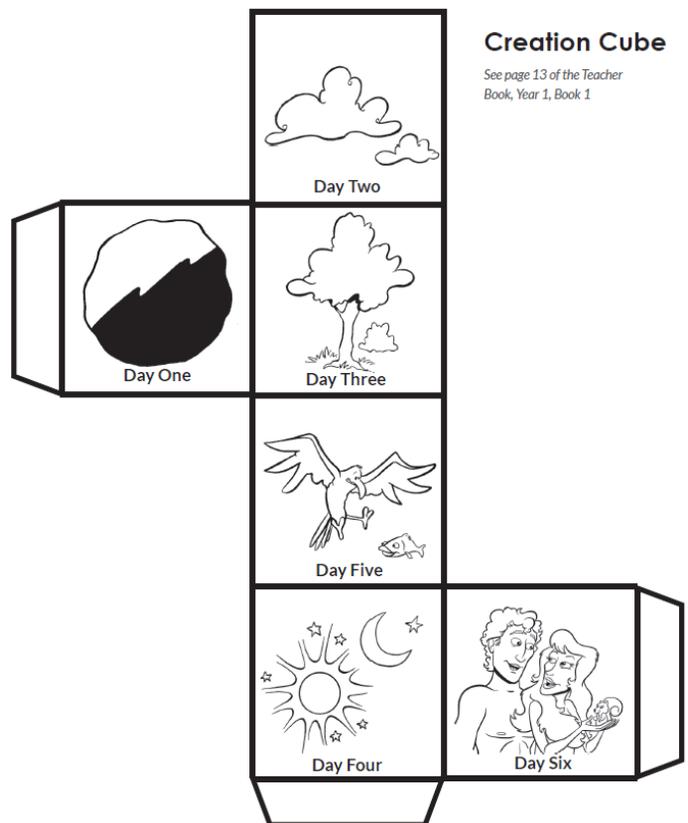
LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3



Creation Cube

See page 13 of the *Teacher Book*, Year 1, Book 1



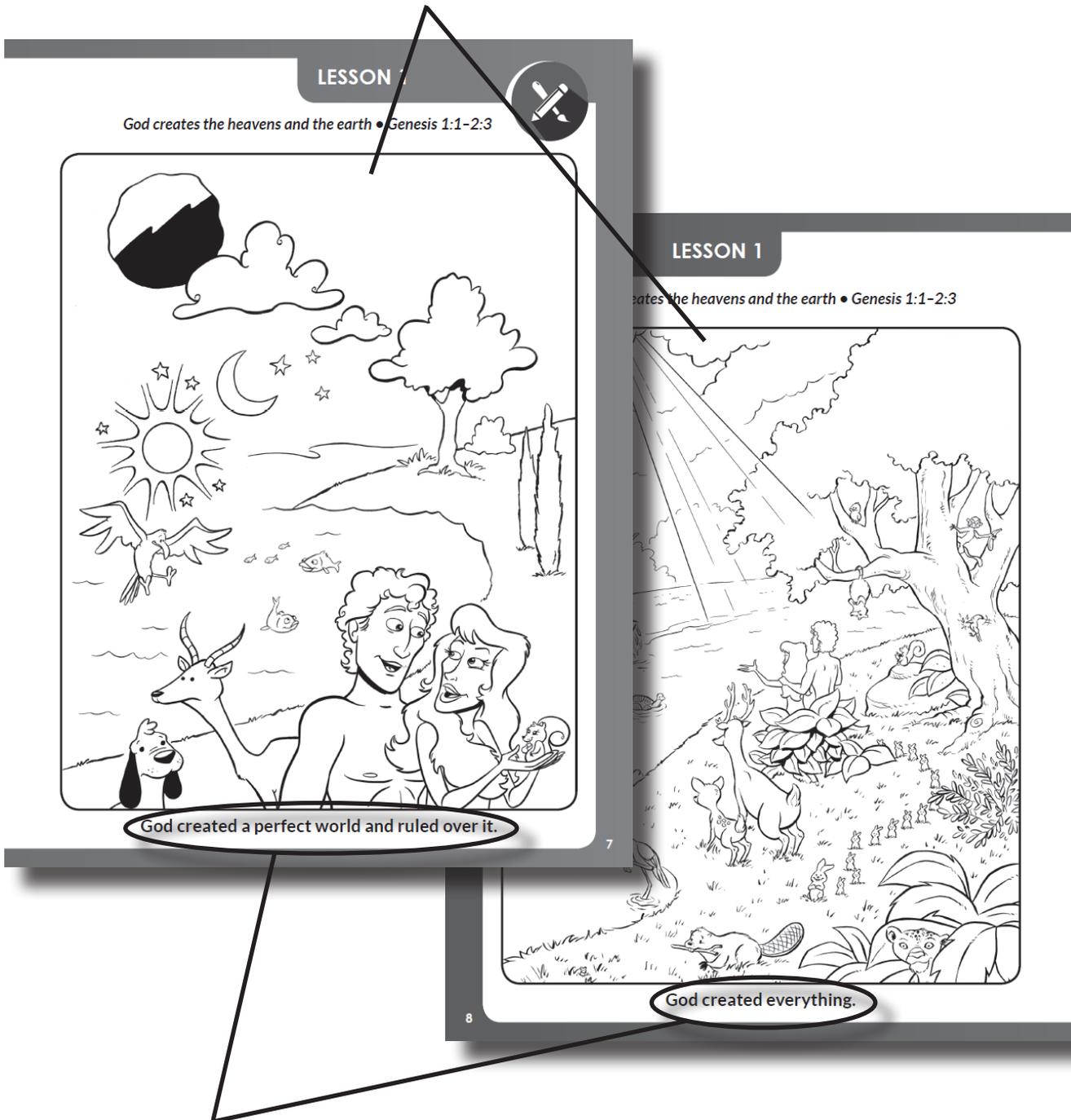
See the corresponding *Teacher Book* for a picture of the completed craft.

COLORING BOOK

The *Coloring Book* includes **two** pictures for each lesson.



The pictures accurately depict the Bible stories but are also creative and fun.



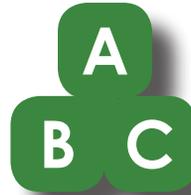
Each picture has a key truth from the lesson on it.

We want to give special acknowledgment to Chad Frye for his wonderful biblical illustrations. Visit www.chadfrye.com for more information or to contact him.



ACTIVITY BOOK

The *Activity Book* provides *four* age-appropriate activities corresponding to each lesson.



AGES 3-5

The *first* activity is primarily for those who are 3-5 years old.

Preschoolers will enjoy dot-to-dot, tracing, mazes, comparisons, and more.

TEACHING HINTS



Activities are useful when waiting for parents to pick up children, or for between hours if you have multiple Sunday School hours.



AGES 9-11

The *third* activity is primarily for those who are 9-11 years old.

Elementary students will enjoy crossword puzzles, word searches, decoding, review sheets, and other engaging activities.

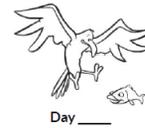


LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

Matching

Match each number to the picture which shows what was created on that day.



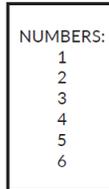
Day ____



Day ____



Day ____



NUMBERS:
1
2
3
4
5
6



Day ____



Day ____



Day ____

The heavens and the earth and all things in them were created through the power of God's spoken Word in six days.

6



LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

Word Search

Find the words in the list below. The words may appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards. When you find the word, circle it in the puzzle, then cross it off of the list.

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

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| CREATION | GOOD | EARTH | EMPTY |
| EXISTED | PERFECT | FORMLESS | SOVEREIGN |
| POWER | RULE | NOTHING | IMAGE |
| WORD | HEAVENS | EXPANSE | OMNIPOTENT |

Define the word sovereign. _____

What does it mean that God is omnipotent? _____

8

LESSON 1



God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

What's the Difference?

Find and circle 8 differences between the two pictures below.



What did God think about His creation after He had finished? _____

LESSON 1



God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

See What You Know!

NAME _____

God created a perfect world and ruled over it.

- Who created the heavens and the earth? _____
- How long has God existed? (Circle one)
Since creation Forever 550 years
- Did anyone create God? (Circle "yes" or "no")
Yes No
- How many days did God take to create the heavens and the earth? _____
- On which day of the week did God rest from all His creation? (Draw an "X" on the correct day of the week)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7

- Genesis 2:3 tells us what God did on the seventh day.
God b _____ His creation.
God r _____ (stopped creating).
- How did and how does God rule over His creation? _____
- Since God is the ruler over creation, how should we respond to His commands? _____



AGES 6-8

The **second** activity is primarily for those who are 6-8 years old.

Early elementary students will enjoy find the difference, word searches, word scrambles, and other engaging activities.

TEACHING HINTS

Activities make *Generations of Grace* useful as a homeschool curriculum! Or encourage families to use them as they go through the *Family Devotional*.



AGES 6-11

The **fourth** activity covers a broader range, 6-11 years old. It starts easy then gets harder at the end.

The final activity for each lesson is a worksheet designed to increase students' understanding and to help them remember the lesson.