

Creation Explorer

A teaching pack on creation
For children 8-12 years

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For additional Bible references refer to “Themes for Christian Studies”, God is Creator.

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Part 1

How did we get here?

How the World Was Made

God's words, written in the book of Genesis

Have you ever thought about our world, hanging there in space? Have you thought about our solar system? The earth is the only planet that has just the right conditions for living things. It is just the right distance from the sun. It has an atmosphere to protect us from ultra violet rays and meteors. Could it have happened by chance? The Bible gives us the answer. It is through the Bible that God speaks to the people He has made. In the very first book, called Genesis, we can read the story of how the world was made.

The first thing we must remember is that God made everything that is good. In the first place, God made the heavens and the earth. The Bible says that the earth was empty and dark. Then God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God called the light day and he called the darkness night. This happened on the first day of God's creation.

On the second day God said, "Let there be a sky above the water. And it was done. On the third day, God separated the water from the dry land. He called the land 'earth' and the water, 'sea'. The God said, 'Let all kinds of plants grow on the earth.' So grasses, flowers, bushes, trees and all kinds of plants grew on the earth.

On the fourth day, God made the sun to give the earth light by day, and the moon and stars for the night. On the fifth day, God made the fish and all the creatures that swim in the sea. He also filled the sky with all kinds of birds. On the sixth day,

God made the land animals... big ones small ones, tame ones and wild ones. He also made people. He made two people: Adam and Eve. God created people to be His friends. They were more special than the animals and more special than the plants. In fact they would be in charge of looking after the creation. God was pleased with everything he had made. Everything was just perfect. On the seventh day God rested.

The beginning of the world: a man's idea

Some ideas made up by people who did not want to believe God's word.

Some people believe in the 'big bang' theory. That is, somewhere out in space, billions of years ago, there was a big explosion of particles coming together. This led to the formation of the universe as we know it.

Some people also believe in the big bang theory. For those who believe in it, the big bang was an explosion of energy, marking the beginning of space and time.

Evolutionist also believe that life happened by accident. By accident a living cell was formed. Eventually, the single cell divided in two, then in two again and a new living thing was formed. As cells kept dividing and changing over millions and millions of years, more and more new living creatures were made. (See diagram)

Believing that the world began this way is believing in the theory of EVOLUTION. A theory is an idea which has yet to be proved. It is not scientific fact, and yet so many people accept it as fact. Have you ever watched programs on T.V., or read books which claim that rocks or certain species of animals are millions of years old? This information is based on evolution. The theory of evolution is very different from the account on creation written in God's history book, Genesis.

The person who made evolution popular was Charles Darwin, who lived in England over a hundred years ago. At that time, people in Britain believed that God created the universe. However, as Darwin studied the similarities between animals he came up with a new idea. Instead of each species being created after its own kind, as the Bible says, maybe one form of life developed into another, and that one developed into another and so on. It would take a long, long time for this to happen, so we would have to say then that the universe took millions and millions of years to form, and not just 6 days as the Bible says. It also meant that instead of a perfect creation, as God made it in the beginning, the creation would have been imperfect, because a lot of death and suffering had to be involved. According to the theory, the weaker animals died out and only the strongest survived.

While Darwin tried hard to make the theory work, he also realised that there were a lot of problems with it. To begin with, it was opposite to what the Bible says, and besides, there should have been discoveries of skeletons of things like a half-fish-half-lizard, or a half-lizard-half-bird or even a half-ape-half-man, and no skeletons like this had ever been found.

Many scientists decided they liked the theory. To believe in evolution meant that there was no God who created the universe. If there was no God who set rules to obey, then there was no such thing as sin. People could do as they wanted to without having to obey God. Besides this, the highest, cleverest animal was the human being. If there was no God, then that meant the human being was the cleverest animal in the universe! Yes, people liked the idea. Evolution was here to stay.

Activities

1. What is the 'big bang' theory?
2. What is a theory?
3. What is the theory of evolution?
4. What might an 'in-between-species' look like?
5. What does the Bible say about 'in-between-species'?
6. What kind of fossils are actually being found?

7. Why wouldn't death be part of God's original perfect world?
8. Why would death be necessary if living things had evolved?
9. When did death come into the world?
10. Why do some people choose to believe in evolution rather than creation?
11. Read Genesis 1, then look at Genesis 1:24 once again. If God created animals to reproduce after their own kind, then an elephant could not develop from an amoeba.
12. Read Gen.1:31.
13. What did God mean when He said that His creation was 'very good'?
14. Think about the design and order in some of the complex aspects of the creation. Perhaps you can examine some plant or animal specimens.

Think about the marvellous design of these:

- birds, and their amazing ability to fly
- the human body

Could such design and order happen by chance?

Here's a challenge...

How can I help others believe that God did not create the world through evolution?

The Mice in the Piano

A play showing the importance of believing in what God has said.

Scene 1

Jenny:

Come on now...you don't really believe in that fairy tale about Adam and Eve and all that!

Billy:

It's not a fairy tale. I believe it is the only true explanation for not only HOW the world was made, but also WHY.

Jenny:

What kind of explanation can there possibly be in that fabulous Adam and Eve story! There is no scientific proof that they ever

existed. Besides, science has proved that man descended from the ape. We are all products of evolution.

Billy:

Science hasn't PROVED evolution. It's only a theory. There is even scientific evidence which casts doubt on whether it is in fact true.

Jenny:

O.K. O.K. So it is a theory. But I'm sure in time it will be proved.

Billy:

Where did you say man evolved from?

Jenny:

The ape.

Billy:

What about the ape. Where did he come from?

Jenny:

Oh! Right at the start of course, all living creatures evolved from single cells. Then gradually, through progress of time, these cells have formed, grown and changed, grown and changed, adapting to their environment, until here we stand.

Billy:

So that's it.

Jenny:

Well, that's it in a very simplified form. Anyone with any education and intellect knows these facts.

Billy:

Oh! We are to assume that we, the whole human race, were formed by accident.

Jenny:

Sure. You don't have to hang on to those old religious ideas. Science is the answer. Who needs God?

Billy”

Let me tell you a story.

Jenny:

O.K. But don't take too long. I've got important things to do you know!

Scene 2

Story: The Grand Player

Billy takes a large book and reads this story...

A long time ago there lived in a magnificent grand piano, a whole family of mice. There were brother and sister mice, cousins, uncle and aunt mice, as well as a very old, very wise grandfather mouse. The mice had made this piano their home for many years and they loved the beautiful music which was part of their every-day life. Even the oldest of the mice could not remember a time without music. All the mice worshipped the Grand Player who, in his kindness, provided them continuously with the rich and beautiful music which made their wonderful world of sound.

One day, Grandpa Mouse was sitting in his old rocking-chair talking to Thomas, his grandson. Thomas didn't believe that there really was a Grand Player because he had never seen him. He asked Grandpa whether he had ever seen the Grand Player.

"No," said Grandpa, "but I know he exists because I hear his music, and I live in the beautiful world of sound he has created for us."

But Thomas still couldn't believe that there really was a Grand Player. He wanted to prove it for himself. Thomas had a cousin called Darwin. He didn't believe that the Grand Player existed either, so the two of them decided that they would go on an expedition in search of the Grand Player.

After a long and perilous climb, the two mice finally arrived at what they were sure was the real solution to the mystery...the true source of the sound. In front of their eyes were big wooden beams. They watched them move, sometimes together, sometimes apart, crashing on the wires just above them. Although frightened, they were very excited. Here then, was the real source of the sound...not any person, such as the Grand Player, but merely the mechanical motion of wooden beams. The two mice ran home to announce their discovery to the rest of the family.

But Grandpa tried to convince them:

"Those sounds don't just come together by accident. There has to be a Grand Player who created the beautiful sounds we hear."

So, to try and prove to Grandpa just one more time, the two little mice went back to see if they could bring home some evidence.

"Maybe I could take my axe and try to chop off a piece of one of those wooden beams," thought Thomas.

Once again the two adventurers left home on a journey of discovery. This time there was a lot more interest shown in their trip.

Well, eventually Thomas and Darwin returned, weary after their long climb, nearly to the top of the grand piano. Immediately the whole family of mice crowded around to see what the two mice had found.

"This time," said Thomas and Darwin, "we have found the real source of the sound. The proof is with us." Darwin brought over a piece of wire and stretched it between two sticks. Thomas hit the wire with a piece of wood.

"Hear that sound!" he said. "You see, we have made a revolutionary discovery. Darwin is going to write a book about it. Yes! It will be called 'On the origin of the music.'"

Grandpa was very disappointed that the two mice did not actually discover the Grand Player. If they had met with the Grand Player himself, then they would have believed.

Scene 3

Jenny:

Well, that was a nice story, but what does it have to do with God?

Billy:

Don't you see the point? Instead of trying to prove their theory, the two mice really needed to meet the Grand Player. That's like us. We need to put our trust in God, and not just believe in the things we can see. God is a person. He wants to meet each one of us personally. He loves us all you know.

Jenny:

Well, I must admit you have given me something to think about. I suppose it does take a lot of faith to believe that someone like me came about by accident.



Think about it...

Even the most intelligent person in the world could not understand how God created the world. God is so much more intelligent and powerful than any human being. That is why we must have faith in what He says.

When God created people, He made them to be His friends. When we know God as our friend, then it becomes easier to have faith in Him.

Activities

1. Who does the Grand Player represent?
2. What does the piano and the music represent?
3. Why didn't Darwin and Thomas believe in the Grand Player?
4. Why is it that some people will not believe in God?
5. What do we need to have in order to believe in something we can't see or understand? (Hebrews 11:3 & 6)
6. What is faith?
7. Why do evolutionists say that the earth is millions and millions of years old?
8. Find out the age of the earth according to the Bible.
9. Are most nature programs on T.V. based on creation or evolution?
10. What did God mean when He said that people were to be in charge of the plants and animals?

Here's a challenge...

How can I convince others that Genesis is history, and not just a story?

Part 2

What happened to God's perfect creation?

God's World Spoiled by Evil

Can you imagine a lion and a lamb lying peacefully together in the same field? It is hard to imagine but that is how it was in God's original perfect creation. That is how it will be in heaven where once again things will be perfect. Animals were originally made to live in peace with one another. There was no killing. All animals were vegetarians.

Can you imagine a world where people never fight or hate each other?... where people are never selfish or greedy? That is how it once was. Can you imagine a world where no one gets sick or injured?... where no one gets old and dies? God originally made people and animals to have perfectly healthy bodies.

Can you imagine a world where there are no droughts or floods or earthquakes or other natural disasters?... where there is no famine? The temperature is perfect and the vegetation is green and lush. There is no pollution to spoil the beautiful environment. This is the creation as God made it. It was His plan.

Everything about God is good, but there is an enemy of God, who is evil. His name is Satan. Before God made the world, Satan was a powerful angel. God had created him and given him a high position. He was very beautiful back then. However, this powerful angel tried to become more powerful than God. Many angels joined Satan and became evil. They wanted to set up their own powerful kingdom.

Satan knew that Adam and Eve were special to God. Satan knew that Adam and Eve had the right to make decisions. He came up with a plan. God had told Adam not to eat the fruit of one tree in the garden. It was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Disguised as a snake, Satan came and talked to Eve.

“Eating this fruit will make you just as wise as God,” said Satan. The fruit looked good. She took the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam.

Now Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. Disobeying God meant that they were no longer friends with God. Satan would now be in charge. There would be sickness and sadness, killing and stealing. Animals started killing. Thorns and thistles grew. The world was no longer perfect.

The earth was now under a curse. Thorns and thistles started growing, choking the beautiful plants. Ugly creatures with bites and stings started emerging. Animals started attacking each other. The world started becoming polluted. Worst of all, the men and women, whom God had created to be His friends, started going their own way. They rejected Him and did the things that displeased Him.

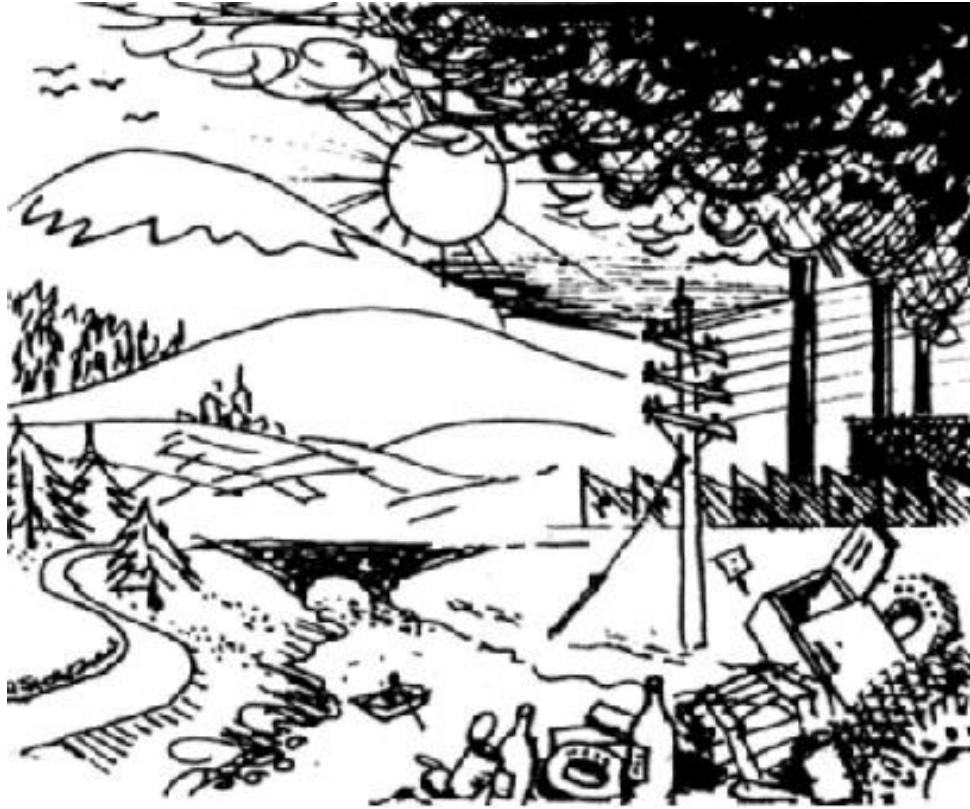
Much of the pollution we see today is due to greed, selfishness and carelessness. The state of our world is due to the sin of mankind. If people were really God's caretakers, as God asked us to be, then people would think more about the consequences of the things they do.

Although we all sin, we can ask for God's forgiveness. Jesus made this possible. By becoming a man, and dying on the cross, He took the punishment that WE deserved. If we have received forgiveness through Jesus then we can be in right relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Some people blame God for the sin and suffering in the world. They can understand why a robber or murderer may suffer, but

what about innocent children? God is not to blame for suffering. When He created people, He placed THEM in charge of the Creation. People were not created like puppets. They can think for themselves and make responsible decisions. That's the way God wanted it to be. He wanted people to CHOOSE to love and obey Him. Unfortunately, mankind did not choose to obey God's laws, and as a result, the world is in a mess. In the beginning, God designed the world to be without sin. Because sin was not part of God's original plan, there had to be consequences for disobedience. Adam and Eve chose to disobey, and to give Satan power. Because of this, the world must continue to live under Satan's influence.

Because our world was spoiled by sin, God sent Someone to help us. That person is Jesus. When Jesus is our friend, He helps us do what's right. Christians can show love and kindness, and help people around us to know God's love. Christians are like lights to brighten up an imperfect world. One day, in God's perfect timing, He will make a new heaven and earth, where everything will be perfect once again and Satan will be completely destroyed. However until that time, God has given us the light and love of Jesus, to fight against evil.



Activities

1. How different is today's world from the original Creation? In your answer, consider:

- ◆ actions of people
- ◆ animal behaviour
- ◆ disease
- ◆ ageing
- ◆ the environment

1. What are some of the environmental disasters that are occurring in today's world?

2. How does God feel about all the destruction of His beautiful world?

3. How does God feel about sin?

4. What was God's act of judgement recorded in Genesis 6-8?

5. Is there anyone in the world who is perfect? (Romans 3:23)

6. God is not responsible for the sin and suffering in the world? Who is?

7. God is pure, holy and righteous. He is also a person, This means He has feelings, just like you and me. How do you think He feels about pollution? (...not just pollution of His beautiful world, but pollution of people's hearts and minds.)

Here's a challenge...

How can Christians offer hope to an imperfect world?

The Angel of Light

A story about the powers of good and evil, based on Isaiah 14:12-16 and Genesis 1-3.

Long ago, before the world was created, there lived a beautiful creature named Lucifer. The name 'Lucifer' means 'light'. This was the name given to the being we now know as 'Satan', the angel of light. The Father and the Son had created Lucifer along with many other beautiful creatures. Lucifer joined with some of the other creatures in a special plot to overthrow the Father and Son.

Lucifer declared war, and there was a battle in Heaven. The battle, however, could not be won by the evil forces. God's power proved to be greater than any evil power! Lucifer, and his army of evil angels were thrown to a place of outer-darkness.

Meanwhile, the Father and Son decided to create a beautiful planet called earth, which would be home for man and woman. The man and woman were created to be friends with the Father and Son. However, someone in outer-darkness was watching. Once again he would try to destroy the power of the Father and the Son. He would try to make the man and woman obey him instead of their Creator.

Would the man and woman stand up to the test? Would they obey Lucifer or their Creator? The man and woman chose to obey Lucifer. The Father was filled with sadness. There was now only one thing to do. The Son would have to be sent to earth to live amongst the people. He would become a man and later die.

By dying and rising from the dead, the power of Lucifer would be broken, and once again the man and the woman could be friends with the Father. In order to be friends with the Father, the people would first have to accept the Son and ask Him for forgiveness.

Many did accept the Son, and for them, the power of Lucifer was broken. They were set free from their sadness, and were no longer persuaded by the evil one. They became children of God. Lucifer would sometimes try to make them return to following him, but as they continued to trust God they found the strength to resist the temptation of the evil one.

Although they still had to battle against evil, they knew that for them, the battle had been won. They now had the love of God in their hearts and knew that they would be God's children forever. They knew from reading God's special book that they had a place prepared for them in a beautiful city called Heaven. The book also told them that one day the work of Lucifer would be completely finished and he would be thrown into a bottomless pit forever.

Activities

1. What is the meaning of the name Lucifer?
2. Who is Lucifer?
3. Why was he called by this name?
4. What did he do to try and be more powerful than God?
5. How did he gain power over the man and the woman?
6. How was this power broken?
7. What will happen to Satan in the end? (Revelation 20:10)
8. Read about the children of darkness and the children of light from 1 John 1:5-7 and Ephesians 5:8-11.
9. Find out what to do when you are:
feeling selfish....Galatians 6:2-3
tempted....Ephesians 6:10-11
10. Use a highlighter to highlight the works of light:

Part 3

Choices

Adam Names the Animals

A story based on the choices that God asked Adam to make.

In Genesis 2:19-20 the Bible tells us that Adam gave names to the animals. While camping in the Australian bush, two children, Peter and Hannah begin to understand what God really meant when He asked people to be caretakers of His creation.

The children sat around the campfire on a clear starry night. They loved to go camping with Grandpa. They especially loved these times when they were allowed to stay up a little later than usual. They would toast marshmallows or make damper. Then Grandpa would tell a story.

"Twit-twoo," they heard from the bush.

"That's an owl," said Grandpa. "Listen carefully and you might hear some other night animals. The bush is very active at night you know. Why do you think koalas and wombats and possums sleep so much in the day-time? It's because they are awake at night."

The children all listened carefully.

"There's a sound," whispered Peter.

"That's a morepork," whispered Grandpa. "He gets his name from the noise he makes. Listen."

"How did the animals get their names anyway?" asked Hannah.

"Well," said Grandpa. "I'll tell you the story. It's a very old story actually. It's as old as the Creation itself."

"After God made the world," went on Grandpa, "He made a man called Adam. One of the first things God asked Adam to do was to give names to all the animals...not just the land animals but the birds as well. God did this because He wanted Adam to know that animals were created to help humans. Some animals were tame and some were wild, but whether tame or wild, Adam was to take care of them. God wanted Adam to name the animals so that he would get to know them, and also, so that he would realise his responsibility in taking care of them.

It must have been fun for Adam to think up names for the animals. Just imagine Adam saying in his own language: 'That one with the long neck. I'll call him a giraffe... and what could I call that funny animal that looks a bit like a duck and a bit like a beaver. I'll have to call him a platypus... and that friendly one...I think he would like to be my special friend. I'll call him a dog.'

Adam gave a lot of thought to naming the animals. He remembered what God had told him:

"You shall rule over all the animals of the earth."

Adam knew what God meant. He was to look after all the animals. He was to be God's caretaker. What a responsible job that was. Adam felt happy that God had given him the ability to make choices and decisions. This was the first of many choices Adam would have to make. Adam would now have to decide how he could best take care of the animals, and all that God had made.



Activities

1. We should remember that when God first created the animals, there was no killing, because death had not yet entered the world. Adam, Eve and all the animals ate only plants. Write the Bible verses that tell us this. (Genesis 1:29-30).
2. Read the verses that tell us that Adam named the animals, (Genesis 2:19-20). Then write the words that tell us that Adam named the animals.
3. How does the morepork get its name?
4. What were some of the choices and decisions that Adam had to make?
5. What did God mean when He said that people would rule over the animals?
6. Give some examples of ways in which people can take care of God's creation, including animals.
7. Name two animals that are endangered today, and explain why they are endangered.

Wrong Choices

We all know the true story about the creation of the world. The most beautiful creatures that God created were the man and the woman. God created them to walk and talk with Him, and to be His friends. He wanted the man and the woman to choose to love and obey Him. He could have created them like robots, which automatically obey everything, but He didn't.

God set up a situation where the man and the woman had to make a choice. The tree in the Garden of Eden, called the tree of knowledge of good and evil, was the tree that they were not to touch. They could eat the fruit from any other tree, but not that one.

Then Satan, in the disguise of a snake, tempted them to eat the fruit.

"You will be like God," said Satan.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. This meant that they could no longer be part of God's perfect garden. Thistles started to grow, and animals started killing. Sin had brought a curse.

Once the first people had chosen to disobey, the children born to them disobeyed God as well. There is only one way we can be forgiven for wrong choices. That is through Jesus, who died on the cross for us.

The Bible tells us about two of Adam and Eve's sons, Cain, and Abel. When the boys grew up they helped their parents to grow food and look after the animals. Cain became a farmer. He grew grain and fruit and vegetables. Abel became a shepherd.

Cain and Abel wanted to bring an offering to the Lord, to say 'thank you' to God for providing everything they needed. They built a special table called an altar, and placed upon it their gifts to God. Abel brought a lamb, and Cain brought some of the produce that he had grown.

God was happy with Abel's gift because Abel had chosen to love and obey God. God was not happy with Cain's gift because Cain did not love God. Cain chose evil. He knew in his heart that God was not happy with him. He also knew that God was happy with Abel. Cain became angry and jealous. He was jealous of his brother who always chose good.

Jealousy grew in Cain's heart. He became so filled with hatred that he killed his brother Abel. Now there was bloodshed among humans as well as animals. God was very sad about the choices His people had made.

Activities

Find out what the Bible says:

1. What did God say to Cain? (Gen. 4:6-7)
2. What did Cain do? (verse 8)
3. What did God say to Cain? (verse 9)
4. What was Cain's answer? (verse 9)
5. Was this the truth?
6. Could Cain hide from God? (verse 10-11)
7. What was the punishment? (verse 12)
8. What was Cain's first wrong choice?
9. How did one wrong lead to other wrong choices?
10. List some of the choices that young people are faced with today. For example, *smoking*.
11. If someone asked you to smoke, how would you say "no"?

Part 4

Special to God

Created To Love God

In Genesis 1:26, God said, “Let us make man in our image.”

This does not mean that people are as important as God. A person can never be God. However, it does mean that there are certain things about God and Jesus that we can have too. People can be loving and kind like Jesus. We can be honest and truthful like Jesus. We can choose good and not evil. We can have the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. When we choose to have these things in our lives we become more like Jesus, and do what He would do.

Being created in God’s image also means that we can love God as He loves us. Unlike animals, human beings can choose to be friends with God.

The Carpenter's Tools

A story about the way in which Jesus loves each one of us equally.

The Carpenter loved His tools. Each one was precious to Him. He had a special place for each one, and always made sure that they were kept in excellent condition. His tools were valuable to him because He needed them to do His work.

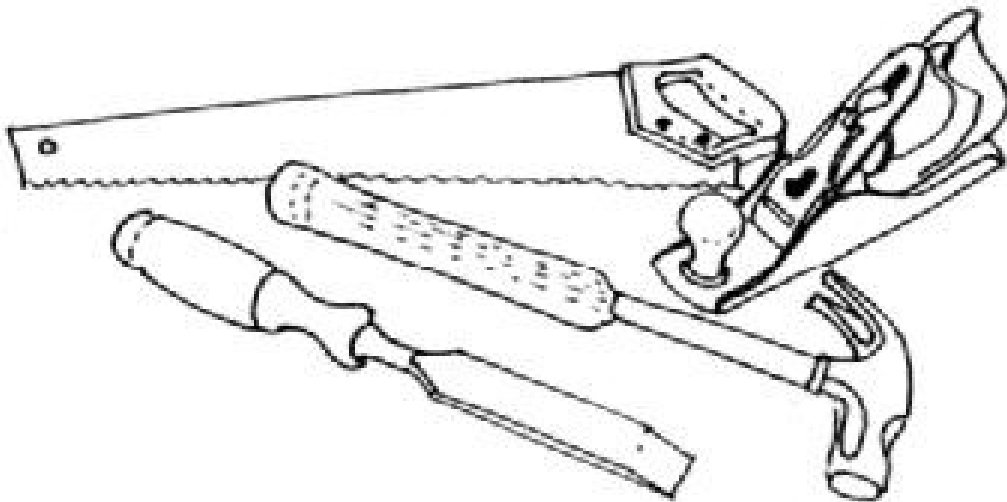
One day, in the absence of the Carpenter, a quarrel broke out among the tools.

"I am the most important tool," said the saw, "for without me the Carpenter could not cut the wood to the shape He needs."

"No, I am the most important," said the plane, "for without me the Carpenter could not make the wood fine and smooth."

Then the chisel and hammer joined in. Each tool thought itself to be the most important.

The Carpenter returned. There was a hush over the workshop. He picked up the saw and set to work. Then he used the plane, chisel and the hammer in turn. After many hours, a beautiful wooden table was completed. The tools stared in wonder at the craftsmanship. Each tool realised that they had all been needed to get the job done. Each one was as important as the other. The Toolmaker had given each one a special ability.



God has made each individual special to Him. No two people in the world are exactly alike. No two people in the world have the same fingerprints. Even identical twins are different in small ways. God cares so much about us that He makes each person unique.

We all have special abilities. Some are good at drawing or singing. Others are good at running or swimming. No matter what talents we have, we should use them for God. Some people are naturally cheerful and friendly. Others have a natural desire to help people. For some, their special gift is bringing pleasure to others. When we use our gifts and talents for God, we are like lights shining out to the world.

Activities

1. Who was the Carpenter?
2. How do we know that the carpenter cared for His tools?
3. Why was there a quarrel?
4. What is the meaning of *valuable*?
5. Who is valuable to God?
6. Name some of your friends and write down the special gifts and abilities that God has given them.
7. What special gifts and abilities has God given you?
8. Find out more about the gifts and talents God has given us:
 - ◆ *Romans 12:4-8*
 - ◆ *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*
 - ◆ *Matthew 25:14-30*

Part 5

Was there really a world-wide flood?

Noah And Rebekah On T.V.

Play reading

Reporter:

This is Billy Cool for O.T.T. News.

The weather for today is rain. Rain, rain and more rain. This is now the fifth day of rain and the bureau of meteorology says that the rain may go on for another 35 days. Already widespread flooding has been reported, and many people living in low-lying areas have moved their family and livestock to stay with friends on the hillsides.

There's one family who has actually settled on top of a hill, and, would you believe it, this guy called Noah has been building a boat! He said that he wanted to build it big enough to take his whole family, plus two of every kind of animal, because he believes that the whole earth will be flooded within forty days.

We have in our studio this morning, a neighbour to this man. Mrs. Rebekah Datepalm has lived next door to Noah and his family for some years.

"Good morning, Rebekah."

Rebekah:

"Good morning."

Reporter:

"Rebekah, can you tell us how long this guy Noah has been planning this rather strange course of action?"

Rebekah:

"Well, some years, really. He's been telling everyone that God would send a flood because of the wickedness of everyone. He said that God told him to build the boat."

Reporter:

"What did people say about him?"

Rebekah:

"Well, most people said he was some kind of nut or something. After all, none of us had ever seen rain before this. But now a lot of us are starting to wonder whether he really was right."

Reporter:

" Really? How weird! Well, thanks Rebekah. I think all we can do is hope that this guy, Noah, really is a nut case. Now for an update on the weather..."

Heavier rain has been reported in all parts, and this pattern looks like continuing for tomorrow. This has been Billy Cool for O.T.T News."

Activities

- 1 . Read the story of the great flood from Genesis chapters 6-9.
- 2 . Think about the difficult decision God had to make:
 - (a). to allow the world to destroy itself through fighting and killing, greed and foolishness.
 - (b) OR, to destroy those who lived sinful lives, but to save those who obeyed God, making a new start.
3. Read the description of the ark in Genesis 6:14-16. Write down the measurements given to Noah. Imagine that you had to design the ark. Draw the floor plan and side elevation. Don't forget to make provision for all the animals! Using the measurements recorded in Genesis, work out a scale for your plan. You may like to use a long piece of paper and use the scale, 1 meter = 1 centimeter. (1 foot = 1/8 inch)

When Wonjuna Made the Great Flood

Many people groups, like the Chinese, the American Indians and the Australian Aborigines told stories about a great flood long before they had any contact with Christianity. The fact that there are so many of these stories from all around the world, shows us that the great flood must have really happened. Here is an Australian Aboriginal Legend. Try to pick out the similarities with the Biblical account.

There was once a medicine man called Tanjilli. There was also a man called Umbirri who did not like Tanjilli. He was jealous because Tanjilli was such a famous medicine man. Umbirri was a bad man. He did not belong to Tanjilli's tribe in the first place. He had come to live with them after being chased out of his own tribe for stealing.

Well, Umbirri was a real trouble-maker. He decided that he would make Tanjilli look really foolish. There had not been any rain for a long time, so Umbirri suggested to the tribe that Tanjilli should try to make it rain. Umbirri didn't think for a minute that Tanjilli could do this. He only made the suggestion so that Tanjilli would look like a big failure.

Well, Tanjilli went to a secret place and tried to make rain. Soon drops of rain began to fall until everything was soaked. Tanjilli was very proud of himself. He walked around boasting about what he had done.

It rained and it rained. It did not stop raining and the great flood began to flow over the land. The tribe was very frightened, for soon they would all be drowned. Tanjilli tried to stop the rain, but he could not. It kept raining for forty days and forty nights. One evening Tanjilli and Umbirri were both washed away. The people were frightened. Then an old man in the tribe called Oolpa called out, "Oh, Great Spirit, tell the rain to come no

more." Almost at once the rain stopped falling, and soon after the blue sky showed through.

The tribe was puzzled.

"We know that it was not the medicine man who made the flood," they said, "or he would have not been washed away. Who did send the flood?" they asked.

"Perhaps Wonjuna did," answered one of the members of the tribe. (Wonjuna was the name they gave to the great spirit who made everything.)

They were not really sure, but they all agreed that the loss of Tanjilli and Umbirri was a good thing. Tanjilli, after all, was very proud, and Umbirri was really wicked.



Few people believe that the great flood was really true. However, in the geography of every continent, there are signs that tell us once the entire world was covered by a great flood. This evidence helps us to believe that the Bible is really true!

Because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God in the Garden of Eden, God's perfect world was destroyed. As time went on, more and more people populated the earth. Fighting, killing, stealing, idol worship and other evils became so bad that God had to destroy the world with a flood. Only one family obeyed God. Only Noah and his family, and the animals were saved. God made a new start.

Many of the great fossils found today exist because the original animals were buried quickly in soft mud. They were covered over and pressed down by the huge weight of the earth above them. Just as you can preserve a plant by pressing it, so too can animal bones be preserved. Because of the great flood described in the Bible, many fossils were formed as the rushing waters caused land-slides, and the earth beneath the waters became a churning mass.

Activities

1. What similarities can you see between this story and the Biblical account? Comment on:
 - a) the extent of the flood
 - b) the duration of the flood
 - c) what happened to the sinful people
2. If people all around the world have stories of the great flood in their historical records, what does this show us?
3. If the story of the great flood is true, then what should we believe about the rest of Genesis?
4. Why is it important to believe Genesis?

Here's a challenge...

How can I convince others that the great flood really happened?

Part 6

Discovering the truth about the creation

Galileo Searches for Truth

Psalm 104:19 says, "You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set."

Galileo lived in Italy from 1564-1642. People in those days believed that the earth was the centre of the universe. They thought that the sun, moon and stars moved around the earth. Because the great teacher, Aristotle, had said that this was so, most people believed it. Everyone, that is, except Galileo. He was one who wanted to find out truth for himself.

Galileo's brain couldn't rest. He had heard of a man in Holland who had looked through a tube with spectacle glass in each end, and who found that distant objects looked much bigger. Galileo was determined to work out how this gadget worked.

He soon did. But Galileo's invention was far superior to the Dutch one. Through his telescope he could see Jupiter, which had four moons, Saturn with its rings, the spots on the sun and the milky way. Now that he had seen these things for himself, he was sure that the earth moved around the sun, and not the sun around the earth.

Galileo was very excited. He now understood that God's creation was greater than people had ever realised. Enthusiastically he started telling people of his discovery.

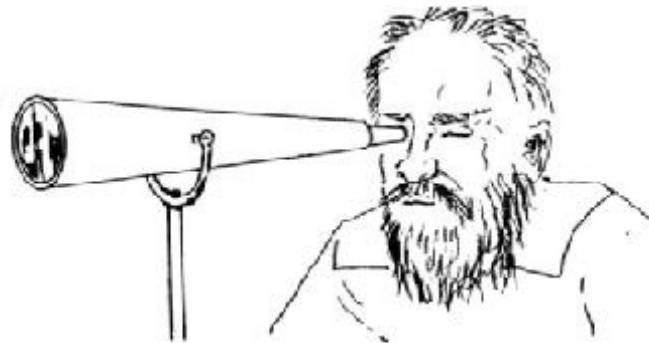
However, trouble lay ahead. Galileo was called before the Pope. "How dare you defy the teachings of Aristotle!" shouted the Pope. "You must promise not to talk or write about your theory!"

Galileo kept quiet for seventeen years, but continued working silently. Then finally, he could keep quiet no longer. He published a book of his discoveries. He was brought before the Pope again.

"Deny your theory or you will be imprisoned!" the Pope demanded.

Now quite old, and unable to bear the thought of imprisonment or torture, Galileo decided to agree that he had made some mistakes. But in his heart he knew that he had discovered the truth. Galileo lived the rest of his life quietly, working until his death in 1642.

In due time, the world found out that his discoveries were true, for truth cannot be stopped by threats of imprisonment or torture. Soon others took up the teachings of Galileo, which opened people's eyes to the laws of the Creation and the glory of the stars.



Activities

1. Where did Galileo live?
2. Which great teacher did everyone believe in those days?
3. What did people believe about the earth?
4. Draw a picture of the earth in the centre and the planets, sun moon and stars orbiting around it.

5. How did Galileo prove that this was not so?
6. Now draw the solar system as it really is.
7. How do you think Galileo would have felt when no one would believe him?
8. How does God feel when so many people do not believe the truth about Him?

Christopher Columbus

Just as God guided the Israelites on their journey, He has guided many people throughout history as they looked to Him. One of these people was Christopher Columbus.

Columbus was sure that the world was round, and not flat, as most other people in his time believed. If this was so, then by sailing straight westward across the Atlantic he could reach those lands on the other side of the world. He was sure that God wanted him to make this expedition, and, after a long time trying to convince the king of Spain that the journey would be worthwhile, the king provided the money that was needed.

Columbus set out from Spain in 1492. He was in charge of a fleet of three ships. Columbus himself commanded the 'Santa Maria', his best friend commanded the 'Pinta' and his brother commanded the 'Nina'.

As the long days passed without any sight of land, the crew became more and more afraid. They planned to get rid of Columbus and sail back home. 'Perhaps the world is flat after all,' they thought. 'What if we fall over the edge?'

However, nothing could change Columbus's mind. He continued to trust in God. God protected Columbus and the mutiny did not occur. After seventy days Columbus saw a light that seemed to come from a fire along the coast. The next morning the three tiny ships made for the shore. With the flag of Spain in one hand and a sword in the other, Columbus knelt down and gave thanks to God. The new-found land was an island off the coast of

America, part of the West Indies. He named the island San Salvador which means Holy Redeemer.

God had not only protected Columbus, but also guided him. God guided him because of his great faith and trust.

Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God.



Activities

1. Why were the crew afraid?
2. What is the meaning of mutiny?
3. Why didn't the mutiny occur?
4. How did Columbus know he was approaching land?
5. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?
6. Which Old Testament hero trusted God while making a journey?
7. Why was the voyage of Columbus and his crew similar to the Israelites' journey to the promised land? Choose the correct answers:
 - a) None of the travellers had been to the new land before.
 - b) Both events took place on the continent of Africa.
 - c) God was guiding them.

- d) All the travellers trusted in God for the whole of the journey.
- e) The travellers did not always trust their leader.

Science unit

Living and non-living

Section 1: Living things

Read and think

What do you like most about God's creation?
the animals, the plants?...
or do you like the powerful forces of creation like the thunder and lightning, the sea, the mountains?

God's creation can be grouped into two types of things...**living things and non-living things.**

We can also make two more groups...**the things that God made and the things that man has made.** Of course we must remember that man can only make things out of the materials that God has provided.

What is a living thing?

(Definition)

Every living thing must be able to do these things, or it is not living:

1. move by itself
2. grow
3. get food and use food
4. create new beings like themselves. (reproduce)

Let's look at animals.

All animals can move. In fact God gave animals legs, wings and fins to move with. Think about worms and snakes? How do they move?

What is an animal?

Is a fish an animal?

Is an insect an animal?

Is a bacteria an animal?

Yes, these are all animals.

All of these can move, grow, get and eat food, and reproduce.

Is a human being an animal?

If we look at the definition of a living thing, we would say that a human being IS an animal. However, God said that human beings were created to be more important than any other animal. A human being is not an animal, even though we fit the definition. We can do things that animals cannot do. We can love God. We can talk to God. We can give our lives to God and follow Him. An animal cannot do this. God has told us that we must take care of the animals.

Let's look at plants.

What is a plant?

Is a plant always green?

Is a mushroom a plant?

Can you find plants underwater?

Can a plant move?

Yes, it moves when it grows, or when a flower opens.

Can a plant get and use food?

A plant doesn't have a mouth. It doesn't chew food. However it does make its own food out of sunlight and air. It uses carbon dioxide from the air, and with the sunlight, makes its own food.

Have you seen sap from a tree, or the liquid in the stems of plants? This is the sugary food that the plant has made for itself to keep itself alive. As the plant makes food, it produces oxygen. Oxygen is helpful to people and animals, who breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Plants and animals need one another. God designed it that way.

Section 2: Quiz

Write the answers to these:

What is a living thing?

What do animals need to stay alive?

What do plants need to stay alive?

What do plants need to make their own food?

Animals do not make their own food. How do they get it?

How do people get their food?

Section 3: Non-living

Read and think...

Non-living things...

do not breathe

do not use food

do not reproduce

Is a rock living?

Is water living?

Is lightning a living thing?

Is air living?

No. None of these things are living, but God made them all. God knew exactly what living things needed when He created the earth. He created air for us to breathe, water for us to drink, heat and electricity for us to use, gravity, magnetic fields, rocks and soil.

Living things live in non-living things. Write the answers...

What living things can you find in the soil?

.....

What living things can you find in pond water?

.....

What living things can you find in the sea?

.....

Do you live in something that is non-living?

.....

Section 4: Non-living things that were once living

Read and think

We would say that God made a flower, but we may not say that God made perfume. We would say that perfume is man made. However, man has made perfume from something that God made. That is, a flower.

A flower is living

Perfume is non-living

Finish the sentence

Here are some more non-living things that were once living. They are all made out of things that God made. Finish these sentences:

Leather is made from.....

Paper is made from

Bricks are made from.....

Woollen clothes are made from.....

Cotton clothes are made from.....

Sausages are made from.....

Section 5: Man made things from non-living materials

Read and think

People make things from non-living things too. Rock and soil contain many minerals. Minerals are things like metals, crystals and precious stones.

Did you know that glass is made from sand?

Name some items in your home that are made from non-living materials.

.....

Section 6: Living or non-living quiz

PART A

Take a sheet of paper. Draw a line down the middle. On one side make a list of **living things**. On the other side, make a list of **non-living things**.

Here are some to sort out. Add some of your own too.

plants, sheep, paper, fresh apples, sausages, glass, plastic, salt, sugar, rocks, bacteria, fish, birds, insects, honey, metal, plates

PART B

Take another sheet of paper and draw a line down the middle once again. This time make two different lists: **Once living** on one side and **now living** on the other side. Here are some things to sort out. Add some of your own too:

bread, fresh bananas, beef, cattle, grass, perfume, fresh potatoes, potato crisps, wooden chair, cotton, flowers

Section 6: Game...animal, vegetable, mineral

Someone thinks of an object...any object. The other person has to guess what the object is, and may ask questions that require the answers, 'yes' or 'no'.

For example:

Is it red?

The first three questions to try will be...

Is it animal? Is it vegetable? Is it mineral?

If the answer is animal, the object may be a living animal, or it could have been made out of an animal.

If the answer is vegetable, it could be a plant, or it could be made out of a plant.

So, to find out which one of these it is, **the next two questions should be...**

'Is it living?' 'Is it non-living?'

Keep asking questions until you have guessed the object. The person who guesses with the least number of questions is the winner.

Section 7: Make a collection

Set up two tables. On one table, collect non-living things from God's creation. On the other table collect living things from God's creation. You may like to set up a worm farm, an ant farm, or an aquarium. Make a note book and describe the things on your tables. You can press plants to keep them for longer, or you can put them in water.

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