

Lesson 2 Genesis 1

The Beginning, The Big Picture

1. Read Gen. 1. List at least three facts you learn about the living God.

1 In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth

2 and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters—

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

4 God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.*

6 Then God said: Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.

7 God made the dome,* and it separated the water below the dome from the water above the dome. And so it happened.

8 God called the dome “sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

9 Then God said: Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear. And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared.

10 God called the dry land “earth,” and the basin of water he called “sea.” God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said: Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And so it happened:

12 the earth brought forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw that it was good.

13 Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

14 Then God said: Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the seasons, the days and the years,

15 and serve as lights in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth. And so it happened:

16 God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night, and the stars.

17 God set them in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth,

18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good.

19 Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

20 Then God said: Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.

21 God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of crawling living creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw that it was good,

22 and God blessed them, saying: Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.j

23 Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

24 Then God said: Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal. And so it happened:

25 God made every kind of wild animal, every kind of tame animal, and every kind of thing that crawls on the ground. God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said: Let us make* human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

27 God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female* he created them.

28 God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.* Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.

29 God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;

30 and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened.

31 God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

2. Why do you think God created the earth? Give reasons from Psalm 8 and Genesis 1. Also, see CCC 293.

Psalm 8

1 For the leader; “upon the gittith.”* A psalm of David.

2 O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth! I will sing of your majesty above the heavens

3 with the mouths of babes and infants. You have established a bulwark* against your foes, to silence enemy and avenger.*

4 When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place—

5 What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him?

6 Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor.

7 You have given him rule over the works of your hands, put all things at his feet:

8 All sheep and oxen, even the beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

10 O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth!

CCC 293

293 Scripture and Tradition never cease to teach and celebrate this fundamental truth: "The world was made for the glory of God." St. Bonaventure explains that God created all things "not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it", for God has no other reason for creating than his love and goodness: "Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened his hand." The First Vatican Council explains:

This one, true God, of his own goodness and "almighty power", not for increasing his own beatitude, nor for attaining his perfection, but in order to manifest this perfection through the benefits which he bestows on creatures, with absolute freedom of counsel "and from the beginning of time, made out of nothing both orders of creatures, the spiritual and the corporeal."

3. What does John 1:1-3&14 add to your perception of Gen.1:1-3 and 1:26? Can you relate these passages to the Trinity?

John 1:1-3&14

1 In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be

14 And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Gen.1:1-3, 26

1 In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth

2 and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters

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

4. Exactly what did God create in Gen.1:1?

1 In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth

5. What is the difference between the words "made" and "create"?

6. What do you find in these verses to connect the Holy Spirit with creation (Gen.1:1)?

A. Job 26:13

13 By his wind the heavens were made clear, his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

B. Psalm 104:30

30 Send forth your spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth.

C. 2 Corinthians 3:6

5 our qualification comes from God,

6 who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter brings death, but the Spirit gives life

7. In God's creation of light how do you see the possibility of:

A. God reminding us of his presence

B. God creating time

C. God preparing the earth for life

8. *Challenge Question:* God did not create the sun and moon, etc. until the fourth day. How can you explain the "light" in vs. 3-5?

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

4 God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

9. What are the five functions of the sun, moon and stars as given in Gen.1:14-18?

14 Then God said: Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the seasons, the days and the years,

15 and serve as lights in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth. And so it happened:

16 God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night, and the stars.

17 God set them in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth,

18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good.