

A MIGHTY WONDER

Creation
Genesis 1:1–2:3
Beginning
of time

BIBLE TRUTH

God created the heavens and the earth.

LEARNER GOAL

I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

BIBLE VERSE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

LAW & GOSPEL

We forget or even refuse to believe that God is our Creator and the giver of all good things. **God gives us faith to believe that He created the heavens and the earth and that He continues to provide us with all good things, especially life and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

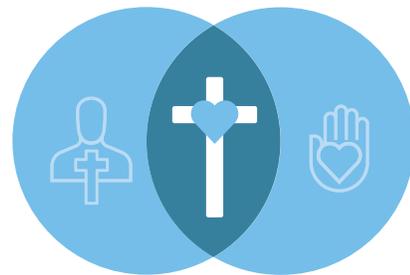
“In the beginning, God created . . .” (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the narrative and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read through “Challenges for Readers” in the introduction to Genesis (*TLSB*, p. 9).

IN DEPTH Read through the First Article (Part 1) and study questions in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshiping and praising God and taking care of His creation.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

YOUTH

I can identify examples of God’s work in creation.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God created everything.



LEADER NOTE

For the opening question, either have the whole group brainstorm together or have the learners break into small groups and share with the whole group when they're done. The point is to get the learners thinking about different worldviews and different reasons people give for why they're here.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Highlight how all three persons of the Trinity are present at creation (see John 1:1–3 for more on this), with the Father speaking the Word (the Son) and the Spirit hovering over the waters.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Lead a quick study from the Central Thought section of the First Article (Part 1) in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017). Use the questions and discussion prompts to talk about our views of creation.

LAUNCH

WELCOME

Welcome the group, and open in prayer. It may be a good time to take prayer requests; pray for those requests either now or at the conclusion.

REVIEW

Review the Bible Truth, Learner Goal, and Bible Verse. Then, begin with the opening reflection question on the lesson handout.

OPENING REFLECTION

Why are we here? Brainstorm different answers people give to this question. How are responses similar and different?

LEARN & LIVE

GENESIS 1:1–2

BIBLE COMMENTARY

Trusting that God's Word is true, and that the creation event actually happened as described in Genesis 1, we can appreciate the poetic form of this writing. The Hebrew word for "created" describes how God created through His own activity and that what He did was extraordinary and unique. On the first day, God makes many of the raw materials of creation; on the rest of the days, He fashions and assembles all of creation like a builder forms a house.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What's one word or phrase that strikes you about how the Bible opens? Why does it interest you?

REFLECTION HELPS

The opening emphasizes how everything in God's plan of salvation begins with God's presence and His creation of all things. Then, God begins to bring order to His shapeless creation (the formlessness of water, for example).

GENESIS 1:3–8

BIBLE COMMENTARY

Though it may seem a little strange to us that God would create light before creating the sun, what God is doing here is something different. He's creating boundaries and mechanisms by which we now measure time (light and darkness) and space (expanses between things). God's plan of creation involves order, not pure chaos, as in many other creation accounts. God planned it all to be good from the beginning. Though creation fell, God promises to redeem—and one day finally restore—His creation in Christ.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Imagine yourself watching the first two days of creation unfold. From this perspective, what is God doing here, and what does this tell us about His plan for His creation?

REFLECTION HELPS

First, God creates light; then, He divides a space for His creation to inhabit. A big point may be that God intentionally designed boundaries for His creation, both physically and spiritually, for our good. Your learners may also benefit from thinking about how the order God designed here shows His great love and care for His creation and, ultimately, how He wants to restore His creation one day in Christ.

GENESIS 1:9–25

BIBLE COMMENTARY

For each day, God creates more order in His creation. The effects stack up, preparing the creation for God’s crowning creation: humans. Consider asking your learners, as they dig into the text, how each of these days of creation helps set up the next, creating an orderly sequence that sets up the arrival of humanity.

REFLECTION QUESTION

For each day, days 3 through 6, describe what God creates. Then, identify clues from the text that describe the purpose behind each of God’s creations.

REFLECTION HELPS

On Day 3, God created dry land and vegetation, giving definition to the earth. On Day 4, God created lights in the heavens, providing day, night, and years. On Day 5, God created sea and air creatures. On Day 6, God created land creatures.

GENESIS 1:26–31

BIBLE COMMENTARY

God gives humans a purpose: to be productive stewards of creation, multiplying over it and caring for it. Humankind was made in God’s image and with a divine purpose as God’s creatures and a special part of His creation. Because of sin, mankind lost the image of God. In Christ, God is restoring that image in His forgiven people.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Look through the text again and try to identify the different purposes for which God created humanity. Then, consider how we as humans have succeeded and failed at fulfilling these purposes as God’s creatures.

REFLECTION HELPS

God commanded humans to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth; to subdue and have dominion over it. We brought sin into the world, and we fail at these things. With God’s help, we’ve succeeded when we carry out these vocations in God’s will.

GENESIS 2:1–3

BIBLE COMMENTARY

Sometimes people criticize the creation account, saying it’s just “adapted” from other ancient Near East religious accounts. The seventh day, however, is unique among other ancient religions’ creation stories. It is special to our faith. God built into His creation a time to rest and worship Him.

REFLECTION QUESTION

God didn’t need to rest, yet He chose to. Adding this thought to everything that’s come before, what does this tell us about God’s plan for us as His human creatures?

REFLECTION HELPS

God desires that His human creatures follow His lead and spend time in rest. During this rest, we are to reflect on God’s person and work and to praise Him.

LEAVE

FINAL REFLECTION

Name one new insight you have about what God has created you for. How does this impact how you view your daily responsibilities?

TAKE HOME

Equip your learners with ideas for taking the lesson into their households by giving them access to the Enduring Faith Page.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

If you haven’t yet, take prayer requests, or encourage a volunteer from the class to pray before you leave.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Read through Genesis 2 in its entirety. Then, compare details between chapters 1 and 2 that help tell the full narrative.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God made humankind in His image, and thus a special part of His creation. Mankind lost the image of God because of sin. Through the saving work of Christ Jesus, God’s forgiven people are being restored to that image.



LEADER NOTE

God designed His human creatures to care for creation. Though we sin and receive forgiveness in Christ, God still has a purpose for us as caretakers of His creation and servants for our neighbor.

A MIGHTY WONDER

BIBLE TRUTH

God created the heavens and the earth.

LEARNER GOAL

I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

BIBLE VERSE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

ADULT
Unit 1
LESSON HANDOUT
Lesson 1

Creation
Genesis 1:1–2:3

REFLECTIONS

OPENING REFLECTION Why are we here? Brainstorm different answers people give to this question. How are responses similar and different?

GENESIS 1:1–2 What's one word or phrase that strikes you about how the Bible opens? Why does it interest you?

GENESIS 1:3–8 Imagine yourself watching the first two days of creation unfold. From this perspective, what is God doing here, and what does this tell us about His plan for His creation?

GENESIS 1:9–25 For each day, days 3 through 6, describe what God creates. Then, identify clues from the text that describe the purpose behind each of God's creations.

GENESIS 1:26–31 Look through the text again and try to identify the different purposes for which God created humanity. Then, consider how we as humans have succeeded and failed at fulfilling these purposes as God's creatures.

GENESIS 2:1–3 God didn't need to rest, yet He chose to. Adding this thought to everything that's come before, what does this tell us about God's plan for us as His human creatures?

FINAL REFLECTION Name one new insight you have about what God has created you for. How does this impact how you view your daily responsibilities?

NOTES

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THING(S) CREATED

PURPOSE FOR THOSE THINGS

DAY 3

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DAY 4

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DAY 5

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DAY 6

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