Lesson 2

First Three Days of

Genesis 1:1-13

Memory Verse

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)

Teacher's Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

Define what creation is and who created all that we enjoy

Locate beautiful things on a nature walk

Describe what God created the first three days of the creation week

Express in their own way how they can show love and thanks to God for this wonderful world in which they live

Materials Needed

See "Teaching Activities" for specific activities

Teacher's Bible Study

he creation powerfully shows the existence of God. The reality of the material universe, the existence of life, and the interdependence and sustenance of the laws governing this matter respectively requires a Creator, a Life-Giver, and a Sustainer. David said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Likewise, Paul records that "the invisible things of him [God] from [looking up at] the creation... are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

When discussing "creation," we are referring to everything that is, everything that exists, everything composed of matter: the universe, the solar system, our earth, and all life upon it. One of the most fundamental laws of natural science is that nothing in the physical world ever happens without a cause. There simply cannot be a creation without some kind of Spiritual Creator. In the world around us, we can behold the obvious manifestations of the divine plan of the Creator. We are humbled by the powerful forces that move the stars, and the purposeful orderliness of nature that endows a tiny and ungainly seed with the ability to develop into a beautiful flower.

A study of only a part of creation would obviously require enough books to fill a very large library. Every conceivable physical science would be involved: astronomy, biology, geology, microbiology, and genetics—a vast field of special disciplines involving every aspect of creation.

In this lesson, emphasize that God, in His goodness, made everything for mankind to enjoy. We should praise God and thank Him for His creation gift.

Presenting the Bible Story

"In the beginning..."

"In the beginning God created..."

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"

Day One Genesis 1:3-5

Day Two Genesis 1:6-8

Day Three Genesis 1:9–13

Psalm 148:1-6

efore beginning, have your students close their eyes. Ask them what they see. Undoubtedly, they will say they see nothing but darkness. Tell them about how our planet was covered in gases, smoke, and water. The oceans covered the whole earth. Emphasize that this is what God started with when He made this magnificent creation.

"In the beginning...." This statement alone shows that God affirms a beginning. We learn as well by this statement that God existed before the beginning. God is the eternal, all-powerful, supreme Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe.

"In the beginning God created...." This should give us a sense of comfort and joy. God created freely from His own choice. The universe has meaning, and life has a purpose.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God stands behind His creation. This statement shows that the universe is God's creative work.

God created light and darkness. Are you afraid of the dark? Some people are. God gave us light so we could see when we work and play. He gave us the night to sleep and get our rest. Everything God gives us is for our good. "For he spake, and it was [done]; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:9).

God created the land and the universe and separated the two. These verses suggest that a dense moisture had been enshrouding the earth. God divided and made a distinction between them. Firmament means the sky. "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psalm 33:6).

God separated the oceans from the dry land and created the vegetation. Read Genesis 1:9–10. When we plant a seed, whether a flower or vegetable, we have to wait a long time before it is time to see the flower or pick the vegetable. God commanded that there be grass, herbs, seeds, and fruit trees and it hap-

pened immediately.

Reinforce the memory verse. All your students will have memorized it by the time you get to verse 13, as you will have said it so often. Close the story by turning to Psalm 148:1–6 and either you or one of your students read.

Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him

in the heights.

Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts.

Praise ye Him, sun and moon: praise Him, all ye stars of light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that [be] above the heavens.

Let them *praise* the name of the LORD: for He commanded, and they

were created.

He hath also established them for ever and ever: He hath made a decree

which shall not pass.

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Provide a copy of the "Days of Creation" activity page for each student. They will need pencils and crayons as well.

Older Children

Have the students work in groups: Provide a large, white, poster board. Bring a selection of old magazines that can have pictures taken out, or have students draw trees, leaves, plants, animals, fish, stars, moon, sun, etc. Write in large letters across the top, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..." Glue the pictures on the board. Discuss the days of creation.

Provide copies of the Activity Page suitable for each of your stu-

dents. Explore The Subject

- (a.) If you lived in a cold, dead, lifeless world how would it affect you?
 - (b.) If you live in a warm, loving, alive world how are you affected?
- (c.) Could it be that God created His universe so that we would have comfort, love, and hope?

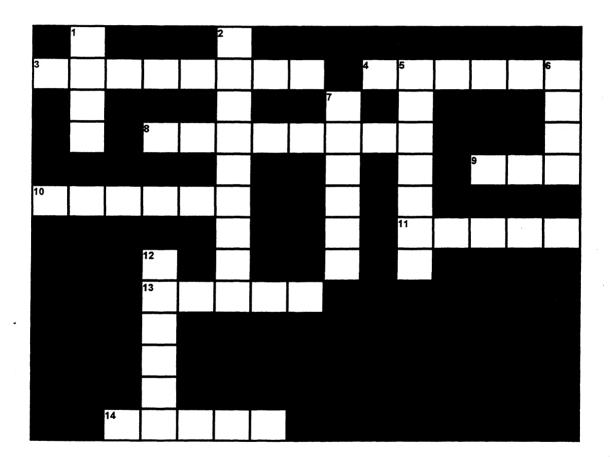
Art and Activities

Explore the following questions with your students:

Always close your class with prayer

First Three Days of Creation Genesis 1:1-13

Work the crossword puzzle below. Refer back to today's story in your Bible if you have trouble with the clues.



Across

- 3. Opposite of light.
- 4. On day three, God created this.
- 8. The totality of all things that exist.
- 9. Our Creator.
- 10. The dwelling place of God.
- 11. The planet we live on.
- 13. On day one, God created this.
- 14. A lawn or pasture.

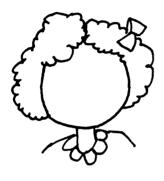
Down

- 1. On day two, God created this.
- 2. "In the _____.'
- 5. "In the beginning God _____."
- 6. The part of a plant from which a new plant may grow.
- 7. To glorify God.
- 12. A plant that has blossoms.

God Our Creator

God is our Great Creator. He created you and me. You can *create* features on the faces below. Color them and draw a picture of yourself!

Finish these faces. Add you.











First Three Days of Creation

Genesis 1:1-13

Create a picture of what you think the earth looked like at at the end of Day Two.

Then draw a picture of Day Three. Color them.

Day 1

Caused there to be daytime and nighttime



Day 2

The conditions for clouds and sky above the water—oxygen above and below the waters to support life

Day 3

God divided the land, from the seas; plants and trees began to grow

© The Church of God, International, 1997

God Our Creator Genesis 1

God began His work of Creation to restore and replenish a world that was empty and void of the sounds of life. Find the words in the puzzle below.

В	D	H	M	Н	E	R	В	L	H	В
E	A	T	A	F	O	A	D	I	E	L
A	S	R	D	T	C	T	N	\mathbf{G}	A	E
S	\mathbf{w}	A	A	I	E	S	I	H	V	s
T	O	\mathbf{E}	T	M	A	N	K	T	${f E}$	S
В	R	V	D	E	N	U	L	S	N	E
C	K	${f E}$	L	I	J	A	S	E	S	D
T	${f E}$	A	N	A	N	${f E}$	I	V	L	T
S	Н	G	O	D	N	${f E}$	\mathbf{G}	E	I	S
W	В	S	D	K	C	P	N	N	F	R
T	S	E	R	N	I	G	Н	T	E	A
w	O	A	G	O	O	D	M	H	\mathbf{G}	E
S	D	S	T	S	A	E	В	D	A	Y

BEGINNING	LAND	NIGHT	WHALE	EAT
DARKNESS	GOOD	REST	SIGN	BEAST
EARTH	WORK	HERB	EVEN	LIFE
BEASTS	STAR	ADAM	SEVENTH	KIND
SEED	CREATOR	DAY	YEARS	TIME
GOD	SEAS	BLESSED	END	LIGHT