



IN THE BEGINNING

Creation and Man's Fall

Please note that this teaching text has not been proofed.

Author: Arlene Piegrass

Illustrator: Vern Henkel Computer Graphic Artist: Andy Cross

PowerPoint Presentation, Interface and Download: LaRue and Mark Bowser
Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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Phone: (717) 859-1131 Web: www.biblevisuals.org

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

IN THE BEGINNING: CREATION

Scripture to be studied: Genesis 1:1-2:7; all verses in the lesson.

The aim of the lesson: To show where the world and man came from.

What your students should know: That all of God's Word is true—including the records of how things began.

What your students should feel: A desire to know God who created them and to obey Him.

What your students should do: Believe the truth of God about the creation of mankind.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. What God created (Genesis 1:1-2:7).
2. What God made known about Himself (Psalm 90:2; 104:5-9; 139:14).
3. What God provided for rest (Genesis 2:1-2).
4. What God expects of us (Psalm 148).

The verse to be memorized:

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

THE LESSON

"The Bible is like a letter to you. It is from a very special Person, the God of this great universe in which you live. In the Bible, God tells you a lot of things about yourself, about Himself, about the world in which you live, about things that happened in the past and about things which will happen in the future. But most important, in the Bible God tells you about His love for people. So, the Bible is really God's love letter to you." Charles C. Ryrie, *The Young Christian's Introduction to the Bible* (Miracle Press).

God also tells us how we can know Him and how we can become members of His family. If we want to know God's message to us, we must open the Bible and study it.

Of all the books in the world, the Bible is the most marvelous. Forty different men wrote the 66 books of the Bible. Many of them never met each other, for the last book was written 1,600 years after the first book. Yet all agree in everything they wrote. Though there were many men who wrote the Bible, there is

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The opening chapters of Genesis are filled with tremendous truths. Study them carefully and prayerfully. These are from God Himself. Remember that, always!

If you have mature students, there may be some who have been taught the theory of evolution. If so, be well prepared to prove from the Word of God that He created all things.

The lessons as given here, are simply suggestions. They are meant to help you. However, each lesson must be your own. Study it from the Word of God. Make sure it is true to the Word. What you yourself learn must be warmed in your heart and taught from your heart.

There are any number of ways that you may prefer to introduce the first lesson. A missionary in Taiwan (Mrs. Frances Ayton) has an excellent idea. She discusses the emptiness and darkness of earth as it was at first, contrasted with its beauty now. She talks about God and who He is. She mentions His desire to have someone with whom to share His love. Before a baby comes, its mother prepared clothing, a bed, and whatever it needs. So before God made man, He had to prepare a place for him. Each day of creation is then discussed in relation to how this helps man. God gave us day so we can work and play and night so we can rest. This idea is used through each day of creation. Finally, when everything was all prepared, God made man.

By using this suggestion, there is opportunity for student participation—which is always good.

only one Author, God. God, who knows everything planned the Bible and guided each of the human writers so that each wrote without contradicting the other. (See 1 Peter 1:21.) It is God who made one Book out of the 66 books.

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Psalm 93:5 says, "Thy testimonies are very sure." So we know that all He tells us in the Bible is true. We can believe everything God has written to us in His Word.