

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level 3 • Unit 3 • Week 3

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

OBJECTIVE:

To show that the Bible states that God is the creator of all things, in contrast to the theory of evolution.

PREPARE IN ADVANCE:

- Have two index cards ready for each child who will be participating in the lesson. One of the cards should have the word “fact” printed on it, the other card should have the word “guess” printed on it.
- Before the children arrive, take a cardboard box and place it over an object on your work surface. Don't let any of the children see you do this. (They shouldn't see the particular object or know that you even placed one under the box).
- For a later activity, you should also have a grocery bag with parts in it such as plastic tubes, fake feathers, clay, a ball, etc.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Welcome each child individually as they arrive. Once you are ready to begin, then give each child his/her two cards.

Say: A fact is something that can be proven to be true. A guess is something you think is true.

You have two cards which have these words written on them. I am going to state four sentences about this box. Without me telling you anything else, I want you to decide if the sentence is a fact or a guess, then hold up the card that matches your answer. You choose the answer that you feel is right, even if your friends choose a different answer.

Note: Be certain not to give any feedback while they hold their cards up.

Do: Read the following sentences:

This is a box.

This box is made of cardboard.

There is something under the box.

The box belongs to me.

Say: Let's review the sentences and your answers. Remember a fact is something that is proven to be true, while a guess is something you think is true.

Do: Review the sentences and their answers. Show them how to determine if the sentences are facts or guesses. The third sentence is a guess, since the children did not see something placed underneath the box. The fourth is also a guess, unless the child had specifically inquired about the ownership of the box prior to the lesson.

Ask: Did you know that just like you made some guesses about the box, there are some people called scientists who make guesses about how living things were created? This belief is called evolution.

Say: Before we talk about that, let's decide what "living things" are. Give me some examples of living things. [Go around the group and let the children identify "living things" such as birds, fish, animals, plants, man, etc.].

Say: As I already mentioned, some people make guesses about how living things came to be on the earth. They believe that living things like birds, elephants and monkeys "evolved" or changed into different animals throughout the years to become what they are in our lifetime.

Some people who believe in evolution even believe that man evolved from apes. The big problem with evolution is that it's based on assumptions, or guesses, that people think are true. It's not based on proven facts. People who believe in evolution are basing their belief on what other people have told them to be true or what they think might be true.

Say: I'd like to give you a project right now. I have here a bag of parts. [Dump the contents of the bag out on the table.] I would like for you to put these parts together and build a bird. Then I want us to wait for your creation to evolve into a living bird. Go ahead, it could probably be done. Actually, someone has probably done it before. It should work, you could use this to be the legs, this could be the head, here are some feathers, etc. [Wait for reactions.]

Say: Do any of you think you can do this?

Ask: Why won't this work? Can you think of any problems with this way of thinking? [It won't work because of the scientific principle of biogenesis that says, "Life comes from life."] Was I making guesses about your being able to create a bird?

Ask: How do we believe that living things were created?

Say: Let's look in the Bible to see what is said about the creation of living things.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Let's turn to the first book of the Bible to see what it says about the creation.

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

Read: Job 38:4-6 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding? Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone?"

Let's go back to Genesis 1 and read verse 21: "So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

Ask: Give me an example of what God created in this verse. [Accept answers of sea animals and birds.]

Let's read verse 25 now to see what else God created: "And God made the beast of the earth, according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

Ask: Can you give me an example of what God created in verse 25? [Accept animal answers.]

Last, let's read verse 27 to find out what God created next: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Ask: What did God create in this verse? [Man.]

Say: Earlier, when I gave you the bird project, we said that life comes from life.

Ask: Who created all of these living things that we just read about in our Bibles? God did. Acts 17:25 says, "...since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

Say: There may be some people who will think that you are silly for believing what the Bible says about God creating all living things. They might tell you that the Bible is just a bunch of made-up stories that didn't really happen. They might say that you are not smart for believing in God's creation, and that they are smarter for believing how scientists say living things evolved. Here is a Bible verse for us to read to show why we should believe in God's creation.

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...."

Say: The Bible is God's inspired Word. This means that God instructed men what He wanted written down so that we could learn and understand such things as how plants, animals, bugs and fish came to be. John 17:17 say that God's "word is truth." The truth is that God created all living things.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Art Activity

Supplies Needed:

- Platypus patterns (the teacher could copy and cut these out ahead of time)
- White poster board
- Brown and black crayons
- Black markers
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Magnet strips (self-adhesive)

Prepare in Advance:

Trace the pattern pieces on the poster board, making one set for each student.
Cut out the pieces.

Say: Let's do an art activity about a little animal from Australia. This animal is called a duck-billed platypus. Try saying that three times quickly! The platypus bothers evolutionists because it is like several animals all in one. No one can really say what animal it "evolved" from. (Show the picture of a duck-billed platypus).

Ask: What animals do you see in the platypus?

- Beaver's tail
- Duck's bill
- Otter's body
- Snake's fang
- Mammary glands
- Turtle eggs

Say: The platypus is a very special animal that God designed. It didn't evolve from other animals, but was created by God just as it is today, still living only in Australia. Today, we're going to make small platypus magnets to take home and remind ourselves that God created all living things.

Steps: Color the pieces.
Use the marker to draw in the eyes, webbing on the feet, etc.
Glue the feet, tail and bill on the body.
Stick a piece of magnet on the back.
Write "God is the Creator of all living things" on the body.

MUSIC:

Teach the students the following lyrics and sing the song to the tune of "Old McDonald Had a Farm."

Who created heavens and earth?
God and Jesus did.
And who created animals and birds?
God and Jesus did.
With a big fish here, and a bug on a leaf.
Here a cat, there a dog, then an Adam and an Eve.
Who created heavens and earth?
God and Jesus did.

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 17:25 "...since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."
Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

family activity

THE POINT:

The Bible teaches that God is the creator of all living things, as opposed to evolution, which teaches that living things came about gradually without a creator.

ASK ME...

- What does the word evolution mean?
- What is evolution based upon? Facts or guesses?
- Who created all things?
- How do we know that the Bible is true?
- What is so special about a duck-billed platypus?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Learn more about other unique animals that God created, such as the opossum, kangaroo, dolphin or the duck-billed platypus and figure out why these animals couldn't have evolved from others.

MEMORY VERSE:

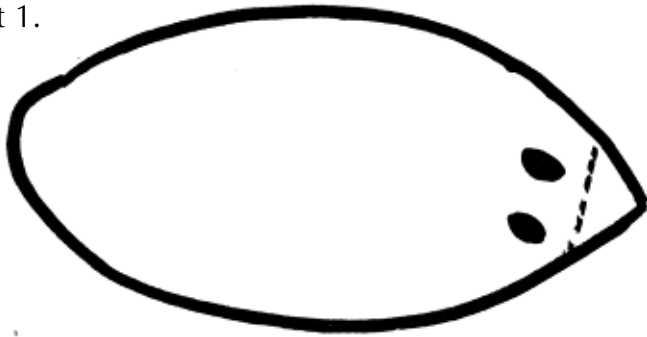
Acts 17:25 "...since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

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

Duck-Billed Platypus

Copy pattern for each child.

Body - cut 1.



Bill - cut 1.



Feet - cut 4.



Tail - cut 1.