

Introduction

Seeing God Through Creation

Family Study Guides • Creation Series

Overview

Seeing God Through Creation

This series of study guides is intended to help your family see God more clearly and to deepen your relationship with Him by exploring the wonders of His creation. After God challenged Job to meditate on His creative powers, Job declared, “I have heard of you with the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees!” (Job 42:5)

God also gives us the ability to “see Him” by examining that which He has created.

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...*

Enjoy and have fun with this series as you learn and discover more about our Creator, His wonderful expansive creation, and His plans for us!



Objectives:

- Explore the many facets of God’s creation, great and small.
- Explain who, what, when, how and why the creation was made.

Who? The Godhead of God and the Word.

What? The spiritual and physical aspects of the endless expanse of the universe, the earth, and all that is in it. It is beyond comprehension!

When? Since God has always existed, “Creator” defines what they have always done. “In the beginning” helps us understand their creative plans for us.

How? By the unfathomable power of God’s Spirit.

Why? God created with a plan to make all humanity a part of His ever-expanding Family.

Challenge objective:

Defend the Biblical explanation of how the world was created with additional scriptural or research evidence.

1. Review and connect the Making God Real Youth Instruction Family Study.
 - a. God has always existed.
 - b. God, as our Father, wants us to be a part of His family.
 - c. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
 - He sits at the right hand of the Father.
 - He is our older brother and teacher.
 - He does the will of the Father.
 - d. Angels are created beings. They are ministering spirits who help God.

2. In the Beginning . . .

a. God and Jesus Christ have always existed but they created the universe.

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

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible” (NRSV).



b. Jesus Christ, doing the will of the Father, created all things.

John 1:3 “All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”

3. God created with a plan in mind.

a. God the Father and Jesus Christ planned the creation.

Hebrews 1:10 “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

Just as a house is built with a plan and upon a foundation, God and Jesus Christ planned and laid the foundations of the earth.

b. God knew what He wanted to accomplish, what He wanted to create and why.

d. God created the earth to sustain life.

e. God created man because He wants a family.

Man was created to ultimately dwell with God and God with man. (*Revelations 21:3*)



God brings people into His family in an orderly manner. (*1 Corinthians 15:20-24*)

4. God is not the author of confusion and chaos. [*See ‘Additional Resources’ below*]

a. 1 Corinthians 14:33 “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...”

b. God creates in a systematic way. All things in their order.

Example: God did not create man and animals before there was a place for them to live and food for them to eat.

Example: God did not create sea creatures before He created the sea.

c. God has rules in creation that man is still discovering—such as gravity or the complexity of the human body or the order of the Universe. The things man continues to discover did not just happen; God designed them from the very beginning.

d. God designed a systematic plan for salvation too. (*1 Corinthians 15:20-24*)

Additional resources for your family studies

• Sermon by Gary Petty that in part discusses understanding who God is through creation.

ucg.org/sermons/making-god-in-our-own-image

• United Church of God: This web-link **www.ucg.org/tags/creation** provides dozens of articles, booklets, Beyond Today programs and more on the topic of Creation. Have fun!

• As a fun and amazing activity for your family, we suggest that you watch the NOVA production

Earth From Space. While the producers do not understand the truth of creation, their discovery of the complexities of “the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustains life on earth” clearly end up proving God as Creator. We will refer back to this video in upcoming Family Study Guides: pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/earth-from-space.html



Additional Resources for Family Studies

Have a nature walk or a stargazing night. Discuss the beauty of the plants, flowers, trees, rivers, ponds, rocks, etc. If you stargaze, discuss stars, planets and the different phases of the moon.

During the week or on the Sabbath, read about some details concerning one of God’s creations and explain how evolution would have been impossible. For example, read about the anatomy of the body, like the brain, the foot or a muscle; or read about flowers, or birds or animals—eating habits, parts of their bodies, etc. The more detail you get into, the more ridiculous the theory of evolution will seem.

Together as a family, read the scriptures and answer the following multiple-choice questions:

- Genesis 1:1—in the beginning God created
 - a. the sea and the earth.
 - b. the heavens and the earth.
 - c. the water and the sky.
 - d. dry land and the birds.

- Psalm 53:1—The fool has said in his heart,
 - a. There is no God.
 - b. There is no help.
 - c. There is no evolution.
 - d. There are no mutations.

- Job 42:2—I know that You [God] can do
 - a. some things.
 - b. most things.
 - c. everything.
 - d. nothing.

- Job 38:4—Where were you when I laid the
 - a. foundations of the earth.



- b. pillars of the temple.
- c. posts of the fort.
- d. table of the covenant

Instructor's Notes and Resources

Please feel free to use as needed with your group of students.

Young Children Objective

Depict how or why God through Jesus Christ created the world in which we live.

Middle School Objective

Explain how God can be understood through His creation.

High School Objective

Defend the Biblical explanation of the creation with scriptural or research evidence.

Anchor Scripture

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...

Discuss/Record Prior Knowledge for All Levels (3-5 minutes):

Encourage children to explain in writing, to a partner, or as a whole group what was learned with families about the “who, what, when, why, and how” of God’s creation.

Attention Getter for All Levels (5 minutes):

Read Romans 1:20. State that God Himself is invisible but provides evidence through His creation. The following example will help us to see how this is true.

Ask: Can I turn this cup of water over without it spilling? (Generate responses.) Boyle’s law says this is possible. Complete the Upside Down Glass of Water Experiment: mocomi.com/upside-down-glass-of-water/.

The result will be that an inverted glass of water with a card over it will not spill due to the air pressure. This is a demonstration of Boyle’s Law.

Discussion Questions

• How can we compare this demonstration to God and His creation? (Possible answer: Like the air, God cannot be seen. However, the evidence of the water remaining in the glass shows that the air is there. Similarly, God’s presence is evident through the things we see in His creation.)

• What else can we learn about God through this demonstration? (Possible answer: God is not the author of confusion—Boyle’s Law is just one piece of evidence of His creation and design.)



Main Activity



Young children: Read Genesis 1:1. Children will work together to make a Creation Gallery. What is it about God's Creation that makes God real to you? Create an artistic masterpiece to show your connection to God and His creation. (Children can use clay, play dough, drawing or painting materials, etc. Circulate during creation time to discuss the main points from the lesson and the children's learning from families some more. You can use this information to discuss with families later.) Creations can be displayed at services the following week or go home with families.

Middle school: Provide a list of the key scriptures from the lesson.

Show a clip from the NOVA production Earth from Space: thinktv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nvfb-sci-earthspace/wgbh-nova-earth-from-space-full-length-broadcast.

Option: Divide the class into groups of 2-3 and assign each group a different clip from the production. Give each person the option of being an "explainer" or a "connector". Explainers will answer the following: Explain one thing we observed or that you discussed with your family about Creation that makes God real to you. Why is this important? Connectors will answer the following: Connect one thing we observed or that you discussed with your family to one of the key scriptures. How does what we observed help that scripture to make sense? Why is that important?

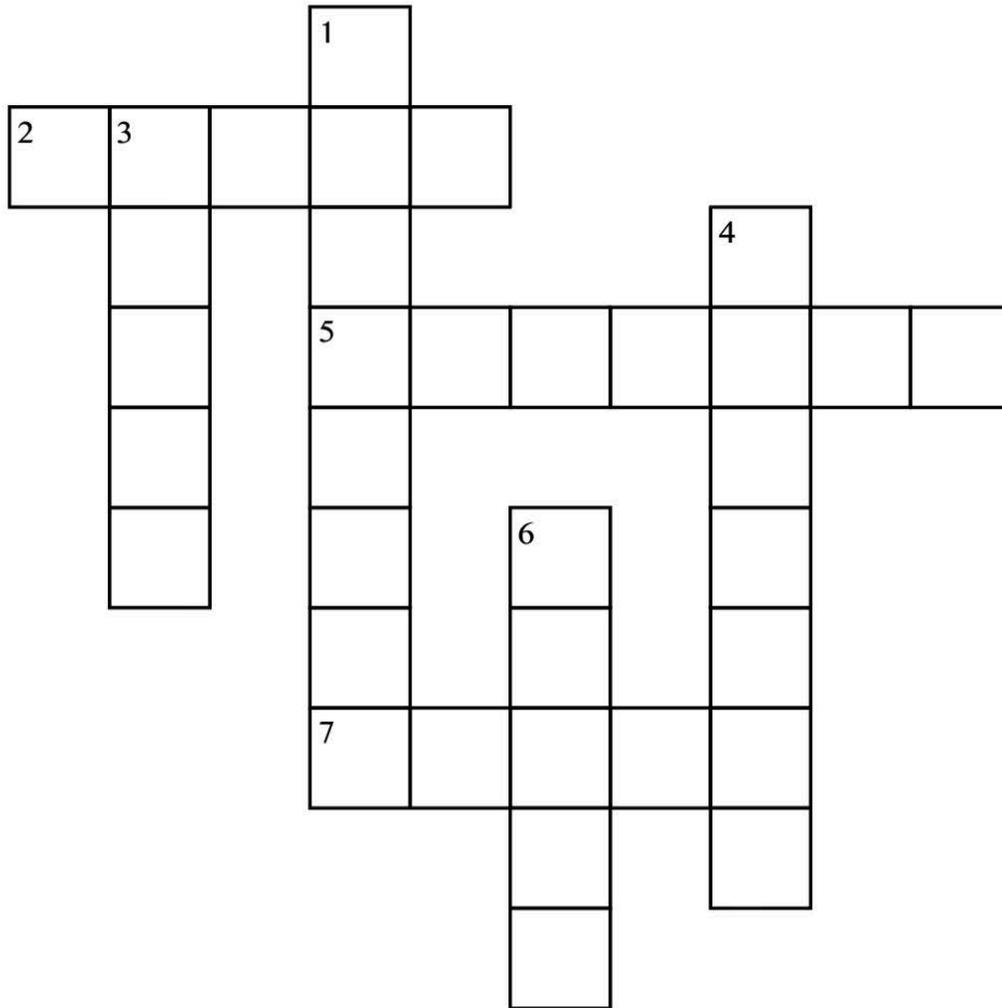
High School: Provide a list of the key scriptures from the lesson. Divide the class into small groups of 3-5. Instruct groups to use their devices and go to ucg.org/science/creation and research a topic of interest about the creation. Groups will use their research to briefly present their defense that God is real to other groups in the class. Each group member will choose the role of a "defender" or "connector". Groups will be responsible for defending that God is real based on their findings (and how this could disprove other theories). Groups will also be responsible for connecting their findings to two scriptures. How does the research help make the scripture make sense? Why is that important to us? Give about 10 minutes for preparation and 10 minutes for presentation and discussion.



Reflection (5 minutes):

- **Young children:** Have each child share what they created and how that shows God is real.
- **Middle School and High School:** What did you discuss or discover in the last few weeks that made our invisible God more visible to you? Write it on an exit ticket, share with a partner, or discuss as a whole group.

“IN THE BEGINNING” CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

2. On the fourth day, God caused the sun, moon and _____ to become visible.
5. On the sixth day, God made the land _____.
7. On the first day, God divided the day from the _____.

DOWN

1. The _____ lasted seven days.
3. On the third day, God made the plants and _____.
4. On the seventh day, God made the _____ by resting.
6. On the first day, God said, “Let there be _____ ...”