

The Creation

Lesson Introduction

- Describe a time when you created something from scratch.
- How did the creative process make you feel?
- How did you feel about your creation?
- What might your feelings suggest about God?

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, learners will:

- Discuss the events of the creation
- Identify similarities and differences in the two creation stories
- Share ideas about the significance of rest (Sabbath)
- Analyze various meanings of “the breath of life”
- Comment on the role of mankind in the Garden of Eden
- Express understanding of who God is

Background for the Scripture

The story of creation is told in Genesis 1:1-2:25. Within these verses, the account consists of two creation versions. The first is found in Genesis 1:1-2:3. This creation story describes the origin of the earth and shows how God systematically created order from chaos. Each creation event or phase follows the same general pattern that was established on day one: God issues a divine command, there is a result, which is followed by divine approval, and the event culminates with enumeration of the day (Meeks, 1993, p. 6).

The second creation account is found in Genesis 2:4-17. According to some scholars, the second account provides a different viewpoint on creation. One scholar has noted: “The first account describes creation by a formula, which is repeated throughout the account. The second account takes a more problem-solving approach; something is missing or needed that God supplies” (Deffinbaugh, 2014). Also, in the second creation account, the characters talk to each other. This dialogue is not present in the first account; the only one speaking is God.

Read the Scripture

[Genesis 1:1-2:3](#) The First Creation Account

Examining the Scripture

1. Who was present at the Creation?
2. What do you think was God’s reason for creating things in a particular order?
3. Reflect on verse 1:12: “And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.” Share your thoughts on how this pattern still relates to the cycle of life.
4. In what verse(s) are we told that humankind was made in God’s image?
5. What does it mean to be made in the likeness or image of God?

6. What is the significance of the seventh day?
7. Discuss the importance of rest in daily life.

Read the Scripture

[Genesis 2:4-17](#) - The Second Creation Account

Examining the Scripture

1. What is the significance of God's directing humankind not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
2. What might be the various meanings of death in v. 17?

Applying the Scripture

1. In Genesis 1:28 God tells humankind to be fruitful and multiply and to have "dominion" over the living creatures. How does dominion over creation manifest in modern times?
2. What does having dominion demand of us in the present day?
3. Discuss the idea that people of all races, classes, genders, and sexual orientations are made in the image of God. How might this insight influence our treatment of others?