



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 9

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 9: God the Father: He is Creator and Sustainer

Scriptures:

Genesis 1:1-31; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 19:1-4; Psalm 119:73; Isaiah 37:16; Isaiah 40:10-12; Acts 14:11-17

Lesson Goals:

To help the learner understand the power of God to do what He wants to do.
To help the learner to see God as the one creator of all things.
To help the learner to know that God sustains all that He creates.

Scripture Memory:

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

The Lesson:

Can you create something? We sometimes say that someone is creative. Does that mean that they actually create something, or does it mean that they make something out of stuff that already exists? God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. He didn't have any stuff out of which to make it. The Message translates the first two verses of the Bible: "First, this: God created the Heavens and Earth – all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness."

It is really hard to make something out of nothing. As a matter of fact, only God can do that. People invent new things all the time. However, they are combining things that already exist to make something new. When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, he brought together things that had not been together before in a way that made it possible to send a voice over a wire to a receiver. Someone on one end spoke and someone on the other end heard the words. However, it was all made of things that already had been created by God.

Since God created it all, He owns it all. Everything that you know anything about, God owns, because He made it, or He made the stuff out of which it was made. Maybe you have a bicycle. You can say it is yours. However, the metal, plastic, rubber and all the other things that the bike is made of, God made. Someone just put the raw materials together in such a way that they are now a bicycle.

The Bible says that God spoke and new things were created. He simply said, "Light" and light appeared. God has all power, so all He needs to do is speak and it happens.

God made everything, and that means that God made humans. After God made the earth, the sky, sun and moon, vegetation and animals, the Bible says that God wanted a companion. He wanted someone with whom He could have personal connection. The Bible says that He made a man first and then took part of the man and made a woman. Isaiah 43:1 says that God made us and knows us by name.

God not only created all things, He made a way for all things to continue to exist. He created ways for seeds to be produced so that new life can begin. He created a garden in which humans and animals, trees and flowers could live together. It was beautiful. It was perfect. However, humans broke God's one rule and were driven out of the garden. It was the first of many times humans disobeyed God and got into trouble with His creation.

When God created the heavens and the earth, He made them so that they would continue to exist. We hear a lot about global warming. That means that the stuff in and around the earth is getting warmer. The cause, we are told, is humans using things that destroy the protective layer of special air that pro-

protects the earth from dangerous rays from the sun. When humans don't respect the way God made the world, and use what He made in the wrong way, it destroys His creation.

God not only made all things, He sustains all things. "Sustain" means that He keeps it going. If God were to let go...not be in control of creation, it would self-destruct. God created things with an obvious order. He made ways for oxygen breathers to have more oxygen. Humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon-dioxide. Trees and other plants replace the oxygen. There are many, many examples of how God created things that help other things. It was all planned so that the world and all that is in it could be sustained. It is a wonderful and amazing plan. It is a plan that only God could make.

Earth and Heaven are bound by time. Someday, neither earth nor heaven will be any longer. But God will create a new heaven and a new earth. That is where God and His people will live forever someday. By trusting in Jesus as Savior, we are assured a place with God forever.

Life Application:

After God made the earth, the sky, sun and moon, vegetation and animals, the Bible says that God wanted a companion. He wanted someone with whom He could have a personal connection. Did you know that God wants a personal connection with you? He wants you to be His companion. How is that possible? Well, with Adam it was possible because he was created without sin. God's creation was beautiful. It was perfect. However, Adam and Eve sinned and were driven out of the garden. It was the first of many times humans disobeyed God and got into trouble with His creation. Adam sinned. Eve sinned. You have sinned. I have sinned. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned. (Romans 3:23) Sin gets in the way of a personal connection with God. But God didn't wait until we cleaned ourselves up. In fact, He knows that it is impossible for us to clean the sin out of our lives. The Bible clearly says, "At just the right time Christ died for ungodly people. He died for us when we had no power of our own. . . . here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. The blood of Christ has made us right with God." (Romans 5:6-9, NIV)

So, how is it possible to have a personal connection with God? Jesus made it possible, by dying for you and for me. We can be right with God because of what Jesus has done. Will you place your trust in the One who loved you and gave His life for you?



Planning for Lesson 10
God the Father:
He is Father and Judge



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Make a Memory Verse Mobile. Choose seven images, each representing a different day of creation. On the back of each image, write a word or phrase from the memory verse. Don't forget the reference. Practice putting the memory verse in order either by phrases or by ordering the pictures.
- ◆ Before the lesson, provide your students with random objects. Encourage them to create something new. When they have come up with a new invention, talk about the process. Then, remove all objects and urge your students to create something . . . from nothing! Lead into the lesson.
- ◆ Make a String Telephone. This can be done using string and paper or plastic cups. As you are constructing your telephones, talk about the materials that you are using and how they already existed. Unlike ourselves, God can create something from nothing.
- ◆ Bring seeds to class. Use that seeds to talk about how God sustains the earth, how He provided for reproduction. Plant your seeds and watch them grow over the coming weeks.
- ◆ Take a Nature Walk and look for seeds or simply bring fruits and vegetables to class to look at their seeds. These seeds were all a part of God's plan for sustaining the earth.
- ◆ Put together a model. There are many to choose from - cars, boats, houses, etc. Talk about God being able to make something from nothing.
- ◆ Make Creation Flash Cards. You'll need seven index cards. On one side of each card, write the numbers one through seven until all cards have a number. On the flip side, illustrate what was created on each day of creation. Use these with your students to practice the sequence of creation.

In the beginning

G O D

**created
the heavens and the earth.**

Genesis 1:1

After God made
the earth, the sky,
sun and moon,
vegetation and animals,
the Bible says that God
wanted a

c _ _ pa _ i _ n.

Word Search



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create

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God

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Adam

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Word Search



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create

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Adam

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Jesus