A NEW WORLD



OUR LOVING GOD MADE EARTH TO BE OUR WONDERFUL HOME.

MEMORY VERSE

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen" (Romans 1:20).

Word of the Week—Attribute:

An attribute is a quality or feature of something that can describe a color, shape, or size. It can also describe what a person is like.

This week's lesson is based on Genesis 1:1-23; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 33, 44; *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 57-69; and *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 207-217. **Extra Reading:** *The Bible Story*, vol.1, pp. 21-34.



SUNDAY

Our God

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to see God? (Revelation 1:12-16.) Have you ever wondered why God made the world, or what His plan is for your future? (Jeremiah 29:11-13.) When you think of God, what comes to your mind? What are some questions you would like to know the answers to?

We can find answers to many of our questions in the Bible; the most wonderful, true book in the whole world. The Bible tells us about where sin came from. It tells us about the beginning of our world, the many things that have happened since the world began, and how Jesus came to save us from our sins. Most important, the Bible tells us about who God is and how much He loves us.

Open your Bible, and you'll see that the very first book is called Genesis, which means "beginning." The first words in the Bible say, "In the beginning God . . ."

Yes, God was there at the very beginning of everything. It's hard to imagine that because for us, everything has a beginning and an end. But not God. God was there before everything. He's always been, and He always will be (Revelation 1:8). God knows everything—about everything, including everything about you! And He wants us to know Him too!

When we read our Bibles, we see that God has many attributes. Each attribute tells us something about what He is like. What is the word that those in heaven use to praise and describe God more than any other word? **Read Revelation 4:8** (second part). Yes, this word, "holy," means that God is good and pure, and there is not even one little bit of evil, sin, or selfishness in Him.

Because God is holy, He is also love. What does **1 John 4:8, 16** tell us?

God doesn't just love us—He is love! God's love only ever wants what is good for us. God invites every boy and girl, every mom and dad, to know Him and love Him in return. To do this, we need to read about God in His Bible, talk to Him, and be close to Him. Is this something you'd like to do?

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What Bible verses do you know that describe God?*
- *What does God want us to know about Him?*

Pray: What attributes do you love about God? With your family, tell this to Him right now.



MONDAY

God's Family

God is so mighty and powerful that our human minds will never understand everything there is to know about Him, even when we get to heaven.

When the Bible talks about God, sometimes it's talking about God the Father, other times God the Son (Jesus), other times God the Holy Spirit, and still other times all three! Together they're called the Godhead, or the Trinity. They are three persons, but one God. They all share the same attributes. They are all loving, and they always work together. They have always been and always will be, forever.

PRAY: Thank God for inviting you to be part of His family.

There are so many attributes that could describe God the Father, such as loving, holy, merciful, and fair. He has many different names that tell us about Him, such as Elohim, which means "Mighty One," and Elyon, meaning "Most High."

God the Father shows us what He is like through His Son, Jesus. Although Jesus is truly God, He became a human to give up His life to save us. He is called Jesus and many other names—Messiah, Son of Man, the Good Shepherd, and the Rock. He is also our Judge and our Coming King.

The Holy Spirit is as much a person as the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of the Bible and filled Jesus' life with power. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to always be with us, and He is also called "Helper" or "Comforter." He reminds us to make good choices by speaking to our minds and helping us to know what is true and right.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What's something new that you've learned, or a question you have, from this week's lesson so far?*
- *Did you know that the Bible tells us that we are God's children? Look up* ***John 1:12*** *to read about this. Imagine how wonderful it will be to see God one day!*

TUESDAY

Let There Be . . .

When God started creating life in our world, the earth was covered in water and darkness. There was no sky. There were no juicy apples, no crashing waves. Nothing, other than God the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, who was "hovering over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).

Imagine God's big smile as He thought about all the amazing things He could create from nothing in the brand-new earth. The Bible says the earth was "without form, and void" (Genesis 1:2), which means that the earth hadn't yet been prepared for plants and animals and people to live on it. God is the Creator of all things, and He saw how amazing the earth could be. So what did God do? *Read Genesis 1:1.* God's love was so big, His plan for our world so wonderful. He would create our world and provide everything to care for it.

Imagine all of heaven watching to see what God would create on this special planet. The ability to create something from nothing is one of God's amazing attributes. So He began by speaking powerful words into the emptiness. Do you know what God said? *Read Genesis 1:3.*

Suddenly beams of light flooded into the darkness, melting it away. God's light shone warm and clear, brightening the beginning of His new world. "God saw the light, that it was good" (Genesis 1:4).

Then God gave the light another name. "God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:5).

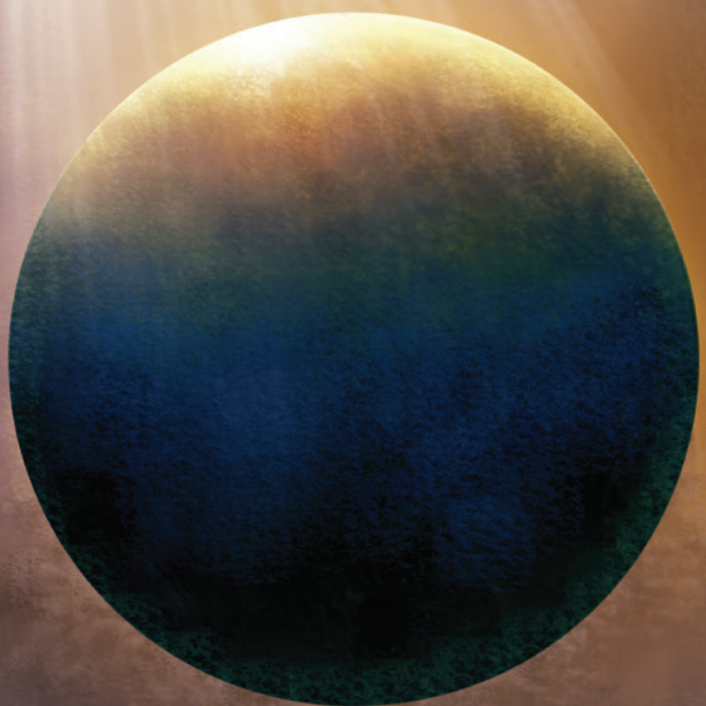
Think . . . Then Talk About It

- Why do you think God created light before anything else?

Sometimes things in our lives might seem "dark" or unclear, and we don't know what to do. But God is always there, even in the darkness, just as He was in the beginning.

Pray: Thank God for being there, in both darkness and in light, in tough times and in good times.

Fast Fact: Light can be broken into seven separate colors. When it passes through raindrops in the air, it makes a rainbow.





WEDNESDAY

Air and Land

PRAY: Pray back and forth with your family, thanking God for some of the different things you appreciate about Him and His creation on the third day. Share something different each time.

DO: Plant a seed and watch the miracle of growth or collect as many different leaves or flowers as you can and keep them in a small collection tin.

The earth shimmered and sparkled with light on the second day of Creation. God was pleased. He is so wise, and knew exactly what the world needed next: a great layer of air for all living things to breathe.

The Bible calls this layer "firmament," and says, "Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters' " (Genesis 1:6). The sky would divide the water on the earth from the water in the clouds.

The waters below were the oceans on the earth, held in place by gravity. The water above was changed into a vapor, like the steam above a boiling kettle. This is like a warm blanket for our earth and makes the best growing environment for animals and plants. It also helps people to be warm and protected from the coldness out in space. We can see through the water vapor to see the stars and moon. God, in His love, thought of every tiny detail on Day 2!

On the third day of Creation God once again spoke new things into being. What did He say, and what happened? **Read Genesis 1:9-13.** The waters swirled as land rose up to make towering mountains and flat plains, gentle hills and low valleys. Rivers ran across the land, and waves lapped on the beaches.

Thousands of different types of foods began growing when God spoke—watermelon and apples, potatoes and beans, rice and lentils. God created all of this to give us delicious foods and nutrients for our bodies.

God also splashed the earth with color: tiny bluebells and towering redwoods all appeared at God's command. Then He carpeted the earth with green grass and plains of waving grain. What a beautiful and colorful place the world was. No wonder "God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:12).

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *God first made light, the heavens, and water so that plants could grow. He is very wise. Think of three more attributes of our loving God.*
- *Think of someone who may not know the creation story. What could you tell them about God's attributes in this story so far?*

Imagine not being able to breathe in extra air when you're out of breath, or not having a variety of foods to eat. God gave us more than enough—He lavished His goodness onto this earth.



THURSDAY

Lights in the Sky

The earth was bright with color and vibrant plant life as Day 4 began. What does the Bible tell us that God said on Day 4 of Creation in **Genesis 1:14**?

Yes, God's mighty voice spoke again, causing the sun, moon, and stars to give light to the earth: one to give us light during the day and the others at night.

The silvery moon moved up into the night sky and millions of stars sparkled as tiny lights overhead.

Then, as darkness slowly gave way to morning, a fiery golden ball climbed high to warm and light up the earth for the very first time. Bathed in its glowing warmth, flowers turned toward the sun for the first time, as sunlight filtered through the trees and sparkled on the water.

The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:14, 15 that these lights also have four important jobs to do:

1. *Day and night.* The earth turns once in 24 hours. The part of the earth the sun shines on has daylight, while the other side has night.
2. *Time—days, months, and years.* The sun and the moon are like great big clocks. The sun marks off days and years, while the moon gives us months.
3. *Signs.* Sometimes God used the sun, moon, or stars to give people very important messages. **(Extension Study: Read Matthew 24:29.)**
4. *Seasons.* The pull of the sun and moon give us spring and summer, autumn and winter.

As God finished creating on the fourth day, the earth was warmer and lighter. God really liked His special lights. The Bible says again, "And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:18).

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What might life on earth be like if the sun and moon didn't do their jobs properly?*
- *Read the first part of* ***1 Corinthians 14:33*** *and discuss what this tells you about God's attributes.*

We see that God carefully ordered every part of His creation. In the same way that God has given us laws to follow, did you know that He also gave laws for nature to follow? Recite your memory verse as you think about God's thoughtful and creative power on show in nature.

Pray: Thank God that He so thoughtfully created the things you see in nature. Ask Him to help you to learn new things about Him when you explore the outdoors.

Do: Make it a weekly family habit to go on walks and notice and explore God's wonderful creation to try to discover more about Him.



FRIDAY

Birds and Fish

The warm sun set over the earth, announcing Day 5. What would our creative God do next? The answer came as His voice rang out across the heavens. "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures" (Genesis 1:20).

Suddenly the sea was alive with many creatures, all unique and special. Fish flapped, dolphins dove, and giant whales swam through the deep waters. Crabs scuttled in the rock pools and stingrays glided in the shallows.

Streams and lakes teemed with life. Goldfish cut a bright-orange path across the ponds, salmon shot up rivers, and lakes filled with minnows.

But God wasn't done with Day 5 yet. What else did God create? *Read Genesis 1:20* (second half).

God's voice filled the sky with birds. Soaring eagles, swooping swallows, and dabbling ducks appeared. Some soared in the air currents high above the earth, while others flitted from branch to branch in the trees. The air was alive with clucking and screeching, chirping and warbling, as winged creatures praised their Creator, God.

From big to small, pretty to plain, and silent to squawking, God designed and created them all. He was pleased with His work; He liked what He saw. The Bible says, "And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:21). He knew how much we would like it too.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What kind of bird or fish would you like to have as a pet?*
- *Why might God have created so many different types of bird and fish species? What clue does this give you about His attributes?*

Scientists believe there are about 11,000[1] different bird species, and more than 243,000[2] known species in the ocean. God created them on Day 5 to fill our earth with variety so that we could know and see how amazing our Creator God is.

1 https://www.birdlife.org
2 https://www.marinebio.org

Friday Night

Family Journal

Choose a blank book that can serve as a Family Journal. This journal will help your family think back on what you have learned from your lesson each week. Start with these reflections:

- I would like to have been able to see _____ part of Creation because . . .
- Things I've learned about God's attributes in the Creation story are . . .
- The memory verse tells/shows me that . . .
- ***Extension Study:*** As a family, read **Job 37**. Talk about what this passage tells you about God and His attributes, and what it tells you about yourselves.
- Teach your child "All Creatures of Our God and King" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 2) or sing other praise songs together.

Pray

As a family talk about some of God's attributes that you've learned about in this week's Creation story. Also talk about the attributes you see in each other and pray about the attributes you'd like God to strengthen in you.

For You, Parents

Find a quiet moment somewhere in your day to notice something about God in His creation. "Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 33).



SABBATH SPECIAL

Nature Clues

If you look at nature, you can see clues everywhere that point to God as the true Creator. Here are just a couple of the many clues you can look for.

Clue 1: Birds in Flight

Go outside and find a bird that is resting on the ground or in a tree. Watch what that bird does when it wants to fly. Does it go running down a long runway the way an airplane does? No! It flaps its wings, and straight up it goes!

The people who design airplanes are very, very smart. But even the smartest person has not yet figured out how to invent a plane that can flap its wings. That tells us that whoever designed birds must be smarter than even the smartest airplane designer. Yes, God is an amazing designer!

Clue 2: Pecking Woodpeckers

Have you ever watched (or heard) a woodpecker pecking at a tree? A woodpecker must have a special beak so that it can poke a hole in the tree. If a different bird tried to peck as fast as a woodpecker does, its beak would break!

But that's not all. Pecking as fast as a woodpecker does, any other bird would get a terrible headache. Why doesn't a woodpecker get a headache? It has a special cushion in its head to protect its brain. A woodpecker can peck at super-fast speeds and not hurt its head at all!

Those who don't believe in a Creator God say that the birds and animals changed very slowly to become what we see today. Does that make sense for the woodpecker? Imagine a woodpecker with a hard beak but no brain cushion. What would happen when the woodpecker tried to peck at a tree? It would hurt its brain! What about a bird with a brain cushion but no hard beak? Its beak would break. For a woodpecker to peck, it must have the extra-strong beak and the brain cushion created at the same time by a wise Creator God.

There are so many more things you can explore in nature to prove that God is our Creator. What other clues can you discover from the pictures on this page?