



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
The design of creation points to the Master Designer

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful;
The Lord God made them all.
—Alexander

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?
(Job 12:10 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 23, 2011)

New Series: Beginnings
UNIT: The Beginning of the World
NEXT WEEK
Creations in Sky, Sea, and Land
(Gen 1:14-25)

The First Days of Creation Genesis 1:1-13

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson helps us to see how God had a master plan for the creation of the world and us as human beings in **The First Days of Creation**. The **study's aim** is to remember that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The **study's application** is to recognize that God's Spirit was there in creation and is here to help us today.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

My grandfather was a man who loved working with his hands. He was constantly mending something, working the soil, or caring for his animals. In his later years, Granddad used his hands for woodworking. He loved to make those black silhouettes. It brought him joy. He was at peace among the tools and materials of his workshop. What astonished me was how he could imagine and create something out of a slab of wood. He would hold up a sheet of plywood and ask, "Can you see a fellow running? He is on the move to somewhere fast." In a scant amount of time, the figure would emerge. He would set it against the wall, pleased with his creation. But could we still create if there were no raw materials to make something? That is exactly what God did. Before this earth and the universe ever existed, they were in the mind and heart of God. When He put the Creation into motion, there were no raw materials. All He had was dark, formless chaos. God saw what would be, and He lovingly brought it about as a perfect, breathtaking masterpiece. What compelled God to create? After all, He had no need of a universe. God has no lack of anything. Why, then, would He want an earth? The answer to that question is also the reason why my grandfather made his silhouettes—joy. God found joy in the act of creation, just as my grandfather took pleasure in his woodworking. Stop a moment and think. At this point in earth's creation, our world was just a blob in the universe. There were no plants, animals, or anything. Yet God was still excited about what was happening. Why would God be ecstatic about a formless void in the darkness? Like my grandfather, God did not simply see what was there. When God gazed at that formless void, He saw more than that. God saw what it would become—a place with plants, many amazing animals, raging seas—and even us. When was the last time you marveled at our created world? We can spend hours gazing at fine paintings, detailed sculptures, and even photographs. We put them on prominent display. But what about fallen maple leaves on the sidewalk? Do you always just crunch them under your feet, or do you pick one up once in a while and marvel at its intricacy? Do you consider the thousands of tiny cells in it, each with a purpose? Creation is so vast and immense that it cannot be understood by our minds. My challenge to you is to spend some time each day reflecting on the world God created for us. Take a moment to stop and consider its beauty, its power, and its vast detail. There is no man-made thing that has even come close. It is truly wonderful and awe-inspiring. Only the Master could have formed such an immensely beautiful world. Creation humbles me and points me back to the One who formed it all for us. As the psalmist did in Psalm 148, I find myself calling out to all around me to give praise to Him for His glorious gift that He carefully made. Perhaps His marvelous works will do the same for you.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Day One of Creation (Gen 1:1-5)

God was before the Beginning (1)

God was before all things (Col 1:17)

God, the Trinity, "was" already existing before the beginning (John 1:1)

God brought forth wisdom from eternity (Prov 8:22-23)

Grace was given by God "before" the beginning of time (2 Tim 1:9)

God promised eternal life "before" the beginning of time (Titus 1:2)

God created all things (1)

God founded the world and all that's in it (Ps 89:11)

All things are from God and through God (Rom 11:35-36)

God even created the invisible things and powers that rule (Col 1:16)

God was in control before the formation of the universe (2)

God was the One who marked off the boundaries of the universe (Isa 40:12-14)

God created just by the Word of His mouth (Ps 33:6)

Just as God told Job, He laid the earth's foundations (Job 38:4-5)

God created light (3)

Light for guidance (Ps 78:14)

Light that dispels darkness (Ps 112:4)

Light that is sweet and pleasing (Eccl 11:7)

Light that will one day will not be from the sun but from God alone (Rev 22:5)

Light of God's presence (Ps 89:15)

Day Two of Creation (Gen 1:6-8)

God created the sky (6-8)

The sky for interpretation of weather (Matt 16:2-3)

The sky that will be a sign of distress in the last days (Mark 13:24-27)

The sky that Jesus will appear in with power and glory (Matt 24:30)

The sky that Jesus will return in (Acts 1:11)

Day Three of Creation (Gen 1:9-13)

God created land (9-10)

Land that bounds the waters (Jer 5:22)

Land that produces food (Isa 30:23)

Land that is to be cultivated (Gen 3:23)

Land that belongs to God (Ps 24:1)

God created the plants (11-12)

Plants that are pleasing to see and for food (Gen 2:9)

Plants that produces fruit that can be used for offerings to God (Deut 26:2)

Plants that yield crops (Ezek 34:27)