

LESSON 2: GENESIS—THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AND OF MAN AND WOMAN

LESSON FOCUS

Scripture Verse

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . And God saw that it was good. . . . Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Genesis 1:1, 10, 26

Emphasis

The emphasis of Lesson 2 is the creation of the world and the creation of man and woman. The biblical texts are chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis, which contain the first and the second stories of creation. This lesson speaks in detail of God's creative power, wisdom, and love made manifest in the two accounts of creation. The text discusses both accounts of creation and emphasizes the creation of the human person as an image of God. (We will discuss the Fall of Adam and Eve in Lesson 3.)

The prayer for Lesson 2 is the Act of Faith. The *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Though faith is above reason, *there can never be a contradiction between faith and science* because both originate in God. It is God Himself who gives to us the light of both reason and of faith" (29, *italics added*). This does not mean that there can never be a contradiction between some scientists' opinions and faith but rather between true science and the one true Faith.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Attributes of God shown in and through creation: CCC 293–95, 315, 341

Catechesis on creation: CCC 282–89

Common good: CCC 1905–12, 1924–26

Communal character of the human vocation: CCC 1878–85, 1890–92, 1877

Creation: CCC 279–81, 315

Dignity of the human person: CCC 1700–12

Equality and difference in man and woman willed by God: CCC 369–73, 383

Family in God's plan: CCC 2201–6, 2249

God as Creator of Heaven and earth: CCC 279–81, 325–27

God creates an ordered and good world: CCC 299, 337, 341

God creates "out of nothing": CCC 296–98, 317–18

God creates out of wisdom and love: CCC 295, 315

God is love: CCC 218–21, 231

God's omnipotence: CCC 268–74, 275–78

Grace: CCC 1996–2005, 2021–24

Inspiration and truth of Sacred Scripture: CCC 105–8, 136

Man as body and soul: CCC 362–68, 382

Man created in the Image of God: CCC 355–57, 380–81

Man in paradise: CCC 374–79, 384

Mystery of creation: CCC 295–301, 315, 317–18, 320

Respect for the integrity of creation: CCC 2415–18, 2456–57

Respect for the human person: CCC 1929–33, 1943–44

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Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (continued)

Responsibility and participation for the common good:

CCC 1913–17, 1927

Ways of coming to know God: CCC 31–38, 46–48, 286

The world was created for the glory of God: CCC 293–94, 319

Vocabulary

Pentateuch: the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus,

Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

Genesis: the first book of the Bible

account: story

evolution: a scientific theory that claims human beings have developed from a simpler form of life

literary forms: different styles of writing

create: to make something out of nothing

ornament: to decorate

ornamentation: decoration

universe: all of God's creations

eternal: everlasting

image: a reflection; a likeness

dignity: value; worth

dominion: authority to govern the earth

stewardship: responsibility to care for all of God's creations

grace: the gift of God's life that helps us act like Him

faith: the theological virtue that enables us to believe and accept all that God has revealed

Concepts of Faith

What is the name given to the first five books of the Bible?

The Pentateuch.

What is the name of the first book of the Bible?

Genesis.

What do we mean by the term “divine inspiration”?

The gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted the human authors in writing the Bible. Because of this inspiration, God is the Author of Scripture, and it teaches without error all He wanted to reveal.

What is a personal soul?

The personal soul is the invisible, spiritual, and immortal gift from God that gives each human being life.

What are the two main powers of the soul?

The mind and the will.

What do we do with the mind?

We think with the mind.

What do we do with the will?

We choose with the will.

What did God ask Adam and Eve to do after He created them?

To be fruitful and multiply and to have dominion over the earth.

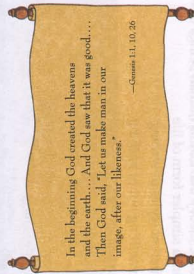
What did God give Adam and Eve so that they could love Him?

Grace.

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Read and discuss the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith with the students.

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Vocabulary

Pentateuch: the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy
Genesis: the first book of the Bible
account: story
creation: scientific theory that claims human beings have developed from a simpler form of life
literary form: different styles of writing
create: to make something out of nothing
ornament: to decorate
imagination: the power of forming images in the mind
universe: all of God's creations
eternal: everlasting
image: a reflection; a likeness
likeness: similarity
dominion: authority to govern the earth
stewardship: responsibility to care for all of God's creations
grace: the gift of God's life that helps us act like Him
faith: the theological virtue that enables us to believe and accept all that God has revealed

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What did God ask Adam and Eve to do after He created them?

To be fruitful and multiply and to have dominion over the earth.

What did God give Adam and Eve so that they could love Him?

Grace

Dig deeper with VOCAB

- To learn more about what the Church teaches about evolution read VOCAB 42.
- To learn more about the relationship between faith and science read VOCAB 23.
- To learn more about using reason to conclude that the world could not have come into existence simply by chance read VOCAB 43.

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Proclamation

God is the Creator of Heaven and earth, of all that is visible and all that is invisible.

This Lesson presents the students with the creation of the world and everything in it by our loving God. As Catholic Christians we know that God created the world from nothing and keeps it in existence. Young people today are familiar with the idea that the entire world came to be by chance, that it just happened randomly. Catholics can believe in the theory of evolution or even the big bang theory but we must believe that creation began through the creative action of Almighty God and was guided by His loving hand.

The Living the Lesson activity at the end of this lesson will use mathematical probability to demonstrate how improbable it is to believe that our universe was created by chance.

Students sometimes have a question concerning how all of mankind came into existence from just Adam and Eve since they only had two sons, Cain and Abel. Have them read Genesis 5:1–6 and they will see that Adam and Eve had more sons and daughters. When they study Noah in Lesson 4, they will see that he is a descendant of a son of Adam and Eve whose name was Seth. And then when they study Abraham they will see the lineage from Noah to Abraham.

Dig deeper with YOUCAT

Instruct the students to look up the following references for a deeper understanding:

- To learn more about what the Church teaches about evolution read YOUCAT 42.
- To learn more about the relationship between faith and science read YOUCAT 23.
- To learn more about using reason to conclude that the world could not have come into existence simply by chance read YOUCAT 43.

LESSON EXPLANATION

A very easy way to help students to remember lists is using an acronym. To memorize the first five books of the Bible an easy sentence is “Gosh Everybody Loves Notre Dame.” Now, some students may object if they like a different university. Remind the students that *Notre Dame* is Latin, and it translates into “Our Lady”, and we *all* love Mary!

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Have the students read and discuss pages 21–22 in their textbooks.

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An Introduction to the Book of Genesis

The Pentateuch

The Pentateuch is the name given to the first five books of the Bible. These five books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The word "pentateuch" comes from two Greek words: *pente*, meaning "five," and *tauchos*, meaning "books." The Pentateuch was written by Moses, who was the last of the prophets. It is the most important part of the Jewish Bible because together they form "The Torah," or "The Law," the most important part of the Jewish Bible. It contains the story of the formation of the People of God, known as the Hebrews or Israelites. It includes creation, the stories of Abraham and Moses, and the beginnings of this Jewish nation.

The Book of Genesis

Genesis is the name of the first book of the Bible. The word "genesis" comes from the Greek word for "origin" or "birth." This book narrates the origin, or beginning, of the world, the birth of the human race, and the early history of the Hebrew people.

As you look over the first few pages of the Book of Genesis in your Bible, you will notice that there are two different stories of creation. The first story is the creation of the world, and the second story is the creation of man and woman. Most of the ancient peoples from all parts of the world have a story of creation that is part of their culture and tradition. In our present culture, science has its own story to tell about the origin, or beginning, of the world. In science class you may have studied the big bang theory, which claims

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that the earth came into existence as the result of an enormous explosion. You may have studied about evolution, a scientific theory that claims human beings have developed gradually from a simpler form of life.

So what are we to believe? How are we to know the truth about our beginning? From your reading of the first chapter in this text, you may remember several important facts. The writers of the Bible were inspired by God. Do you remember what that means? Divine inspiration means that God sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to assist a human author to write a biblical book in such a way that it has God as its author. The Bible is the Word of God. It is the message that God has given to His people. Although God guided them to write His message, He did not dictate each word to them. He allowed them to do His work through the use of their own thoughts and their own words. The Church holds that all of Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit, "and therefore we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture, firmly, faithfully, and without error, were written and handed down to us by the apostles for our salvation." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 111) This cannot be said of the other stories of creation that are part of folklore or mythology.

Another important fact to remember is that the books of the Bible were written in several different languages. The Bible is a collection of books that were written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. It is classified as a history book. It is not primarily concerned with *how long* creation took. The Bible tells us that God made everything from nothing. The miracle of creation is the same whether it took six days or six years or six million years! We must always remember that the number of days is not important. What is important is that the Lord God did it in a thousand years and a thousand years to us today. (2 Pet 3:8).

Science and our belief in God need not be in competition with each other. For example, we can learn about the big bang theory. We can believe, as some scientists do, that the universe began from a tiny point of light and expanded to fill the universe. This is a scientific theory about the origin of the universe. Science does not know the answer. For the big bang theory to be correct there had to be something to explode and if nothing existed, there was nothing to explode. Our faith tells us that God created everything from nothing. He is the ultimate source of all knowledge, including all of what scientists tell us. We must always remember that the number of days is not important. What is important is that the Lord God did it in a thousand years and a thousand years to us today. (2 Pet 3:8).

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Not all scientists agree that the universe began with an explosion—the big bang theory. Scientists who do support this theory do not know what would have caused such an explosion. There are other scientific theories about the beginning of the universe. Many scientists do agree that at one time, nothing existed. The important point of this section of the lesson is to remember that God is the First Cause, regardless of any scientific theory of how the universe was formed.

See the Living the Lesson section for further discussion of this topic.

Note to the teacher: We recommend that whenever the Scriptures are read in class, the Bible texts be used. The students do not need to read the summaries in their text if the accounts are read from the Bible.

The topic of divine or biblical inspiration can be cross-referenced in paragraph 105 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or in the glossary of the CCC under the title “Biblical Inspiration”.

Have the students complete the Review Questions on page 23 in their textbooks.

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Review Questions

1. What is the name given to the first five books of the Bible?

The Pentateuch

2. What are the first five books of the Bible, in order?

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

3. What does the Pentateuch teach us?

The history of the People of God, including creation, the stories of Abraham and Moses, and the birth of the Israelite nation.

4. What are the first three words of the first book of the Bible?

In the beginning . . .

5. In general, what does Genesis talk about?

It tells us about the creation of the human race, and the history of the Hebrew people.

6. What do we mean by the term “divine inspiration”?

The gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted the human authors in writing the Bible. Therefore, God is its author and it teaches without error the saving truth He wanted to reveal.

7. How can the study of science lead us to a better knowledge of God, our Creator?

Science is the study of what God created. By studying about what God created, we learn something about God Himself.

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Have the students read and discuss pages 26-27 in their textbooks.

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that it was good." In fact, when God created man and woman, the Bible says, "And behold, it was very good" (Gen 1:31). We not only wonder at the power of God through which all things are made and on which we live, we are amazed at His wisdom and goodness. What more can God do to show us His love?

And yet God does do more: "Let us make man in our image; after our likeness." Out of all God's creatures, only man is made in His image. What does this word image mean? When you look at yourself in the mirror, you see a reflection, a likeness, an image of yourself. Is this what God means? Do we look like God? How can this be? God the Father is a spirit. He does not have a body. Furthermore, each of us is unique. Therefore, to be made in God's image must mean more than to be a physical reflection of Him. It must mean that we are made in His image in a way that makes us different from all other creatures. What makes human beings different from God's other earthly creatures is that we, like God, are persons. We are human persons. God created human persons with personal souls. A soul is the spiritual part of a person. Our souls give us the power to think and to choose. We think with our minds, and we choose with our wills. The animals and plants are not persons. They cannot think and choose. Human persons can think and choose.

What is more, God created each of us with a body. Our bodies are given to us by God so that the acts of our minds and wills might be expressed in physical ways. Our bodies are a unique gift to us from God. We are made in His image and likeness in our minds and wills, and we are made in His image and likeness in our bodies. Because He values us beyond measure, we have dignity and worth. We should act according to our dignity. We should never use or mistreat ourselves and others in a way that would offend human dignity. God loves us so much that He shares His very existence with us. As His images, we are called to share His life with Him. We, too, should love each other as images of God and value the goodness in all of God's creatures.

"I praise you, for I am wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works!"
—Psalm 139:14

What are our responsibilities as images of God?

God gives us the answer in Genesis 1:28: "And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over every living thing that moves upon the earth, and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.'"

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pleasure and enjoyment. He gave them the responsibility to govern the earth, to "subdue it." He gives us the same responsibility. We must use this responsibility wisely. We should take care of all of God's creatures. This responsibility is called stewardship. God cares for us. As His images, we should do the same for all of His creation.

What is more, God's creation was made for everyone. We should share the good things of the earth with all of God's creatures. We should not use the earth to satisfy our selfish desires. We should use the earth to serve ourselves, to work toward using the things of the world to benefit others. This creative work will help us to appreciate our own dignity as images of God. By practicing a proper stewardship over the things of the earth, we accept God's invitation to have dominion, and we love others as God loves them.



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Have the students complete the Review Questions on pages 28–29 in their textbooks.

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Review Questions

1. In God's act of creation, how are the first three days related to the next three days?
The first three days are related to the next three days because God created the world on days four to six.
2. What did God do on the seventh day?
God rested.
3. What did God do as He looked upon His creations at the end of the first five days?
God saw that it was good.
4. What did God say after the creation of man and woman?
He found it very good.
5. Why does the Church teach that God created man in His own image?
God created man in His own image because God is all-powerful. He created everything out of nothing. God is wise. His design of creation manifests His wisdom. God loves us. We are made in God's image.
6. What do human persons have that makes them unique, separates them from the animals, and proves that they are made in God's image?
A personal soul.
7. What is a personal soul?
The personal soul is the invisible, spiritual, and immortal gift from God that gives each human being life.
8. What are the two main powers of the soul?
The mind and the will.

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Review Questions (continued)

9. What do we do with the mind?
We think with the mind.
10. What do we do with the will?
We choose with the will.
11. How do human persons express their thoughts and choices in a physical way?
Through their bodies.
12. Why must we respect the dignity of others?
All people are created in God's image.
13. What did God ask Adam and Eve to do after He created them?
Be fruitful and multiply, have dominion over the earth.
14. What did God mean when He asked Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply?
God wished Adam and Eve to become a family and to have children.
15. What did God mean when He asked Adam and Eve to have dominion over the earth?
God wished Adam and Eve to use the responsibility He had given them to govern His creation wisely to abide the earth for the benefit of all human persons, and to take care of His creations.

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Have the students take the Lesson 2 quiz 1.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 2 Quiz 1

1. What is the name given to the first five books of the Bible?

The Pentateuch

2. List the names of the first five books of the Bible in order.

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

3. What do we mean by the term "divine inspiration"?

That the Holy Spirit assisted the human authors in writing the Bible

4. What is a personal soul?

The personal soul is the invisible, spiritual, and immortal gift from God that gives each human being life.

5. What do we do with our wills?

We can choose.

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Have the students read and discuss pages 30–32 in their textbooks.

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Read Psalm 148, and praise God for His wonderful creation!

Scripture Story

The second account of creation is found in Genesis 2:4–25. Read these verses from your Bible, or read the summary below.

The Second Account of Creation

When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, he saw that there was no man to till the soil. So the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. In the garden of Eden, the Lord God planted the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He also made every wild animal and every bird, and he placed them in the man's hands. The man was delighted to look at and good for food. And in the middle of the garden God planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The garden was made where the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers join with two other streams to form the Tigris-Euphrates River. Then God took man and settled him in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate and to care for it. The Lord God said to man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die" (Gen 2:16–17).

Then God created a woman for the man, and he brought her to the man to see what he would call her. The man gave names to all the cattle, the birds, and all the wild animals. But none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So God cast a deep sleep on the man, and he took out one of his ribs. From this rib God created a woman. When God brought her to the man, the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh

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Note to the teacher: You may wish to read Psalm 148 aloud with the students, and praise God for His wonderful creation!

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of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Gen 2:23). That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

A Discussion of the Second Account of Creation

This second account of creation is different from the first. The first story is an exciting drama. The writer seems to be watching the very act of creation. Each creative act is described in detail. The second account is written from a different point of view. It is chiefly concerned with the creation of man and woman. All of God's other creative actions are mentioned to help us understand more about the creation of the human person.

What is God telling us in this second account of creation? God creates man before the rest of His creatures, indicating that they are made for man's sake. How does God make man? God portrays Himself as a potter who molds man's body out of clay. Then God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen 2:7). This "breath of life" is man's soul. You may remember from the discussion of the first account of creation that the soul is the spiritual part of a person born from man and conceived at the moment of creation that the soul is a living soul. God gives a person the power to think and to choose. God then places man in the Garden of Eden. He surrounds man with various trees that are "pleasant to the sight and good for food"

Gen 2:9). One of these trees is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In chapter 2, verse 18, God says, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." But 18 does not make sense immediately. He first creates the birds and animals and brings them to Adam to name. Man is given the opportunity to be a part of God's creative act—to show his wisdom and to name God's creatures.¹⁴ But for the man there was not found a helper fit for him" (Gen 2:20). Adam recognizes that he is unique. Among all of God's creatures there is none like himself. Further, he sees that there is no other human person he can love. He needs to share his love with another human being. As an image of God, he needs to love another human being in a God-like way. Hence, woman is created and is intended to be the full partner of his life. What joy Adam experiences when he says, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Gen 2:23).

How wise and wonderful God is! God allows Adam to feel lonely when he is naming the animals. Adam is lonely because he doesn't have another human person to love. When he meets Eve, he knows the joy of loving another human person. God creates woman so that man and woman will be able to

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express their love for each other through their bodies. Adam's joy is great, because he knows that, like him, Eve is another image of God. Adam knows his own dignity as an image of God, and therefore he values Eve. Eve also knows her dignity as an image of God, and therefore she values Adam.

This is the reason why Adam and Eve felt no shame, even though they were naked. Shame is an emotion that is caused by guilt over a willful thought or action that is wrong. Adam and Eve knew what was good. They knew that each one of them was of incredible worth and value. Their actions toward each other reflected their intrinsic knowledge. They were able to love each other in a God-like way. That is why, "a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Gen 2:24). God blessed their union and laid the foundation for the Sacrament of Marriage, which Jesus later renewed.

God's message to us is very clear. All human beings have dignity. We have value and worth because we are created in God's image and likeness. When we see and appreciate our own dignity, we can value the dignity of others. We can love others as God loves us. As with Adam and Eve, God gives us the gift of life, grace. Grace is a gift from God that helps us act in a God-like way. Grace helped Adam and Eve to live in grace. In a God-like way, through grace we are capable of acting in a God-like way. We can do what God created us to do. We can love Him and others through Him. He should also have faith in us. Faith is the theological virtue that enables us to believe and accept all that God has revealed.

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Have the students complete the Review Questions on page 33 in their textbooks.

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Review Questions

- How does the second account of creation differ from the first?
Adam understood that he was unique. There was no other creature like him. He felt lonely. He needed to love another human person.
- In the second account of creation, from what did God make the first man?
God, acting as a father, formed man out of clay.
- What is the name of the tree from which Adam and Eve must not eat?
The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- What did Adam come to understand after he named the animals?
Adam understood that he was unique. There was no other creature like him. He felt lonely. He needed to love another human person.
- Why did God create woman?
So that Adam and Eve could be partners in life and love one another.
- What did God give Adam and Eve so that they could love Him?
His life, grace.
- What does grace help us to do?
Grace helps us to act in a God-like way.
- What is faith?
The theological virtue that enables us to believe and accept all that God has revealed.

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Have the students read and discuss pages 34–35 in their textbooks.

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LIVING THE LESSON—APPLICATION

The Order in Creation Can Reveal God to Us

Try to apply your understanding of mathematics to your understanding of creation.

The number that shows the probability of life appearing on earth is in a specific order after being used in the air is a number. This higher is part of fifty-two from. Imagine what the number would be for all the various types of living beings and non-living things in the entire universe. The order in creation makes it beyond the realm of probability that it simply came to be by chance resulting from a big bang. We know that everything was created by Almighty God.

The story is often told of Saint Maximilian Kolbe riding on a train; one day he found himself sitting next to an abbot. The abbot asked him, "How can you believe in God? I don't believe in anything that I cannot see, taste, touch, smell, or feel." Maximilian asked the man, "When you boarded this train you knew that you were about to enter a new world. How did you know?" Maximilian asked him, "How do you know that we are moving?" The man answered again, "I look out the window; you can see that we are moving." Maximilian replied to the man that he knew that there was an engine on this train and by seeing the engine himself, but by looking at creation moving past his window. Likewise, Maximilian explained that he knew that there is a God whom he looks at in the order and beauty in creation.

The theory of evolution and the big bang theory are just their theories. They are not laws of science.

Dominion

Make a list of things that you can do to carry out God's invitation to have dominion over all the earth.

- What can you do to take care of the environment (air, water, and land)?
- What can you do to take care of animals (your pets and other animals)?

Discuss these things with your family and friends, and then do one of the things you wrote on your list.

Respect

We have learned that we should always respect one another because we are all made in God's image.

- How do we sometimes use or mistreat people?
- What can we do to help those who are mistreated?
- What can we do to help those who are mistreated?
- What can we do to help people in need?

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Creation

Discuss these ideas with family and friends. The creation story touches on many things about God. Take a look at the world around you.

1. Is creation continuing today? In what ways?
2. How do you think God created the world?
3. What does our part in God's ongoing creative work teach us about God and ourselves?



Psalms of Praise

Psalm that contains praise of God the Creator:

- Psalm 8 The Majesty of God and the Dignity of Man and Woman
- Psalm 9 The Lord's Rule over the World and the Law
- Psalm 103 Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
- Psalm 95 A Call to Praise and Obedience
- Psalm 96 The Glories of the Lord, the King of the Universe
- Psalm 104 Praise of God the Creator
- Psalm 108 Praise for the Everlasting Kingdom of the Lord (verses 1-9)
- Psalm 139 The All-knowing and Ever-present God
- Psalm 147 Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
- Psalm 148 Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator
- Psalm 150 Praise with Full Orchestra

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Note to the teacher: It is recommend that you do this quick, easy, and fun demonstration with your students. This points out to them how improbable it is that the world was created by chance. This demonstration takes only a few moments of class time. You can open the class by reading the student text and finish with this demonstration.

Have one student throw fifty-two regular playing cards in the air. Explain that the goal is to have the cards land with all Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, and Clubs together. The cards are also to be in order of highest to lowest. Allow them to try a few times, cheering them on as they go. The class can join in on the cheering; you can try a second student to see if he could do better.

Materials needed:

1 deck of fifty-two playing cards

Now ask the same student to organize the cards in order while looking at them. It should take only a couple of minutes. Point out to them how when the student was able to use his intelligence it took only a couple of minutes to complete the task. Explain how some people believe that the big bang just simply happened; they do not believe that God was involved. They believe that all of creation exists simply due to chance.

Encourage the students to apply an understanding of mathematics to their understanding of creation.

The number that shows the probability of having fifty-two playing cards end up in a specific order is a huge number. This huge number is just for fifty-two items. Imagine what the number would be for all the various types of living beings and non-living things in the *entire universe*. The order in creation makes it beyond the realm of probability that it simply came

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to be by chance resulting from a big bang. We know that everything was created by Almighty God.

The story is often told of Saint Maximilian Kolbe riding on a train; one day he found himself sitting next to an atheist. The atheist asked him, "How can you believe in God? I don't believe in anything that I cannot see, taste, touch, smell, or feel." Maximilian asked the man, "When you boarded this train you could not see the engine; do you believe that there is an engine at the front of this train?" The man answered, "Of course there is an engine, we are moving you know!" Maximilian asked him, "How do you know that we are moving?" The man answered again, "Look out the window; you can see that we are moving." Maximilian replied to the man that he knew that there was an engine on this train not by seeing the engine himself, but by looking at creation moving past his window. Maximilian explained that likewise he knows that there is a God when he looks at the order and beauty in creation.

The theory of evolution and the big bang theory are just that: theories. They are not laws of science.

The Saints

The study of Genesis and, in particular, the gift of creation provides an opportunity to extend the students' interest in and knowledge of the lives of the saints. Saint Francis of Assisi held an uncommon love for all of God's creation. He believed that to see the world with the eyes of faith was to see the world both as a gift from God and as a sign of the presence of Christ, who redeemed the world. "The Canticle of Brother Sun" is a beautiful poem about creation. The poem lends itself to illustration and to individual or group recitation. In addition, there are many other stories and anecdotes that reflect Saint Francis' thoughts on the everyday relationship among the created world, its creatures, people, and the Creator. The story "The Wolf of Gubbio" is one example. Encourage the students to read about the life of Saint Francis and the legends surrounding this saint, which testify to his love for God and the creatures of the world.

Have the students read and discuss pages 36–37 in their textbooks.

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CELEBRATION

God created the world and everything in it. We pray to always keep our faith in Him.

At the origin of every human being there is not something haphazard or chance, but a loving plan of God. This was revealed to us by Jesus Christ, the true Son of God and a perfect man. He knew whence he came and whence all of us have come: from the love of His Father and our Father.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Humily, City of Arts and Sciences*,
Sunday, July 9, 2006

Prayer

The Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that you created the world and all that is in it, and that the Son became man and died for our sins.
I believe that he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches concerning God, the world, and man.
I believe that I am a creature of God, who is eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

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The Canticle of Brother Sun

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
To You alone belong praise and glory,
Honor, and blessing. No man is worthy to breathe Thy name.

Be praised, my Lord, for all Your creatures.

In the first place for the blessed Brother Sun,
Who gives us the day to see and to live through You,
He is beautiful and radiant with his great splendor,
Giving witness of Thee, Most Compotent One.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars
Formed by You so bright, precious, and beautiful.
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Wind,
Who gives us the coolness and the freshening of the air.

For every weather, be praised, for it is life giving.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
So necessary yet so humble, precious, and clean.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire, who lights up the night.
He is beautiful and carefree, robust, and fierce.

Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, Mother Earth,
Who nourishes and watches us
While bringing forth abundance of fruit with colored
Flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, for those who pardon through Your love
And bear witness and trust in You, O Lord, our Father, in peace.

For they will be crowned by You, Most High.
Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, Bodily Death,
Which we must needs pass through to escape.

Woe to those who die in sin.
Blessed are those who discover Thy holy will.
The second death will do them no harm.

Remember us, O Lord, in Your goodness.
Reader thanks.

Saint Francis of Assisi
(translated by Lawrence Cunningham)

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Have the students take the Lesson 2 quiz 2.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 2 Quiz 2—The Act of Faith (10 points)

Write the Act of Faith.

(Each line that is written correctly equals one point.)

Act of Faith

1. O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons.
2. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. I believe that your divine Son became man.
4. and died for our sins
5. and that he will come to judge the living and the dead.
6. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
7. because you have revealed them
8. who are eternal truth and wisdom.
9. who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
10. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

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Have the students take the Lesson 2 test.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 2 Test

Matching

Write the letter of the corresponding definition or explanation.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>H</u> 1. Pentateuch | A. everlasting |
| <u>C</u> 2. Genesis | B. the gift of God's life that He shares with persons |
| <u>D</u> 3. account | C. the first five books of the Bible |
| <u>L</u> 4. divine inspiration | D. story |
| <u>F</u> 5. literary form | E. the invisible, spiritual, immortal gift from God that gives us life |
| <u>A</u> 6. create | F. different types of writings |
| <u>K</u> 7. ornament | G. a reflection |
| <u>X</u> 8. eternal | H. origin, birth, beginning |
| <u>G</u> 9. image | I. a person's worth or value |
| <u>J</u> 10. dignity | J. authority to govern the earth |
| <u>E</u> 11. dominion | K. to decorate |
| <u>S</u> 12. personal soul | L. God's guidance |
| <u>B</u> 13. grace | M. to make something out of nothing |

Short Answer

- Name the first five books of the Bible in order.
1) Genesis
2) Exodus
3) Leviticus
4) Numbers
5) Deuteronomy
- What do human persons have that makes them unique, separating them from the animals, and shows that they are made in God's image? personal soul
- How do human persons express their thoughts and choices in a physical way? with their bodies
- What two responsibilities did God give Adam and Eve after He created them? be fertile and multiply and have dominion over the earth
- What spiritual gift did God give Adam and Eve so that they could love Him? grace or His life
- What do we do with our sinless think
- What did God create on day one? light and darkness
- What did God create on day one? day
- In the second account of creation, from what did God make the first man? the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

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ACTIVITIES

Have the students complete worksheet 1 on page 37 in their textbooks.

LESSON 2: GENESIS—THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AND OF MAN AND WOMAN

ACTIVITIES

Worksheet 1: God's Design of Creation

God divided His creative work into six days.

Recurrence After each day numbered below, write a short description of what God created on that day. Each day was numbered in the source of your answers. To find the answers, read Genesis 1:1-31 and 2:1-4.

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------|
| Day 1 | <u>light, darkness</u> | Genesis 1: 3-5 |
| Day 2 | <u>the sky</u> | Genesis 1: 6-8 |
| Day 3 | <u>the earth, the sea, vegetation</u> | Genesis 1: 9-13 |
| Day 4 | <u>the sun, moon, and stars</u> | Genesis 1: 14-19 |
| Day 5 | <u>birds, fishes (swimming creatures)</u> | Genesis 1: 20-23 |
| Day 6 | <u>creatures (animals) and man and woman</u> | Genesis 1: 24-31 |

What did God do on Day 7?

God rested.

Genesis 2: 1-4

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LESSON 2: GENESIS—THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AND OF MAN AND WOMAN

Psalms of Praise

Pray one of the Psalms of Praise at the end of class.

Psalms that contain praises of God the Creator:

- Psalms 8 The majesty of God and the dignity of man and woman
- Psalms 19 God's glory in the Heavens and in the law
- Psalms 65 Thanksgiving for God's blessings
- Psalms 95 A call to praise and obedience
- Psalms 96 The glories of the Lord, the King of the universe
- Psalms 104 Praise of God the Creator
- Psalms 136 Hymn of thanksgiving for the everlasting kindness of the Lord (verses 1–9)
- Psalms 139 The all-knowing and ever-present God
- Psalms 147 Zion's grateful praise to her bountiful Lord
- Psalms 148 Hymn of all creation to the almighty Creator
- Psalms 150 Final doxology with full orchestra

Art and Crafts—Creation Illustration

Have the students illustrate the six days of creation. Divide the class into six groups. Assign each group one day of creation to illustrate. Give each group a large strip of newsprint or rolled paper (at least six feet long) to use as the basis for their collage or mural. Each group can discuss and decide on the medium to be used and the style of mural. Teamwork is essential to ensure a coherent result. Display the finished work in the hallways of the school or church. Perhaps students can try to illustrate the seventh day as well.

Role Play

We have learned that we should always respect one another, because we are all made in God's image. But even though we know better, sometimes we might use or mistreat another person, or we might see someone being used or mistreated.

Choose students to role play the following situations. Then discuss as a class how the situation was handled.

1. If Jacob doesn't bring his math grade up, he will not be able to play on the basketball team this season. David is one of the top math students in the class, but he is not well-liked. Jacob thinks about pretending to be friends with David so that David will help him with his math homework. But Jacob doesn't really want to be friends with David. What should Jacob do?

If Jacob pretends to be friends with David, what will Jacob's friends think? What will David think? How will David feel if he finds out Jacob was just using him?

Discussion Questions

*How do you feel when you use another person?
How do you feel when another person uses you?*

2. Amanda is a very popular girl in sixth grade. She has a large group of friends, and Karen is one of her friends. Karen likes Amanda and likes being her friend, but sometimes Amanda is unkind to girls who are not in her group of friends. Lisa is a new girl in class. She is friendly and kind, but she is a little bit heavy. At lunchtime, Karen sits with Lisa. Amanda starts making fun of Lisa's weight. Then she tells Karen that Karen can't be friends with Lisa, because Lisa doesn't belong to their group. What should Karen do?

Should Karen let Amanda tell her who her friends can be? If Karen defends Lisa, will she lose Amanda's friendship? If Karen doesn't defend Lisa, how will that make Karen feel? How will Lisa feel if Karen decides not to be her friend because of what Amanda has said?

Discussion Questions

How do you feel when you make fun of and mistreat another person? How do you feel when another person makes fun of you and mistreats you? Should you let a friend tell you whom you can have for friends?