



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#4 – And Then There Was Light Genesis 1:3-5

PICTURES NEEDED

4-1 Light Burst

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
What existed before creation? When did time begin? What are all things made of? What was matter like in the beginning? What was space like?
- **The Big Question:** Where did created things come from?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Colossians 1:16-17
Jesus created all things and holds them together

¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; (all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.)

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

Before we read more about creation, we want to review what God made first. Genesis 1:1-2 says: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

What do "the heavens" refer to? The heavens refer to the stretched out space that God made in which to put his creation.

What does "the earth" refer to? The earth refers to the dirt or basic matter from which all things are made. In the beginning matter didn't have any form but it must have had energy since matter, energy and design are all part of the smallest unit of matter, the atom. Everything in God's creation is built up of atoms.

Once God had established the basic building blocks of creation he spoke into existence light. **(Picture 4-1)** Genesis 1:3-5 describes how God created light: *³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.*

Light is produced when atoms gain extra energy and enter what is called an "excited" state. Atoms become excited by absorbing light or heat from another source or being struck by other particles, which pass on energy. An easy way to excite atoms is to heat them up. Once excited atoms tend to want to de-excite, to go back to the condition they were in. As they de-excite they give off photons which make up visible light and other electromagnetic waves.

When God said, "Let there be light," it would seem he excited the atoms that he had created by putting energy into his creation, causing atoms to absorb energy and release light. Whatever he did, he did it by the power of his word and the nature of who he is.

Let's stop and think about what the first three verses of Genesis say existed in creation during the first day.

- What did God create first? First God created the heavens or the space in which he would put the things he made and the basic matter of which things would be made.
- What did God create next? Next God brought forth the light which is essential for life.
- What did God say about the light? After bringing forth light, God saw that the light he made was good.

What does it mean that God saw that the light he made was good? When God says that something is good that means it fulfills the purpose for which he designed it.

We need to understand the design of light and just how good and purposeful light is. We also need to recognize that light exists in both the physical and spiritual realms.

(NOTE: As you talk through the design of light, draw the chart below on the board.)

The Design of Light		
	Physical Light	Spiritual Light (Jesus)
1	Provides what is necessary for physical life	Provides what is necessary for spiritual life
2	Makes God's creation visible	Makes God visible
3	Brings physical healing and cleansing	Brings spiritual healing and cleansing

What does light do for God's creation? We already mentioned that light is necessary for life, so the first purpose of light is to provide for physical life.

How is all life dependent upon light? Besides producing the warmth that is needed to sustain life, light also enables plants to produce the food they need to live and grow. This means that all food has its source through light since all life is dependent in some way on food from plants (i.e., animals eat animals which eat plants).

What else does light do? Light makes everything God has created visible. Without light we would not be able to see the colors and beauty of the physical world. That means light enables us to see God through his creation.

Does anyone know something else that light does? There is a third important property to light, that of bringing both healing and cleansing. Light causes cuts, wounds and infections to heal faster. It also kills harmful bacteria and has cleansing power. If you leave something out in the sunlight, any germs on it will be killed.

What was the earth like at the time God created light? Remember that at the time God created light, the earth or matter he had made was still formless. There was no physical source of light like the sun or stars when God brought forth light.

What was the source of the light God spoke into existence? Just as all things have their origin or source in God so does light. The first light of creation must have come from God himself, as he injected energy into the space and the formless matter or atoms he created.

The fact that light, energy and matter all have their source in God should cause us to reflect on the fact that when the sun and other matter cease to exist, our Creator God will still exist. Created things have a beginning and will have an end. Only God is eternal and exists forever.

Light is used in the Bible to describe God's presence. What is Jesus called in terms of light? Jesus is called the "light of the world." What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world? In the spiritual realm Jesus functions in a way similar to that of light in the physical realm.

What does that mean Jesus does for us? (Fill in the spiritual side of the chart on the board.) Jesus provides what is necessary for spiritual life as he makes God visible. Through Jesus, we are able to see who God is. Jesus also brings spiritual healing and cleanses us from the sin that harms us.

John 1:3-4 explains that Jesus is the creator of life and the light of men. ³*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* ⁴*In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

What was made through Jesus? Everything. Who does that mean Jesus is? God

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What existed before light? How did light come into existence? What did God see about the light? What does that mean? What did God do to the light and the dark? What did he call the light? What did he call the darkness? What day of creation was this? What can be learned about God from Genesis 1:3-5?
- **Thought Questions:** What is light? How is light made? Where did the light God create come from? What is light designed to do? Why can't light and dark exist together? What are other opposites related to light and dark? (day/night, good/evil, warmth/cold, health/disease, life/death, Christ/Satan) What does the fact that opposites can't exist together mean for us spiritually?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he is the creator and sustainer of all things. Thank God for his light that provides for and sustains both physical and spiritual life.
- **The Big Question: How is Jesus the light?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: John 1:3-4**
The light of Jesus enables us to live and see God.
³*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* ⁴*In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

Questions: Who does "him" refer to? Who made all things? What exists in Christ? What does it mean that the life that exists in Christ is the light of men?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: After God created matter and space he created light.

1. God said, "Let there be light" and there was light.
2. God saw that the light was good. It did what he wanted it to do. It made life possible.
3. God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light day and the darkness night.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Acrostic Poem

Instructions: Write an acrostic poem dealing with the creation of and/or physical and spiritual properties of light. Example:

L – Life giving, love of God

I – Illuminates the world, inclines our hearts to God

G – Glory of God, Given by God

H – Heats the earth, Heals our hearts

T – Takes away darkness, Triumphs over darkness

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

The Laws of Science

Theories are ideas people come up with to explain reality but theories are just ideas that can't be proven and aren't accepted by everyone. What are the two main theories explaining the existence of the universe and life? Creation and evolution

In contrast to theories, there are laws of science or nature, which govern all of God's creation. These laws have been proven through experimentation and observation and are accepted by all of science. The first law of science is the First Law of Thermodynamics or what is called the Law of Conservation of Energy.

What does conservation mean? In terms of the law, conservation means to maintain a certain quantity of something during a reaction, change or transformation. The law states that in a closed system like our universe energy and mass (matter) can neither be created nor destroyed. Energy or matter can be changed from one form to another but the total amount of them in the universe remains the same.

Does the law of the conservation of energy support the theory of creation or evolution?

It supports creation. The theory of evolution says that energy and matter created themselves through natural processes over billions of years ago, but since the law states that energy is neither created nor destroyed but just changed, the theory of evolution contradicts it. In contrast the theory of creation says that energy and matter cannot create themselves through natural processes. They had to be created by a supernatural force outside of nature. Supernatural of course refers to God and means to exist outside the natural or physical world. God put the energy into the universe at the beginning of creation.

The second law of science is the Second Law of Thermodynamics or the Law of Increasing Entropy. Entropy is the tendency of things to break down or fall into disorder. This breakdown occurs because as energy and matter are changed they take on a form that is less useful, so that even if the amount of them remains the same it isn't as useable as it was before. This law means that in a closed system like our universe over time things become more random, disordered, and less useable.

Does the law of increasing entropy support the theory of creation or evolution? Again, the theory of evolution contradicts it. The Theory of Evolution states that over billions of years the first matter that came from nothing became more organized through natural processes, meaning that everything is improving, not breaking down. The Theory of Creation states that the universe God created was very good but over time is breaking down and becoming less ordered. Furthermore, according to the Bible, the earth will eventually be destroyed and God will create a new heaven and earth. The theory of creation fits reality as we see creation is breaking down, not becoming more ordered.

Questions: What is the difference between a law of science and a theory? What is the Law of conservation of Energy? In what way can that law be observed to be true? What is the Law of Increasing Entropy? In what way can that law be observed to be true? What is the Theory of Evolution? What laws of science does evolution contradict? Can evolution be observed to be true? What is the Theory of Creation? Was creation observed? How do we know creation is true if it couldn't be observed? What do the two fundamental laws of science reveal? Why do people who believe the two laws of science still believe in the theory of evolution?

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

- Digging Deeper: What are characteristics of the Light?

Reading 1: John 1:1-5 The Light is the life of men.

What existed in the beginning? Who is the Word? What has come through the Word? What does verse 4 mean? What is the relationship between light and darkness?

Reading 2: John 12:34-36 Darkness can't overtake the Light.

How can darkness overtake light? How do we trust in the Light? What happens to us when we trust in the Light?

Reading 3: John 12:37-46 The Light brings people out of darkness.

How were the words of Isaiah fulfilled in terms of Jesus? Why wouldn't many of the Pharisees who believed in Jesus confess their faith? Who did Jesus say men would see when they believe in him? What did Jesus come as? For what reason? What does it mean to stay in darkness?

Reading 4: 1 John 1:1-7 There is no darkness in Light.

What was John proclaiming? For what reason was he proclaiming that? What does it mean that there is no darkness in God? What is the result of walking in darkness? What is the result of walking in light?

Reading 5: 1 John 2:7-11 You can't hate your brother and live in the Light.

Who lives in darkness? What does the darkness do to him? Who lives in the light? What does the person who lives in the light do? What doesn't he do? What does that mean?

Reading 6: Matthew 6:22-23 Investigating the Human Eye

Charles Darwin, the man who first developed the Theory of Evolution, said that the thought of the human eye made him ill because he couldn't understand how it could be formed through natural selection. Look up the human eye on the Internet and read about its design. Think about how the design of the eye is related to the light God created. What enables the eye to receive light? What focuses the light rays to give a clear picture? How does the eye receive color? What is the role of the brain in terms of sight? Does the eye show evidence of design? How? Which is a more reasonable explanation for the human eye: evolution or creation? Why?