



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#6 - The Dry Ground Appears Genesis 1:9-10

PICTURES NEEDED

- 6-1 dry ground and sea
- 6-2 picture of earth from space
- 6-3 water cycle

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 did God do to the waters on the second day of creation? Why is water important? What formed the earth's atmosphere? What did it contain?
- **The Big Question Review:** For what should we thirst?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 63:1

We are to thirst for God like our bodies thirst for water.

(O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you,) in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

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.

Remember in the last lesson that in forming the earth God separated the water under the sky from the water above. **(picture 6-1)** Does anyone know what God's next act of creation was? In Genesis 1:9-10 it says, *And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.*

In order for dry ground to appear, what must the water that was under the expanse have contained? Since God had already created the atoms (elements) that things were to be made up of, the water God gathered together under the expanse probably already contained all the matter that would form the land or dry ground. Even now all the elements that exist naturally on earth are found in the waters of the ocean. (Illustrate this with a bottle of water that contains about an inch of fine sand. Shake the bottle up so the sand is mixed with the water.)

Psalms 104:5-9 paints a picture of what God did in causing the dry ground to appear. *⁵He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. ⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. ⁷But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; ⁸they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.*

Where were the waters at first? At first the water covered all the ground because the earth was just a round sphere without a place for the ocean.

How was the basin for the ocean formed? God spoke and the water was gathered into one place and the dry ground appeared. Like all of the acts of creation we don't know exactly how this occurred but we do know that when God speaks he causes supernatural things to happen, things that are just too amazing to fully understand.

It does seem that God must have pushed up the matter that makes up the ground and caused the water to settle down into the basin or valley he made for it. This can be illustrated by a very simplistic visual demonstration. Keep in mind though that the demonstration really only gives us some understanding of the position of land and sea, it can't even begin to capture the magnitude of what God did nor the reality of how he did it.

Demonstration:

1. Fill an oblong clear plastic disposable container with about 1 inch of fairly fine sand.
2. Cut a sturdy piece of cardboard the width and height of the container. Insert the cardboard at one end down into the sand.
3. Pour water over the sand so it is covered with about ½ inch of water.
4. Use the cardboard to push the sand from one end of the container up against the other end. This leaves a basin or valley at the one end of the container that all the water will settle in and an area of sand (dry ground) at the other.

After God separated the land and seas, he saw that they were good. **(picture 6-2)** What is good about the seas or oceans?

- Without the oceans life wouldn't exist on earth. 97% of the water on earth is stored in the oceans, supplying the world with the water needed for rain.
- The oceans also regulate the temperature on earth to keep it from getting either too hot or too cold. The immense amount of water in the ocean absorbs excess heat from the air in the summer and then slowly releases the heat back into the air in the winter.
- There are also currents or rivers in the ocean that move water around the earth. These currents carry warm water from the tropics to the cold northern and southern poles. They then transport cold water from the poles to the warm tropical areas. This helps to cool down warm places and warm up cold places.
- Besides regulating the earth's temperature, the oceans are also an important source of food, energy and minerals.

What is good about the land? Without land there would be no place for people, animals or plants to live on earth. In other words without land earth would just be a planet of water with no possibility of life for people and all other land animals. God designed the earth as a place for people to live and so it was essential that there be dry ground. Land was the first thing God brought forth on day three of creation.

After giving the earth form and separating the dry ground from the water, God named what he had made. What did he name them? He called the dry ground "land" and the water "seas".

Why was God calling them "land" and "sea" important? In ancient times if you named something that meant that you had either ownership rights to it or the right to rule over it. Psalm 24:1-2 says, *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.* The earth and everything on it belongs to God. God knows how the things he made function and what their purpose is. He made it all; he both owns it and has the right to rule over it.

If all created things on earth belong to the Lord what does that mean for us? We belong to God and he has the understanding and the right to rule over us. God knows how we are to function and what our purpose is. Through God's Word, we need to discover his plan for us and the way we are to do things. If we do so, we will function in a way that is good because it follows God's good plan for us. Life will go well for us when we discover what God says is good and do things his way.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** How did God created the dry land? What happened to the seas? Why did God call the seas good? Why did God call the land good? What does the formation of the land and the seas tell us about God?
- **Thought Questions:** Why does God only have to speak to have things come into being? Why can't people do that? What do people have to have to make something? How do we know God had a plan for his creation? Why can't we fully understand God's plan? What can we understand about God's plan?

- **Prayer:** Thank God that he designed a perfect place to put people and that he created people for a purpose, which is to worship and glorify him. Thank God that he has given us the Bible so that we can know him better and understand his plan for us.
- **The Big Question:** Why does God have the right to rule over the earth?

Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.

- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 24:1-2
God created earth and everything in it.

¹The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; ²for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Questions: What does it mean that everything belongs to God? Why does everything belong to God? What does that give God authority to do?

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:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

- ★ **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:** Maze
Instructions: Find the way through the ocean maze to the mountain of dry ground.

- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.
God created the earth and everything in it.

- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Sand art
As a reminder that God separated the dry ground from the water, make a sand art picture of the earth.

Materials: Cover stock paper, scissors, sand, glue, blue crayon, marker or colored pencil, cookie sheet or tray.

Preparation: Run off craft 6 on cover stock paper. Cut apart each world and bottom stand.

Instructions:

1. Cut out the circle of the world.
2. Color or paint the ocean area blue.
3. Cover the area of land with white glue. Over a shallow box, tray or cookie sheet, sprinkle sand or dirt on the area covered with white glue. Shake off any extra sand or dirt.
4. Fold the Bible verse strip to make a stand for the world. Fold along the dotted lines. Glue the small tab to the back of the strip.

• **Investigation Activity** – Why are the oceans salty?

Explanation: Most of the salt in the ocean comes from the wearing down of the rocks and dirt of the ground. This material from the ground is transported by the rain to the rivers and from the rivers to the oceans. Evaporation of the water in the ocean's surface takes fresh water out of the ocean and leaves the salt behind. This salt accumulates in the oceans.

Most of the evaporated water falls back to the sea in the form of rain but a lot of the fresh water is carried in clouds to the land areas where it falls as rain. The run off from the rain flows back to the ocean again carrying with it more salt and other minerals. This cycle continually repeats itself.

The investigation will help you to understand how run-off water contains salt and how the salt is left behind when the water evaporates. .

Instructions: (From Earth Science for Every Kid, #95)

1. Punch holes in the bottom of a paper cup with a sharp pencil.
2. Put a coffee filter inside the cup.
3. Mix together 1 T. dirt and 1 T. salt in the coffee filter.
4. Place a sheet of black construction paper on top of a plate.
5. Make little legs out of clay to set the cup on.
6. Set the cup on the legs on top of the plate and paper.
7. Pour 3 T. of water over the dirt/salt mixture in the cup and let it run out onto the paper.
8. Let the water on the paper evaporate. (This will need to happen during the week and be observed during the next lesson.)
9. Salt crystals should be left on the paper once all the water is evaporated.

• **Game:** Water Relay

As a reminder that at one time the earth was only water until God put the water in its place and caused the dry ground to appear, run a water relay.

Instructions: Divide the group into two teams. At one end of the play area put a bucket of water. At the other end put a clear 2-4 cup measuring cup for each team. In the relay each member of the team uses a tablespoon to dip water out of the bucket and transport it to the cup, trying not to let any spill. Once he reaches the cup, he dumps the water in and runs back with the spoon to pass off to the next player. At the end of two to three rounds, the team with the most water in the cup wins.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.