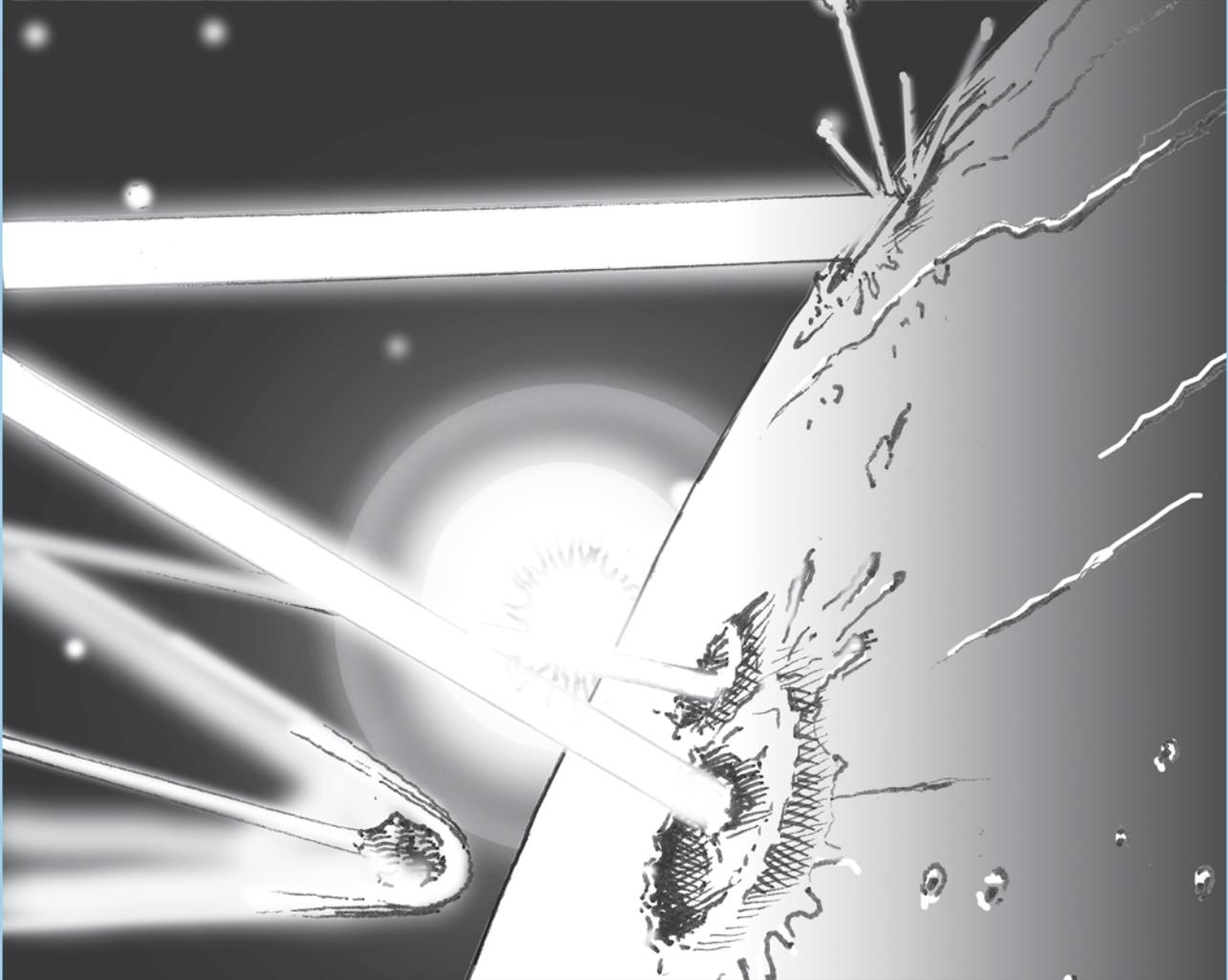


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



“In the Beginning...”



LEVEL 4
LESSON 1

“In the Beginning...”

Have you ever wondered where you came from? What about where your parents came from? Or how Earth came to be?

You can know the answers to these questions. But you have to travel very far back in time. Back before your parents—before television—even before people existed!

You have to keep traveling back in time. Even before dinosaurs. You have to travel back to when Earth did not exist. Neither did the moon or stars. Back before anything physical existed.

Once you have traveled back this far, you are ALMOST far enough. But we need to go back even further. Back to a time before anything, anywhere existed, except for two Spirit Beings.

This is the beginning of our story and the beginning of the answer to the question: “Where did I come from?” Would you believe that most people do not know the answer to this question?

People do not know where they came from because they do not look into the Bible. They do not understand that God made everything we see.

But you can understand how the world and all creation came to be.

As you read this lesson, look up the verses in the Bible. Remember, the Bible is God’s Holy Word. It tells you what He thinks. When you read the words of the Bible, imagine that God is talking to you. God is teaching you things that most people do not understand!

By the end of the lesson, you will know where angels came from. You will also have learned about the true origin of human life.

This story is more exciting than any television show or movie you have ever seen. This is the real truth of what happened thousands and millions of years ago!

In the Beginning

Before anything was made, there was one Family. The name of that Family is God. And like your family, there is more than one person in that family. This family—the God Family—has two Beings in it.

Write out Genesis 1:1: _____

_____.

While Genesis 1:1 records the “beginning,” there is another verse that talks about an even earlier time.

Write out John 1:1: _____

_____.

Remember, God is a family name. Just as your family has one last name, but more than one person in your family, there is more than one Person in the God Family.

In the section below, write your last name in the spaces. We are going to create an imaginary family, using your last name.

My family’s last name is: _____.

I have a sister named Sally _____ and a brother named Billy _____.

My friends call my father Mr. _____. If my brother Billy stands next to my father, he is WITH Mr. _____. Billy is also a _____. We are all part of the _____ family.

The God Family is described in John 1:1. The Word is WITH God. And He IS God. God is the Family name! Like your family, there is one person in charge—your father! The God Family has a leader too—God the Father.

In the very beginning, these were the only two Beings who existed. God the Father and the Word. There were no plants, animals, angels or humans.

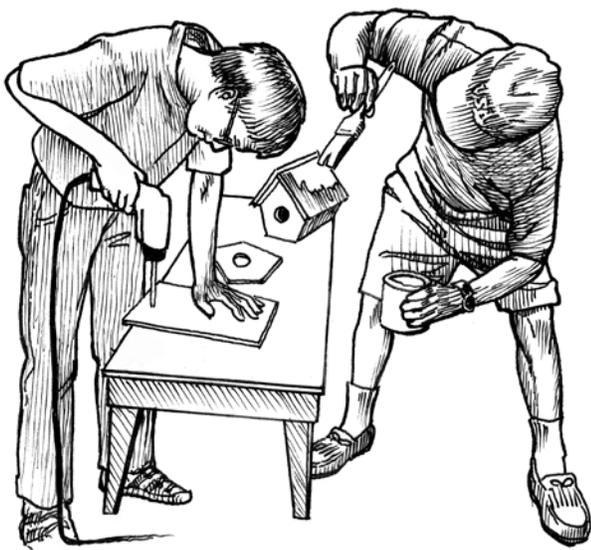
As in a human family, the Father was in charge of the God Family.

Read John 1:3: “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

So God and the Word created things. But what did they create?

The First Creation

Have you ever made anything? Have you ever built a treehouse? Or have you ever taken



You and your friends have created and built many things. God is also a Creator.

boxes and made a dollhouse? You had to plan! You had to figure out how to make it.

What are some other things you have made? _____

And when you made these things with your friends, was someone the leader, telling the others how to do it? Through proper leadership and teamwork, you and your friends were probably able to create something neat!

God works exactly the same way. God the Father and the Word planned on what to make. They may have discussed what they should make. They may have talked about how to make it; then through perfect teamwork, they created angels—hundreds of millions of them!

The angels were created before the universe was created. Of course, like all things, we must prove this from the Bible. You should be careful never to assume something to be true. You should prove it to be true!

Read Job 38. God is talking to Job about the creation of the universe. Write out Job 38:7: _____

_____?

The angels—“sons of God”—shouted for joy when the universe was made. They existed BEFORE the universe.

But what are angels? Are they like God?

God is a Spirit. He made His angels from the same substance: Spirit.

Unlike you and me, angels do not need food and water. They do not get hungry, tired or old. Because they are made from spirit, they cannot die.

When someone cannot die, he is called *immortal*. Look up the word “immortal” in the dictionary and write out the word’s meaning: _____

_____.

God is also made of spirit. Does this mean that God is immortal? God is different because He had no beginning. He was never born or created—He has always existed. He has been alive forever. He is eternal. Look up the word “eternal” in the dictionary: _____

_____.

Angels are not like God and they are not like people. But why did God create them? What was the purpose of angels?

Test Your Memory:

- 1) How many beings were there before the universe was made? _____
- 2) What was the name of their Family? _____
- 3) What did God create before making the universe? _____
- 4) What was this creation made of? _____
- 5) God is eternal, and angels are _____.

The Universe

The second part of God’s great Plan was to create the universe. Turn back in your Bible to Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God _____.”

This was the creation of physical things. The sun, moon and stars were created at this time. Everything was created to be used and expanded.

God then put the angels to a test. He put some in charge of the Earth to take care of it.

Over what may have been millions of years, the angels took care of the Earth. During this time, the Earth was very different than it is now. There were many more trees and exotic creatures that existed. Dinosaurs were some of those creatures.



The universe is an amazing example of God’s power. Try to imagine how immense the universe is.

They were huge animals, roaming through beautiful forests.

If the angels proved that they could be responsible for the Earth, then God would have given them other planets to make just as beautiful.

Look up the word “responsible” in the dictionary: _____

_____.

When your parents give you tasks or chores to do, they are seeing if you will be responsible. Like the angels, if you do things as you are told, you will be allowed to do many other things.

God put an angel in charge of many other angels. His name was Lucifer. His name means “light bringer, shining star of the dawn.” Lucifer was a special type of angel—

an archangel. The Bible only speaks about three of these types of angels.

Like Lucifer, each archangel may have ruled over one-third of the angels. So, with a large number of angels, Lucifer kept and maintained the Earth.

For many years, the angels continued to take care of the Earth. They existed in peace, with Lucifer following God's orders. What existed between God, Lucifer and the other angels was government.

This was not like the governments of today. In your country, you may have a president, or a prime minister, or even a king. These are all governments created by people.

The angels lived under a special kind of government—the government of God! When angels or people follow God's government, then peace, happiness and joy will always be present. For what could have been millions of years, the angels lived this way.

But something changed.

A Great Rebellion!

Lucifer did not remain content with what God had given him. He began to think that he was more important than what he really was. Pride started to set in. He began to consider his own beauty, and vanity also crept into his mind.

Look up "pride" in the dictionary: _____

_____.

Do the same with "vanity": _____

_____.

Instead of just putting these thoughts out of his mind, Lucifer started to dwell on them. He began to believe these thoughts and became bitter against God. Each passing

day, he looked at God with increasing anger. And he fell deeper and deeper into the twisted and wrong thoughts that had gripped his mind.

Lucifer had become so confused, he felt that he could defeat God and take over God's throne in heaven! Notice what Lucifer began to believe: "I will _____ above the heights of the clouds, I will _____" (Isaiah 14:14).

Although Lucifer was a supremely wise, powerful and beautiful being, he still became trapped in sin. That is why it is very important that you do not dwell on bad things. The more you think about such things, the more they will take over your thoughts—the same way that they did to Lucifer!

Now that he had convinced himself that God needed to be replaced, Lucifer set out to recruit the angels under him. The same thinking that had corrupted Lucifer spread to other angels. It may have taken millions of years for one-third of the angels to be convinced and confused. They were then changed into what they are today—demons.

But, of course, Lucifer was just an angel, and could have never defeated God!

God then changed Lucifer's name to Satan the devil! The name Satan means "adversary." He was now the enemy of God.

Satan and the demons were cast down to the Earth, but God did not remove Satan from his throne on Earth. This is where Satan still sits today. He rules over the Earth!

Test Your Memory:

1) What was the name of the angel who ruled Earth? _____

2) What did his name mean? _____

- 3) What kind of angel was he? _____

- 4) Where did God “cast out” Satan to? _____

Effects of the War

Have you ever looked at pictures of Mars? Or perhaps the moon? What you see there is nothing like Earth. There are no trees, animals or other life.

But did you know they were not always like that? When God first created the universe, it was whole and complete. God never does anything without a purpose. The universe today is in disorder. But God did not make it this way.

I Corinthians 14:33 explains why: “For God is _____ the author of _____ but of peace.” He creates things perfectly!

Read Isaiah 45:18. The word “vain” means to lie waste, a desolation or worthless. God does not make things in vain—He creates them for a purpose.

But how did the universe become the way it is today? By Satan’s war with God!

The effects of that war destroyed the surface of the planets, even Earth’s surface. Huge volcanoes erupted all over the Earth. Massive tidal waves crashed into the land. The temperature changed. This killed all the plants and animals that existed. And the massive waves destroyed the land and covered the mountains. Eventually, all the Earth was covered with water. There was no land to be found—nothing but water!

Finally, Genesis 1:2 describes the Earth’s conditions after this great war: “The earth was _____, and _____; and _____ was upon the face of the deep.”

But the world today is *not* without form and void. So what happened? God had plans for the Earth—and for the creation of many more things!

Renewing the Earth

God planned for the arrival of mankind to the Earth. But in the state it was in, man could not survive. God had to renew the Earth and bring it back to a state that was suitable for man to live in and prosper.

This process took six full days of work. Each day, God created more of the features that make up the Earth and all its inhabitants that we see today.

Day One: Genesis 1:3-5: “Then God said, ‘_____’; and there was _____. And God saw the light, that _____; and God _____ the light from the darkness. God called the light _____, and the darkness He called _____.”

On this first day, God removed the poisonous gases from the air. All the dark clouds that covered the Earth were also removed. Suddenly, for the first time in many years, the sun shone down upon the Earth. Half of the day would get sunshine, then the other half would have darkness. This was the first night and day in perhaps millions of years!

Day Two: Genesis 1:6-8: “Then God said, ‘Let there be a _____ in the midst of the waters, and let it _____ from the waters.’ And God made the _____, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament _____.”

You have probably never heard the word “firmament” before. Look it up in the diction-

ary, like you would anytime you read or hear a word that you do not know. In this case, the definition will tell you what God created on this second day.

Now that the sun was shining upon the Earth, God had to create something to protect the Earth from the super hot sun. So He cleared away a layer of water and made it into clouds and a protective layer surrounding the Earth. In total, God created the atmosphere! The Bible calls this the first heaven.

Day Three: Genesis 1:9-12: “Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be _____ into one place, and let the _____ appear’; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called _____. And God saw that _____. Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth _____, the _____ that yields seed, and the _____ that yields fruit according _____, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according _____, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according _____. And God saw that it was good.”

With the air clean and ready for life, God began to create dry land. Up from the oceans appeared mountains, hills and land. Water was moved into groups. Some of it was salt water—like the ocean. Other water was created fresh—like rivers and lakes.

This allowed God to create all kinds of plant life. Trees, bushes, grass and other plants were created on the Earth. Things were once again green and beautiful.

Day Four: Genesis 1:14-18: “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to _____ the _____ from the

_____; and let them be for _____ and _____, and for _____ and _____; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so. Then God made _____ great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.”

God now cleared away the last layers of gas that prevented Earth from having a clear view of outer space. When He did this, suddenly the moon and stars began to shine in the sky. This gave light to the night.

The Bible says that God made two great lights. What are they? (1) _____ (2) _____. Remember, one lights the day, and the other lights the night.

Day Five: Genesis 1:20-21: “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of _____, and let _____ fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’ So God created great _____ and every _____ that moves, with which the waters abounded, _____, and every winged bird _____. And God saw that it was good.”

Now that the Earth had plants for food, and clean air to breathe, God began creating animals. He started with fish, whales, dolphins and all the creatures in the oceans. Then He followed with the birds in the sky. Notice that God said that each was created “according to its kind.” This means that God had planned in detail how He wanted to create the animals.

Day Six: Genesis 1:24-25: “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living crea-

ture _____: _____ and _____ and _____, each _____'; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth _____. And God saw that it was good."

Since the creatures of the air and sea where created the previous day, God began to create all the land animals. This included cows and sheep. Lions, tigers and bears were also created. Even the smallest insects were created on the sixth day. Again, notice that God created them after their type of animal. Bears were bears, tigers were tigers.

Later that day, God created something unlike any of the other creatures.

Creation of Man

God prepared a special place called the Garden of Eden. It was a beautiful garden, with a wide assortment of plants and animals.

Now that the Earth was filled with animals, plants and fresh water, it was ready for the pinnacle of this week of creating. God created man. The first man was Adam.

The Bible talks about this in two places. The first is Genesis 1:26: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in _____, _____.'" The second verse is found in Genesis 2:7: "And the LORD God formed man of the _____, and breathed into his nostrils the _____; and man _____."

This first man *became* a living soul! Many people believe that people have immortal souls. They think souls are like angels—liv-

ing forever. Of course, we know that people can die.

All humans are just temporary beings. We survive by eating food and drinking water. If we do not have these things, we will die.

Even the Bible says that Adam *became* a living soul. This means that he was given life. But there was something special inside Adam. The same thing is also inside YOU!

In each person, God puts a human spirit. This is what makes people smarter than animals. It allows you to make choices. It lets you remember past events. It allows you to analyze things that happen to you. It gives you the ability to reason.

The human spirit records everything that happens in your life. Your thoughts, feelings, emotions and experiences are all recorded by the human spirit.

It is this spirit that makes us so different from animals. Animals cannot reason or plan in the way humans can, but instead are governed by instinct. God has preprogrammed animals with how they should respond to things.

But even with the human spirit, man is not complete!

The Spirit in Man

There needs to be another Spirit that combines with our human spirit. That is God's Spirit, which helps us understand God's way of life.

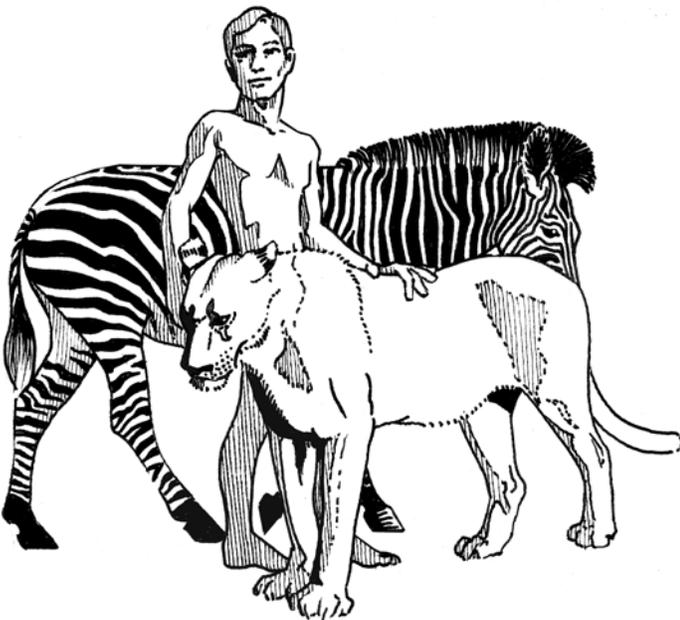
As a child in God's Church, you are blessed with God's Spirit around you. It will help you to live God's way. Your goal should be to build God's holy, righteous character inside you. But you must ask God for help. You can do this by praying—which is talking to God—and studying your Bible—which is listening to God.

But back to Adam and the Garden of Eden: Remember, while Satan was king over the Earth, he had rebelled against God. God was seeking to replace him as king with someone who WOULD follow God's way. This was the special purpose set for Adam.

If Adam would CHOOSE God's way, he would assume rulership over the Earth. All human beings are created with free moral agency. This means that they are free to choose to do right or wrong. But they need God's Spirit to guide their minds to know and do what is right.

God had two choices when creating man: either (1) make every single person a robot who would always make the right decision, but would not have to think for himself; or (2) create free-thinking people, who can make choices.

Just think how boring it would be if everyone thought and acted exactly the same.



In the Garden of Eden, Adam was given the job of naming the animals.

So obviously, God chose to create people who can make choices. While some may choose to do wrong, God can see your effort in choosing to do right!

The same purpose for Adam can be the same purpose for you! When Jesus Christ returns to this Earth, you can have the chance to rule with Him—if you choose to live God's way now.

Test Your Memory:

- 1) After what "likeness" was man created?

- 2) Do human beings have an immortal soul?

- 3) What special thing is inside people? _____

- 4) Who was Adam meant to replace? _____

- 5) What helps us understand God's way? _____

Adam Names the Animals

Living God's way is work. To properly learn how to work, we must do jobs and chores. When your parents give you tasks and chores to do, they are helping you learn how to work. This will help you learn to obey God and live His way.

God knew that He had to give Adam tasks so that he would also learn how to work.

One job that God gave Adam was to name all the animals. Read in Genesis 2:19-20: "Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and _____ to Adam to see what he _____. And whatever Adam called each _____, that was its _____. So Adam gave names to

all _____, to the _____, and to every _____.”

Adam was able to get close to each of these creatures because all the animals were friendly and tame. He could pet tigers as if they were small cats. Bears would play with him and not harm him. Because those inside the Garden of Eden were fully following God’s way, all the creatures were at peace.

There will be a time coming very soon when all animals will be like this again.

Read what God says in Isaiah 11:6-9: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

Doesn’t that sound exciting? You will be able to pet all the animals. It will be a world at great peace! This is because the whole Earth will be “full of the knowledge of the Lord.”

God knew that Adam had to keep working. It is very important that we learn and make a habit of working. So when God had placed Adam in the garden, He charged him to “tend and keep it.” He was to take care of the Garden of Eden. He was to make sure that all the creatures and plants were maintained.

Have you ever helped your parents with a garden? If you have one, you may want to ask to help. It will be very similar to what Adam did for one of his first jobs! You can almost imagine that you are in the Garden of Eden,

following God’s instructions to keep and maintain that beautiful garden paradise.

Adam Was Alone

While naming the animals, Adam noticed that they were created male and female—each had a companion. This made Adam feel lonely. So God created a companion for him.

Read Genesis 2:21-23: “And the LORD God caused a _____ to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his



Adam and Eve spent their time together in the beautiful Garden of Eden.

_____, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the _____ which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a _____, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of _____ and _____; she shall be called _____, because she was _____.’”

As you can see, the first woman, Eve, was made from the rib of Adam. That is why the word *man* is part of the word *woman*. They are part of each other.

God said that people are not meant to live alone. In fact, men and women were designed to have a very special bond.

God explains this bond in the next verse: “Therefore a man shall _____ and be _____ to his wife, and they shall become _____.”

This describes the first marriage that ever took place! Imagine how beautiful it was in the Garden of Eden, with the very first two people, having the very first marriage.

Man was now physically complete. He was still missing God’s Spirit, but Adam was no longer lonely. He now had a wife with whom to share his new life.

Test Your Memory:

- 1) What were Adam’s first jobs? _____
- 2) What was the name of the first woman? _____
- 3) What body part was she made from? _____

Summary

After six days of work were completed, God looked at all the things that He had made

and He called it “very good.” We have seen that He renewed the Earth after the great battle with Satan damaged it. Also, God created all the land and sky, and cleaned up the air. He then filled the Earth with plants and vegetation. Then, birds, animals and creatures of the sea were created. Finally, God created the first man—Adam—and the first woman—Eve.

Finally, at the completion of all this creating, God was ready for the next day, the day that was created for you, a day that all people should still keep. It is the day in which God taught Adam and Eve very important lessons—about two special trees in the garden and Adam and Eve’s future.

We will learn about these things and much more in Lesson Two.

Why did Lucifer rebel and fight God? _____

List what was created on each day of creation:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

BIBLE MEMORY: Books of the Old Testament

WORD SEARCH

Find each word from the list below in the puzzle. The words may be found in any direction. Be sure to check off each word as you find it.

	T	R	L	A	T	R	O	M	M	I	J	I	E
<input type="checkbox"/> SPIRIT	E	A	S	P	I	R	I	T	C	S	O	F	Z
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	J	B	N	L	Q	T	X	G	R	W	U	I	Q
<input type="checkbox"/> CREATION	H	N	R	G	D	D	V	H	E	D	I	R	P
<input type="checkbox"/> LUCIFER	O	O	E	V	E	C	S	D	U	G	C	M	I
<input type="checkbox"/> ANGELS	J	Y	F	B	M	L	M	A	L	R	U	A	M
<input type="checkbox"/> DEMONS	L	H	I	N	O	C	S	L	E	I	Y	M	M
<input type="checkbox"/> PRIDE	E	P	C	F	N	Y	E	A	N	S	J	E	O
<input type="checkbox"/> ETERNAL	A	E	U	R	S	L	T	N	R	M	A	N	Y
<input type="checkbox"/> IMMORTAL	H	W	L	Y	M	I	T	R	E	K	L	T	H
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRMAMENT	C	B	J	Z	O	M	S	E	T	E	I	N	G
<input type="checkbox"/> EVE	I	G	E	N	I	A	G	T	E	N	Q	G	T
<input type="checkbox"/> VANITY	M	O	V	M	Q	F	A	E	A	P	U	N	Y
<input type="checkbox"/> GOD	V	D	H	T	E	R	I	V	L	K	A	F	D