

# THE GOSPEL OF CREATION

WHY OUR BEGINNINGS MATTER



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downloadable curriculum

# INTRODUCTION

Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientific minds of the last century was once asked to comment on Quantum Mechanics. Without hesitation he replied, “God does not play dice with the universe.” Unfortunately, Einstein’s ideas of God and how He brought the universe into order were far different from the Biblical account. Over the last 150 years Christians have found themselves varying from being at odds with modern scientific explanations for matter and man to creating elaborate, quasi-biblical compromises with the generally accepted views of evolution.

In these four sessions, we will seek to discover what the Author of Creation says and how we as believers should respond to those who doubt His record. It is important to get the word out every way possible. The following lesson titles and objectives are structured for use in newsletters, church bulletins, e-mail, and other sources such as Facebook and blogs.

**Session 1: In Beginning - God** – What we believe about creation is far more than a story or a scientific theory; it is at the heart of our faith. This session focuses on the Biblical foundations of creation and the role of our Creator God in the formation of the universe and man. Scripture makes no distinction between the literal account of creation and the words of Jesus. Separating them does more damage to our credibility than we often realize.

**Session 2: Then Man Said** – The book of Genesis is a record, not only of God’s creative work but of fallen man’s response to the Creator. While theories of evolution may seem relatively new, they are in fact as old as man himself. This session focuses on faulty theories of naturalistic evolution and the implications for those that embrace them.

**Session 3: Shaky Responses** – Since the dawning of the modern scientific age, Christians have found themselves on the defensive about things once generally accepted as true. Numerous supposed biblical compromises with naturalistic evolution have found their way into the mainstream of thought in the church. In this session we focus on some of these compromises: Theistic evolution, the Day-Age and Gap theory, and other attempts to reconcile the Bible with modern science.

**Session 4: Firm Foundations** – This session seeks to answer some difficult yet essential questions about the biblical accounts, modern science, and the witness of the church. Is the Bible scientifically accurate? How do we reason with those who embrace naturalistic and theistic evolution? Does it really matter what we believe about the age of the earth and the formation of man? How can we educate ourselves and our children to maintain these biblical foundations?

# SESSION 1

## IN THE BEGINNING - GOD

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Extra pens and pencils
- White board or poster board
- School Textbooks that promote some theory of evolution (check used bookstore)
- Ken Ham's, "State of the Nation" video. If possible, obtain the "State of the Nation" video from Answers in Genesis. This can either be purchased as a DVD or downloaded. Go to [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) and type the word "STATE" in the search box for details. Ken Ham's "State of the Nation" address would be a good tool to use in a sign-up meeting for this study.
- Copies of student handouts

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

What we believe about creation is far more than a story or a scientific theory; it is at the heart of our faith. This session focuses on the biblical foundations of creation and the role of our Creator God in the formation of the universe and man. Scripture makes no distinction between the literal account of creation and the words of Jesus. Separating them does more damage to our credibility than we often realize.

### CONNECT

Begin the session by calling attention to the handout "It's Already Been Settled." Have participants read over the statements and circle whether they believe them to be true or false. The next two sessions will examine these statements in greater detail but for now, the issue of evolution and creation is not nearly as settled as some would have us think.

It is important to emphasize that we do not need to be scientists to speak to issues of evolution and creation. What is needed is to know God's word! Divide participants into three groups. Assign each group one of the "They say ..." statements from the handout and allow a few minutes for the group to come up with a response using the Scriptures. Have each group offer their biblical answer to the statement. Refer to the sidebar of answers.

### CONSIDER

Mankind has always pondered the mystery of our existence and origins. Call on someone to read Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 33:6-9. If possible, display these scriptures on a PowerPoint slide or poster board as you relate the following examples of extra-biblical accounts of creation.

- Pan Gu (Chinese) – The universe began as a giant cosmic egg. Pan Gu was trapped inside this egg until 18,000 years later when he awoke and broke out of the egg. To avoid being imprisoned again he turned half the egg into earth and the other half into the stars and other celestial bodies. When Pan Gu died, his body became a part of earth and the heavens. Lice from his body became man.

*They say ... Human language evolved slowly from periods of rudimentary sign language, to semi-language, to modern language.*

**God says ... Genesis 2:16-17, 20**

*They say ... The earliest examples of religious behavior formed around 50,000 years ago as humans divided into distinct tribes.*

**God says ... Genesis 4:1-11**

*They say ... Marriage, as an institution, evolved out of primeval habits of various arrangements of cohabitation.*

**God says ... Genesis 2:18-25**

- Scientology – An intergalactic ruler named Xenu was about to be removed from power. He decided to dispose of the population that wanted him out. He assembled and paralyzed them and took them to Earth where he loaded them into volcanoes and destroyed them with hydrogen bombs. With their bodies gone, Xenu gathered the Thetans and implanted misleading data into their memories, which includes all world religions. These tainted thetans clustered together and began to inhabit the bodies of the aliens that survived the blast. These are known as “body thetans” and are the predecessors to modern humans. Ask, *What are the major differences in these accounts of creation and the one presented in Scripture?* Most notable in many of these accounts is they tend to portray creation as more accidental than planned and guided. In short, they leave no room for God or man as presented in scripture.

### **Focus on the Creator rather than the creation**

The existence of a personal God creating all things is presented as a fact to be acknowledged rather than proven. There can be no doubt from the Bible that our Creator God is the star of the show, so to speak, rather than what has been created. Ask, *Though it seems obvious, why is this an important truth?*

In spite of the fact this should be obvious, fallen man’s tendency is to replace God any way he can (read Romans 1:19-20). Ask, *Does this mean we can know enough about God from creation to be saved?* Creation does not offer enough information to show us the way to salvation but it does offer all we need to know there is a Creator God. Call on someone to read Romans 1:21-23. Even though man knows innately there is one Creator God, he willfully seeks to replace Him with images fashioned from creation and then give himself credit for the supposed invention. Call attention to the handout “Stepping Down the Ladder,” and allow some time for the group to discuss ways they see these beliefs in our modern world.

### **Creation Is Vital to History**

Some try to discount the creation account by calling it allegory rather than history. There are a number of reasons Bible believing Christians must avoid thinking of creation this way.

- *Creation and the rest of history are always seen as one story* – Using the handout “Stepping Down the Ladder,” illustrate how Psalm 136 presents this truth. Call on various participants to read from Scripture as the verses are discussed.
- *Jesus based His teaching on a literal understanding of the creation account* – Compare Matthew 19:3-6 to Genesis 2:21-25.
- *Genesis 1-11 is always portrayed as historical fact in the New Testament* – There are over one hundred quotes from Genesis 1-11 in the New Testament. Never once is there the slightest hint these are to be taken any way but literally.

*The Song of Creation  
(Psalm 136).  
God created (vv.5-9)  
God saved (vv.10-15)  
God continues to protect  
(vv.16-26)]*

### **COMMIT**

There is no more important reason to emphasize the accuracy of the Bible's account of creation than this: creation, redemption, and our future glory are directly connected. Call on someone to read Psalm 19:1-4 and Revelation 4:11. Ask, *Why does Revelation 4:11 say all things were created and exist?* They exist because of the express will of God as related to the person of our exalted Lord Jesus Christ! It is impossible to believe the testimony of Scripture to salvation if we doubt its testimony to creation.

Encourage participants to examine their own belief system. Invite them to consider ways they can witness to others through their faith in God's creative purpose and power. Remind them we must all study to show ourselves approved and be prepared to answer the questions of an unbelieving world.

SAMPLE

## IT'S ALREADY BEEN SETTLED?

**True or False:** The support for evolution in both the scientific and education world is virtually universal. Support for a biblically literal account of creation is almost nonexistent among scientists and other relevant professionals.

**True or False:** The current controversy surrounding the teaching of evolution is not scientific. There is no significant controversy about the validity of the theory of evolution within the scientific community.

They say ...	God says ....
Human language evolved slowly from periods of rudimentary sign language, to semi-language, to modern language.	
The earliest examples of religious behavior formed around 50,000 years ago as humans divided into distinct tribes.	
Marriage, as an institution, evolved out of primeval habits of various arrangements of cohabitation.	

SAMPLE

STUDENT  
HANDOUT 2  
SESSION 1

# STEPPING DOWN THE LADDER

Theism – God is **personal** and therefore **directly involved** in creation

Deism – God is **disinterested** in creation. He is **unknowable**.

Pantheism – God is a **part of** creation. They are inseparable.

Materialism – God is **what we make of Him**. What we make is god.

Atheism – The only god that exists is **man himself**.

## Psalm 136

Past Acts of God (vv. 5-9)

Present Acts of God (vv. 10-12)

Continuing Acts of God (vv. 23-25)

SAMPLE