

QUESTION 5: WHAT ELSE DID GOD CREATE?

ANSWER : GOD CREATED ALL THINGS BY HIS POWERFUL WORD, AND ALL HIS CREATION WAS VERY GOOD; EVERYTHING FLOURISHED UNDER HIS LOVING RULE.

50 minute Lesson Outline:

- Catechism Recap (5 mins)
- Introduction to Question (5 mins)
- Teaching Outline (15 mins)
- Discussion and Question Time (20 mins)
- Virtue Vision (5 mins)

Bible Passage: Genesis 1:1-31

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:31

Big Idea: God created everything – through His Son, in the power of the Spirit, and for His glory.

Aim: To give us the confidence in God as Creator and understand God's purposes in creation.

Virtue: Joy

LEADER'S NOTES:

Some of us may have never considered where the world came from or who made it, while others are fully committed to the belief that God created the world. One thing is certain, at some point in life we will encounter the belief that the world came into existence by chance and that there is no intelligent design behind the world. This catechism question will enable us to think more deeply about the doctrine of creation out of nothing. **This lesson aims to bring us deeper into the Genesis account and to show us the presence of the triune God at the dawn of creation. Hopefully, we can find joy in understanding more of God's creative purpose in His world and clearly recognize that the world was made for God's glory and delight.**

Things to remember:

- Questions of evolution may arise. Address these with confidence and don't be afraid to dig deeper.
- Conceptually, it can be difficult to understand how God could create something out of nothing.
- The introduction of the Trinity in Lesson 3 is foundational in helping us understand that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were all involved in creation.

CATECHISM REVIEW LAST WEEK**Question 4: How and why did God create us?**

Answer : God created us male and female in his own image to know Him, love Him, live with Him and glorify Him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to His Glory.

INTRODUCTION TO QUESTION 5

Creation ABC Game: Ask around the room for examples of things that God has made in creation. Move in alphabetical order from A-Z. Note the variety throughout creation! Question 5, *What else did God create?* This question is all about God's amazing creation.

POP QUIZ

1. What is the deadliest animal in the world? **Mosquito**
2. What is the largest member of the cat family? **Tiger**
3. What is the fastest land animal in the world? **Cheetah**
4. Name an animal that eats standing up. **Horse, Cow, Giraffe**
5. What animal can see through its eyelids? **Shark**
6. What animal does not have eyelids? **Snake**
7. Because of its bright color, this bird was named after fire. **Flamingo**
8. This animal can carry up to one thousand times its own body weight. **Ant**
9. Because of its speed and sense of direction, this animal has been used to carry important messages. **Pigeon**
10. If this animal loses a body part, it will regenerate on its own. **Jellyfish**

TEACHING OUTLINE

QUESTION 5: WHAT ELSE DID GOD CREATE?

Imagine: Ask the group about what it takes to bake a delicious cake. What ingredients are involved? What tools are required to complete each step? Invite someone to stand and make this cake, from nothing! It is impossible to make something from nothing. In our experience, everything is made from something; there are raw materials that are used for each and every created thing. But, when we come to the creation of the world, it is entirely different!

The biblical creation account is inconsistent with our experience and in some ways, it's difficult to understand. It's important to remember that God is responsible for creation not us; He is all-powerful and all-knowing (refer to Lesson 2). **God can do things that we can't do.**

READ: Genesis 1:1-31

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so.

8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,

15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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 the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The first startling thing to notice is that God created everything out of nothing!

Explain: There was nothing that existed materially with God eternally. There was a time when the hills didn't exist, when the sand didn't exist, when the stars didn't exist. Creation comes from God's will and imagination, and He creates everything for Himself, with great meaning and purpose.

It is impossible for humans to create something out of nothing (*ex nihilo*), but of course everything is possible for God. Genesis records that by speaking, God brought the heavens and the earth into creation. Note in the text above how many times the Genesis account says, "and God said."

Ask: Was anyone else involved in the creation of the world besides God the Father? Verse 2 clearly shows that the Holy Spirit of God was hovering over the waters after they were created. The Spirit brought life to all that God the Father created.

What about Jesus? Turn to John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John reveals that Jesus was with God the Father when the world was created. John calls Jesus "the Word", and it was with God's spoken Word that everything was formed. So at the beginning of creation, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were all involved in creating.

God declares that all of His creation was very good. Everything He made was intended to show His glory. Creation reveals something about the nature and character of God!

Are there aspects of creation that bring you joy and cause you to praise God for the beauty of the world?

God is powerful, creative, and beautiful, and He has an awesome imagination! Creation is intended to bring God great glory and honor and praise. God delights in His creation and we are invited to delight in it too.

God is also an active participant with His creation. Consider all the ways God provides for the earth. God is constantly sustaining everything in His world.

REVIEW

Question 5: What else did God create?

Answer: God created all things by His powerful Word, and all His creation was very good; everything flourished under His loving rule.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY – VIRTUE: JOY

Activity: Using the Joy Grid activity sheet, have each person think of something that gives them joy when they reflect on creation. Write it down in **one square** of the grid. Move around the room, including other groups, and find out what brings joy to other people. Fill in the grid as you exchange information and return to your group once it's complete.

Review the answers and give thanks for the many ways that creation reminds us to choose joy!

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(Allow for several answers within your group before reading the provided response.)

- 1. How was Jesus present at the creation of the world?** Jesus is eternal and all-powerful. Jesus lived with God until He came to earth as a man, and now He is once more with God.
- 2. What about evolution?** Many people believe that we evolved by accident, but there are millions of people – even top scientists – who believe that the world came into being when God purposefully spoke it into existence. Also, the theory of evolution is after-all, still only a theory. It has been widely accepted as fact, however, it fails to meet the very foundation of the scientific method: *observation*.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

How might you explain your belief in a Creator God to your friends?

Does knowing God as Creator and Sustainer of the world bring you joy?

MEMORIZE Genesis 1:31

31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.