

A VBVM **GROUP** STUDY

CREATION



VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY
INTERNATIONAL

TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

Stephen Armstrong & Houston Heflin, EdD

www.vbvmi.org

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INTRODUCTION



This study was created to help you, your class, or small group understand more about Creation. To help you in your study, we will look at Genesis, as well as a variety of books from the Old and New Testaments. These Scriptures will help you understand what the Bible has to say about the beginning.

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus is God's Son. He is the way to the Father, and He is the Savior of the world. Through faith in Jesus we are given the great gifts of forgiveness and eternal life with God. The sins that separate us from God and harm our relationships with others are forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus, who died on the cross, was buried, and rose again on the third day. He overcame death and invites His disciples to follow Him, not only in how we live our lives on earth, but also in how we will overcome death to live forever in heaven. These are all things we have been told and can be sure of (see John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:10, 10:9).

STUDYING FOR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE

Genesis is the most important written book in history. It is the foundation of all things and reveals virtually everything we need to know about God and humanity's relationship to God. Our prayer is for this material to guide you to a deeper understanding of God's plan for His creation and your role as a Christian. We are confident the Holy Spirit will teach you as you pursue Christ in the Scriptures, and Verse By Verse Ministry International stands ready to assist you in your journey of discovering the full counsel of God's Word.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

It's helpful to have an idea of where you would like to go before setting off on a journey. In that spirit, we've created a few overarching goals for participants in this study.

Our goals for you in this study are:

1. To obtain a foundational knowledge of the Bible's teaching on Creation;
2. To gain confidence in your ability to understand Creation;
3. To grow in your relationship with Jesus through a study of His Word;
4. And to live a more Christ-like life in response to what you learn.

OUTLINE OF LESSONS

Each lesson follows the same format consisting of these eight sections:



PRAYER: Begin every lesson with prayer, inviting God to open your eyes, ears, and hearts to see what He wants to teach you through His Word.



REVIEW: Discuss a few review questions as you begin so you or your group can recall what you've already learned as a foundation for new learning.



VIDEO: Watch the video provided for each lesson. Each video is about twenty minutes long.



DISCUSSION: Record your observations and share them with your group (if applicable). You may not have time to cover every question, so focus on the questions that most interest you or your group.



APPLICATION: Each lesson leads to application. We want you and your group to find yourself in the text by appreciating how the Bible is offering guidance for your life.



PRAYER: End your study time in prayer, thanking the Lord for His Word and any insights you were given in that day's lesson. Ask the Lord for the faith and courage to follow Jesus and to live out what you have learned.



HOMEWORK: Optional homework tasks are provided if you want to study in more depth before the next lesson.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: We offer references to more study materials available from our comprehensive online study library at vbvmi.org.

OVERVIEW OF LESSONS

LESSON 1

In The Beginning

Genesis 1:1-2

 Video 1 (19:36)

LESSON 2

Creation Day 1

Genesis 1:3-5

 Video 2 (23:30)

LESSON 3

Creation Day 2

Genesis 1:6-8

 Video 3 (8:01)

LESSON 4

Creation Day 3

Genesis 1:9-13

 Video 4 (15:36)

LESSON 5

Creation Day 4

Genesis 1:14-19

 Video 5 (19:44)

LESSON 6

Creation Day 5

Genesis 1:20-23

 Video 6 (11:37)

LESSON 7

Creation Day 6 Part I

Genesis 1:24-25

 Video 7 (17:06)

LESSON 8

Creation Day 6 Part II

Genesis 1:26-30

 Video 8 (15:21)

LESSON 9

Creation Day 7

Genesis 2:1-3

 Video 9 (12:32)

LESSON 10

Human Life

Genesis 2:4-7

 Video 10 (16:27)

LESSON 11

The Trees

Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17

 Video 11 (18:15)

LESSON 12

Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:18-25

 Video 12 (27:13)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS



If you are studying in a small group, your group leader/facilitator will determine how you will use this material. Depending on meeting length, group interests, and other factors, your leader may skip some sections of each lesson, assign homework, or make other changes to suit your group's needs. Nevertheless, we encourage all students to read through every question, especially in the Application section.

ACCESSING CREATION VIDEOS

Part of each group meeting time is devoted to viewing a short teaching video featuring Stephen Armstrong. This video is an essential part of each lesson. All videos are available via streaming over the Internet at www.creationgroupstudy.org as well as in the Videos section of the VBVMi website (www.vbvmi.org/videos). Videos are also available for viewing through our mobile apps and on the VBVMi AppleTV app.

If you have access to a reliable internet connection at your group meeting location, we recommend connecting a laptop computer, tablet, or smartphone directly to a larger screen (i.e., a TV) and streaming the videos from the Internet during class time.

In cases where an Internet connection is not available, you may download the videos to your device ahead of time. Then simply play each week's video using the copy stored on your device. (Please note all videos are protected by copyright and are free for viewing and distribution but may not be sold or altered.)

In cases where it is not possible to view the videos during class time, we recommend students view each week's video before the class meeting. Use the additional meeting time for the Review, Discussion, and Application sections.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

While the Creation Group Study curriculum was designed for groups, it can also be used by individual students working alone. Obviously, individual students can't participate in group discussion or ask questions, so our ministry offers online support for answering your questions and connecting you with other students. Please visit the Creation Group Study website (www.creationgroupstudy.org) for more information.

The VBVM I website (www.vbvmi.org) also offers helpful resources and supplemental materials to aid in your study. In particular, we offer a complete verse-by-verse study of the book of Genesis, which is a great resource for those desiring a deeper study of Creation.

Should you need additional help during your study, you may submit questions to VBVM I through our website or by email at letters@versebyverseministry.org.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEADERS



We've designed this 12-week group study especially for Bible study groups, Sunday school classes, life groups, and other small group meetings. Each weekly lesson directs students through a series of activities that can be accomplished in as little as one hour. Students are not required to study outside the group meeting, though optional homework is available for those seeking a more challenging study.

This curriculum is adaptable to different group needs and leadership styles. Depending on the length of your meeting time, group size, and spiritual needs of your students, you may vary the time devoted to each part of a lesson. For example, some leaders may choose to follow our format closely by answering every question, while other leaders may decide to skip some questions in favor of more discussion time.

Therefore, we encourage leaders to use our materials in whatever way best suits the needs and interests of your study group.

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In cases where it is not possible to view the videos during class time, we recommend students view each week's video before the class meeting. Use the additional meeting time for the Review, Discussion, and Application sections.

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Should you need additional help in answering students' questions during your study, you may submit questions to VBVMi through our website or by email at letters@versebyverseministry.org.

RECOMMENDED TIME FOR GROUPS

SECTION	60-Min. Meeting	90+ Min. Meeting	COMMENTS
 PRAYER	1 Min.	>2 Min.	Select a willing individual to pray on behalf of the entire group.
 REVIEW	<5 Min.	>10 Min.	Can be eliminated in favor of giving time to other sections.
 VIDEO	13-35 Min.	13-35 Min.	All videos can be found at www.creationgroupstudy.org . On weeks with longer videos, reduce or eliminate the Review section. On weeks with shorter videos, allocate extra time to Discussion or Application.
 DISCUSSION	<20 Min.	>30 Min.	Cover as many questions as desired, focusing on those that generate the most interest in your group.
 APPLICATION	<10 Min.	>20 Min.	Application questions can be covered in the group time or assigned as homework.
 PRAYER	2 Min.	>6 Min.	If more group prayer time is desired, reduce or eliminate the Review section.
 HOMEWORK	Varies	Varies	Homework is optional. If a leader assigns homework weekly, substitute a Homework Review time for the normal Review section each week.



VIDEO 1
In The Beginning
Genesis 1:1,2

All videos are available for viewing or download at:
www.creationgroupstudy.org

DISCUSSION



1. Why is the creation account story so important in our study of scripture? How is the beginning and the end of the Bible connected?

4. The first words of Genesis contradict six false religious views. Of the six views listed below, which one do you most often encounter in your day-to-day life? In your opinion, which of these views has been the biggest stumbling block for people accepting the biblical account of Creation?

1. Atheism says there is no God—but *Genesis 1:1 says God exists.*
2. Pantheism says God is the creation—but *Genesis 1:1 says God is not creation.*
3. Polytheism says there are many gods—but *Genesis 1:1 says there is only one God (the verb “created” is conjugated in the first person singular in Hebrew).*
4. Materialism says matter is all that exists and is eternal—but *Genesis 1:1 says matter is not eternal but was created.*
5. Evolution says creation was the result of natural forces—but *Genesis 1:1 says creation was a purposeful act of God.*
6. Fatalism says God is distant and unengaged in creation—but *Genesis 1:1 says God is engaged in His creation.*

5. Explain the Gap Theory in your own words. What reason did Pastor Armstrong give for why some Christians believe a long “gap” of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2?

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2. What are some popular pagan views contradicted by Genesis 1?



VIDEO 2

Day 1

Genesis 1:3-5

All videos are available for viewing or download at:

www.creationgroupstudy.org



DISCUSSION

1. State in your own words how **Genesis 1:2-3** can be compared to Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity (i.e., $E = mc^2$). Where do we find the elements of Einstein's equation in the Genesis account of Creation?

4. How does God’s description of a “day” in **Genesis 1:5** help us know the specific length of time for each Day of the Creation week? Read **Exodus 20:8-11**. How do the Lord’s instructions concerning the Sabbath contribute to your understanding of the length of each day of Creation?

5. The theory of evolution asserts that death was at work before humans “evolved” weeding out the weak so the strong could remain, but the Bible declares the opposite. Romans teaches death came after Adam (i.e., mankind) came into existence and was the result of Adam’s sin (see **Romans 5:12,15,16**), not a driving force for good. These two views are mutually exclusive. If Darwin’s view is correct, then the Bible is wrong; Death isn’t the result of sin, and therefore Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross in our place can’t be a solution for our sin. On the other hand, if the Bible’s teaching is correct, then the theory of evolution must be a lie. The teaching of evolution and the Bible concerning the origins and importance of death cannot be reconciled.

Nevertheless, some Christians seek to reconcile these opposites views. Can you suggest some reasons why Christians seek agreement between the theory of Evolution and the Bible’s teaching on Creation?

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LESSON 3

Creation Day 2 (Genesis 1:6–8)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Your goal is to...

1. Identify the primary result of God's creative work on Day 2.
2. Describe the appearance of what was created on this day.
3. Explain the Jewish understanding of the differences between the levels of the heavens.



PRAYER

Thank God for the opportunity to study His Word and for the knowledge of Creation provided by Genesis. Ask God for understanding and insight as you study His Word.



REVIEW

1. What did God create on Day 1?

2. How was matter, energy, and light related on Day 1 of Creation?

7. On Day 2, God suspended two kinds of water in nothingness. If you can, describe the physics of water suspended outside gravitational forces. How does it behave? How does this help our understanding of the events of Day 2?



APPLICATION

1. Think about your personal experience with water and the many ways you use this resource in your life. Can you think of anything more important in Creation?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson 3: Creation Day 2

http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-studies/genesis_2011

Genesis Study - Lesson 1B

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3. Read **Psalm 33:7** and **Psalm 71:20**. How did the Jewish people connect the idea of “the deep” (or an abyss) with death and judgment?

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson 4: Creation Day 3

http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-studies/genesis_2011

Genesis Study - Lesson 1B



VIDEO 5

Day 4

Genesis 1:14-19

All videos are available for viewing or download at:

www.creationgroupstudy.org



DISCUSSION

1. How did the video help you understand the 4th day of Creation in a new way?

2. What does "the expanse of the heavens" mean in **Genesis 1:14-19**?



PRAYER

Thank God for the rhythm of the sun and the moon, including their consistency, that reminds us of God's character. Thank God for the beauty of the lights visible in the day and the lights visible at night.



OPTIONAL HOMEWORK

1. Describe the ways heavenly "lights" influence the dates of Israel's feasts, celebrations, and social life. Read the following passages and identify the time or time of year these events take place.

Exodus 12:1-17 - Passover

Exodus 23:14-15, Deut. 16:8 - Unleavened Bread

Exodus 23:16 - Feast of Harvest

Deut. 16:9-12 - Feast of Weeks

Exodus 23:16 - Feast of Ingathering
Deut. 16:13-17 - Tabernacles

Exodus 31:12-18 - Sabbath

Deuteronomy 15:1-2 - Cancelling Debts

Deuteronomy 15:12-15 - Freeing Servants



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson 5: Creation Day 4

http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-studies/genesis_2011

Genesis Study - Lesson 1B

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VIDEO 7

Day 6

Genesis 1:24-25

All videos are available for viewing or download at:

www.creationgroupstudy.org



DISCUSSION

1. How would you summarize the primary message of the video?

2. What does the phrase "after their kind" mean? How does it contradict evolution theory? Can you see evidence of this principle at work in nature?

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2. How did this command benefit the land, the workers, and the animals? How did God provide for His people when they obeyed this command?

3. How did God's command for rest support our responsibility to rule over creation?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson 8: Creation Day 6 (Part 2)

http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-studies/genesis_2011

Genesis Study - Lesson 1D

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson 10: Human Life

http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-studies/genesis_2011

Genesis Study - Lesson 2A

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APPLICATION

1. Read **Romans 5:12-21** and describe the relationship between Adam and Jesus. How are they similar and different? How did the actions of each of these individuals impact humanity?

2. Read **Romans 8:5-13**. What does our flesh desire? How is this different from what our new Spirit in Christ desires? According to these verses, how do we avoid death and find life?



PRAYER

Pray for God's spirit to rule in our hearts so that we honor God with our lives. Ask God to give not only the desire to obey, but also the strength to follow through on that desire.



OPTIONAL HOMEWORK

1. How have gardens been significant to the story of the Bible? Where do gardens appear and what do they represent? For example, compare and contrast the following gardens:

A. Eden (Genesis 2:8-9)

B. The Garden of God (Ezekiel 28:12-15; Rev. 2:7; Rev. 22:1-2)

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson 12: Adam & Eve

http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-studies/genesis_2011

Genesis Study - Lesson 2C & 3A

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