

BIBLE DRIVE-THRU

E-BOOK

JANUARY

January 1

Create

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Read: Genesis 1:1-13

TO CHEW ON: "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" (Genesis 1:1)

What does it mean to create:

1. Arrange things in an original way?
2. Cause something to come into existence?
3. Change something so it doesn't look like the original thing?

I'm sure you'll agree it's 2. We do call people who put things together in interesting ways creative, but to create means to bring something into existence which didn't exist before.



People explain how the sun, moon, stars and earth came into existence in different ways. Some believe it was through the big bang – a cosmic explosion – and that all life evolved from a single-cell after that. (In order for this explanation to make sense, we need to go back to that first step and ask who made the things that exploded and that single cell in the first place?)

Other people believe that God created the universe but not in six, twenty four-hour days. Instead they say God used the big bang (a cosmic explosion) and evolution to bring the universe to how it is today.

Still others take the Bible story of creation literally. They believe that God created the universe in six twenty four-hour days.

The Bible doesn't tell us whether God created the heavens and earth in an instant of time, or over eons. But it does tell us that in the beginning God created (or brought into existence from nothing) the heavens and the earth.

PRAYER: Thank You that You are Creator God. Amen.

SUPERSIZE IT: Create versus Destroy

We call the things that God created – things that we can see, touch, smell, taste and feel – matter. People can't create matter out of nothing. If people can't create it, can they destroy it (make something that exists disappear so that it no longer exists)? Find out from books or the internet:

1. What happens to matter when you burn it?
2. What happens to matter when you explode it?
3. What happens to matter when you evaporate it?
4. What other ways might people try to destroy matter?



January 2

Making Moons to Molluscs

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Read: Genesis 1:14–34

TO CHEW ON: *"...And God saw that it was good.... And God saw that it was good."*
(Genesis 1:18 & 21)

Not only can God make something out of nothing. He is also full of original and interesting ideas. There is variety in the planets, stars, galaxies, moons and meteors of space. Think about the assortment of birds and animals that live on land. And then there's the teeming life in the sea. Can you name these fishy creatures? (Use the pictures below)

A fishy creature that:

- resembles a horse 1 _____
- is shaped like a star 2 _____
- looks like a plant 3 _____
- moves quickly 4 _____
- stays in one place 5 _____
- is huge 6 _____
- is colorful 7 _____
- is so tiny you need a microscope to see it _____



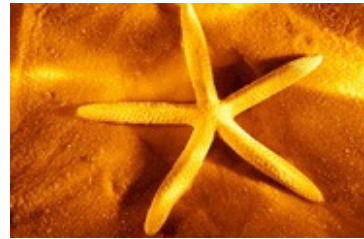
Shark



Seahorse



Coral



Starfish



Clownfish



Squid



Anemone

Plankton

God loves variety. When He looked at what He had made, He said, "This is good!"

PRAYER: *Thank You, God, for creating so many different and interesting creatures. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: Different and Alike

1. Pick a sea animal and a bird which interest you.
2. From what you know, or from what you can find out in books or on the internet:
 - a] How does the sea animal breathe? How does the bird breathe?
 - b] Where does the sea animal live? Where does the bird live?
 - c] What does the sea animal eat? What does the bird eat?
 - d] What sound does the sea animal make? What sound does the bird make?
 - e] How does the sea animal reproduce? How does the bird reproduce.
3. In what ways are the sea animal and the bird alike? In what ways are they different?

Answers on page



January 3

Special Creation

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Read: Genesis 1:24–2:2

TO CHEW ON: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)*



This is a detail from a painting by Michelangelo called "The Creation of Adam." It is Michelangelo's idea of God (on the right), reaching out to touch Adam with the spark of life.

How are people different from other things God created?

1. They walk upright?
2. They talk?
3. God created them in His image?

Did you pick 3? But what does it mean to have God's image?

When God created the first humans they were pure and sinless. That's part of having the image of God. But even after the first man and woman sinned, God's image was still in people. It set them apart from the rest of creation. Here are some ways:

- People have creativity. They can draw, sing, build.
- People are self-conscious. They are aware of being sad, happy, bored, excited and having many feelings.
- People have personality. Each person has a special way of thinking, feeling and acting.
- People can think about more than what they see, feel and hear (think abstractly).
- Besides having just a body (like reptiles and fish) and a also soul (which some say birds and animals also have) people have a spirit, the part that makes us want to know God.
- People can make decisions and choices. These lead to feelings, like being proud, or embarrassed or guilty.

When God put His image in people, He gave them a special place in creation. He made them responsible as rulers and caretakers of the rest of creation.

Each person is precious and valuable because of God's image in them. You are precious and valuable because God's image is in you.

PRAYER: *God, thank You for Your image in me. Help me to learn what that means. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: God's Image – What Is It?

What activities, below, can you do because God created you in His image?

1. Make rules
2. Eat
3. Die
4. Choose between right and wrong
5. Sleep
6. Want a friendship with God.

Answers on page



January 4

Consequences

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Read: Genesis 2:15–17

TO CHEW ON: *"...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."* (Genesis 2:17)

Match the action on the left with what will probably happen on the right:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. You eat spoiled food . . . | a. and you'll get wet. |
| 2. You walk in the rain without an umbrella . . . | b. and you'll break a bone. |
| 3. You spend hours in the sun without a hat . . . | c. and you'll get hungry |
| 4. You fall from a high tree . . . | d. and you'll get a stomach ache |
| 5. You eat nothing for a day . . . | e. and you'll get sunstroke |

We know what will happen if we do the everyday things above. When we lose our grip while we're in a tree we're not surprised that we fall down towards earth, rather than up towards the sky. Neither is it a shock that we hit the ground hard enough to break a bone. We know about earth's gravity. It helps us make a rule (Don't jump from a

high place) or there will be consequences (or you'll hurt yourself). It's something we expect.

God gave Adam and Eve one rule when He put them in the garden. The rule was: Don't eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then God told them what would happen if they broke that rule. What was it? (Genesis 2:17).

We may not like rules but most of them are made for our good. They protect us from getting hurt or hurting others. Do you obey your parent's rules? the rules at school? God's rules?



PRAYER: *Dear God, please help me to learn Your rules and to live by them. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: Broken Rules
Think of a time you broke a rule.

1. What rule did you break?
2. How did you break it?
3. What was the consequence?

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January 5

Hiding

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Read: Genesis 3:1-9

TO CHEW ON: *"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." (Genesis 3:8)*

Up till now Adam, Eve and God had been friends. When God was in the garden, Adam and Eve hurried to meet Him, eager to tell Him about their day. But this day was different.

This day Adam and Eve broke God's rule by eating the fruit from the only tree that God had forbidden. Now they felt guilty. Instead of hurrying to meet God, they hid from Him.



Do you ever feel like hiding-yourself or something you've done. When that happens ask yourself, why? Have I done something that's wrong, so I feel guilty? If you have, tell God you're sorry. Make it right with any people you have wronged. Then come out and live in the light.

PRAYER: *Dear God, help me to be open with You and with others. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: Sneaking Around
Many Bible characters hid things. Match the Bible character to what he or she hid, and then to where they hid it.

Check the Bible reference if you don't know the answer:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joshua 7:20,21 | 2. 2 Kings 5:19-24 |
| 3. Exodus 2:11,12 | 4. Genesis 31:34 |

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Achan | a. the idols her father prayed to | i] in his house. |
| 2. Gehazi | b. a beautiful robe, silver and gold | ii] in the sand |
| 3. Moses | c. two talents of gold and sets of clothes | iii] in the ground inside his tent. |
| 4. Rachel | d. an Egyptian he murdered | iv] inside her camel's saddle. |

Answers on page



January 6

Enter Sin

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Read: Genesis 3:8-15

TO CHEW ON: *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."* (Genesis 3:15)

The snake that tempted Eve was not just any ordinary snake. It was God's enemy, Satan appearing as a snake. After Adam and Eve gave in to Satan's temptation and ate the fruit from the tree God had forbidden, they were scared. They hid from God

God soon found them. He asked what they'd done. Then it all came out. Adam blamed Eve for telling him to eat. Eve blamed the snake for tempting her. But all three got in trouble. The result of sin (breaking God's rule) became very clear.

Adam and Eve had to leave their garden home. God had harsh words for Satan. From now on God and Satan would be at war. Right at the beginning God told him how that fight would end. The woman's offspring (or child, meaning Jesus who would be born), would crush Satan's head, though Satan would bruise His heel.

Who do you think wins that one?

- The one with the bruised heel (Jesus)
- The one with the crushed head. (Satan)

PRAYER: *Thank You, God, that Satan and all evil are defeated by You. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: Life After Eden (Genesis 3:16-24)

Life outside Garden of Eden was different. Which sentences are true? Which are false?

1. Having babies was painful.
2. People had to work the soil to grow food.
3. There were no thorns, thistles and weeds—they came later.
4. People died.

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January 7

Choices

TODAY'S SPECIAL: Genesis 4:1-12

Detail from "Cain and Abel Offering Their Sacrifices" by Gustave Doré



TO CHEW ON: *"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.'"* (Genesis 4:6,7)

God told Cain and Abel to sacrifice animals to Him. Cain and Abel both worshiped God by making sacrifices. But Cain disobeyed and offered fruit from the plants he had harvested. Abel obeyed and offered animals from his flock.

God was pleased with the animal sacrifice. He didn't accept the plant sacrifice. He had told Cain what He wanted. Here are some things Cain could have done. Which one did he choose to do?

1. Bought an animal and sacrificed it.
2. Ignored God and made another sacrifice of his harvest.
3. Became so upset, he murdered the brother who pleased God.
4. Argued with God about why his plant offering was just as good as an animal offering.

Sometimes we don't like to hear what God says to us. He may tell us ways we need to change. He may make us aware of people we've wronged, or remind us of things for which we should apologize. But God will never force us to do the right thing.

PRAYER: *Dear God, please help me to choose Your right way. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: Right Choices

Suggest good choices to make if you find yourself in these situations:

1. You accidentally break Mom's favorite mug.
2. You've forgotten all about the test teacher promised today.
3. You find a purse in the washroom of a mall. It has lots of money in it.
4. A bunch of girls in your class are bullying another girl.
5. You're only half finished delivering your papers, and you're due at baseball practice.

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