

General Church Education



The Lord Made All Things

Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-2

Lesson 5

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE LORD MADE ALL THINGS

GENESIS 1:1-31, 2:1-2

We know from the Writings for the New Church that the Word has an internal meaning which gives delight and instruction to the angels in heaven, and to us too. Our next four lessons cover the beginning of *Genesis*. The stories in these chapters were preserved from the Ancient Word, the first written revelation given to mankind. Only the stories about Creation, the Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, Noah, and the Tower of Babel exist from this revelation. These stories are parables that tell us about the spiritual life of all people. They also tell about the rise and fall of the Most Ancient and Ancient Churches during the earliest civilization on the earth. The internal meaning is found in the *Arcana Coelestia* by Emanuel Swedenborg.

The *Genesis* stories have special appeal to the innocent states of young children who take joy in them and accept them as true. It provides the children with a wonderful sense of security to know that the Lord is in charge of everything in a world that they do not as yet understand, but are fascinated with. Fostering this simple belief is an important way to protect their innocence.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Lord's Word is layered with meanings that feed us in all our stages of life. The Creation story can reassure us that the Lord is leading us from the innocence of our earliest infancy, ("The earth was without form and void"), towards a heavenly state of regeneration, ("God rested on the seventh day.")
- Just as the Lord equipped the natural world to support the natural life of mankind, so He equips our inner world with the things that we need to support a spiritual life of service to the Lord and the neighbor.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The Old Testament contains heavenly meanings, with every single detail focusing on the Lord, His heaven, the Church, faith, and what belongs to faith.... Every detail, even the smallest means and embodies matters that are spiritual and celestial. For where does the life (of the Word) originate except in those things which belong to life, that is, in having every single detail go back to the Lord, who is life itself? *Arcana Coelestia* 1-2

The subject of *Genesis* 1 is the *new creation* of people, that is, their *regeneration*.
Arcana Coelestia 4

THE LORD MADE ALL THINGS

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord made everything in heaven and on the earth.
He continues to create everything that we need.
We need to take care of things the Lord created.

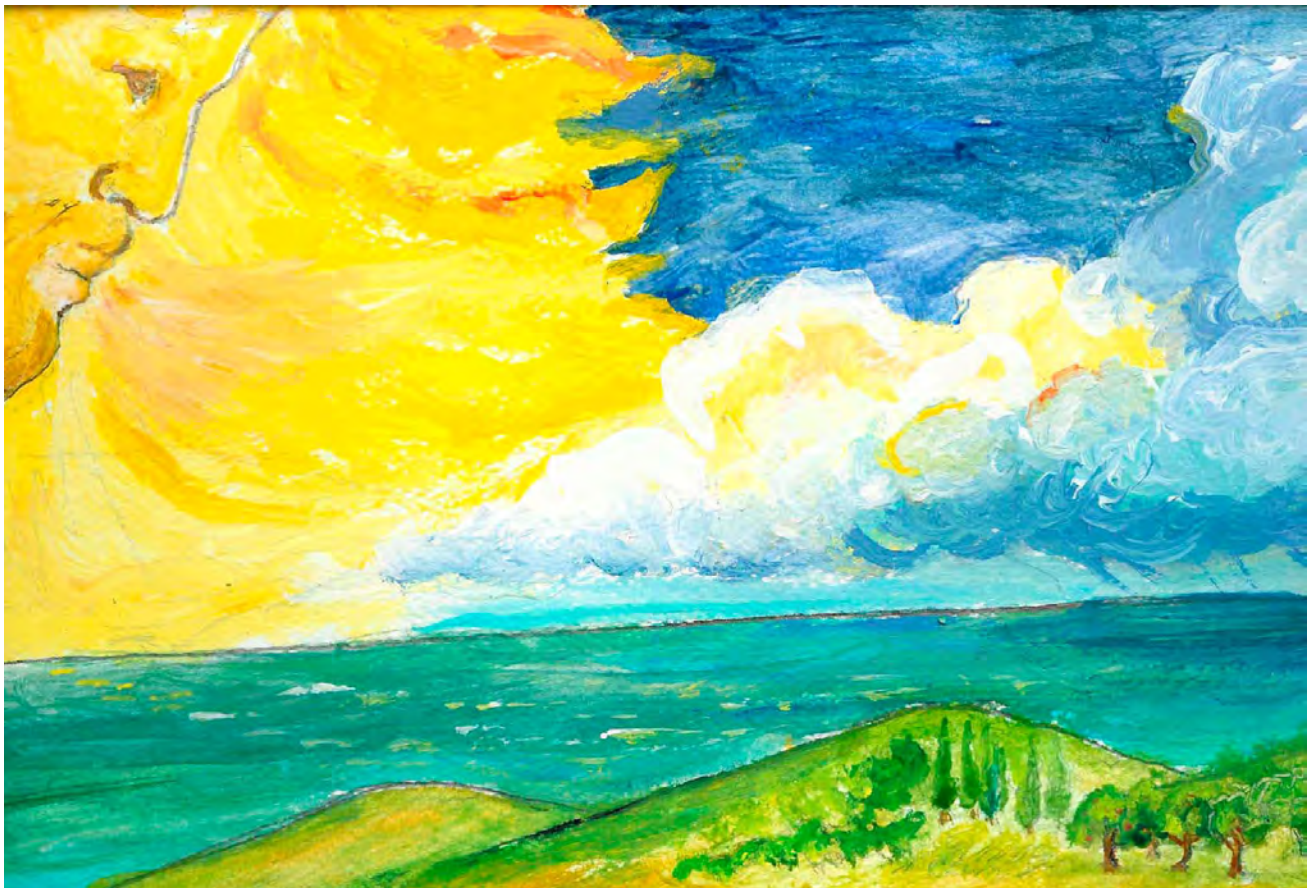
Today we will read the very first story in the Word. This story is found in the beginning of the book of *Genesis*. It tells about how the Lord made the world and everything in it. When it was ready, He created people like us to live in this world. He also created heaven as a beautiful place for us to go after we are finished with life in this world. He created these things many, many years ago and He continues to create these things today. Every new day, every seed that grows, every new baby that is born is a reminder of the Lord's continuous creation.



Because the Lord is our Heavenly Father, He knows what we truly need to be happy. The things that He created are gifts to us. If we use them wisely and use them to help others, He will make us happy both in this world and in heaven.

Our story tells about what the Lord made on each of the first six days of creation. It also tells about how the Lord rested on the seventh day. Listen to the things that the Lord made and think about how He might want you to wisely use each of them.

Read Genesis 1:1-31 and 2:1-2.



Our picture shows the peace of the seventh day, the day the "Lord rested."

DISCUSSION

- Reread the story. Stop after each day to talk about the things that the Lord made on that day. Ask the question, "How does the Lord want me to use these things in order to be happy and to help other people?" (*Examples might include - "Light helps me to see so that I can read the Word; Dark lets me rest so that I can have energy to be useful; Water to drink, grow food; Dry land for homes; Plants for food and flowers to enjoy." The possible list is as endless as the variety of creation.*)
- The Lord is always renewing His creation. He does this in many ways. In our story there are clues about a few of the ways that the Lord continues to create. Can you find these clues? (*Discuss "fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind" and the idea of "be fruitful and multiply."*) Can you think of other ways that the Lord renews creation?
- The Lord created people last of all. He gave us "dominion" over all of His creation. We are to be like governors. If we are to be wise in this responsibility, we will take good care of these precious gifts from the Lord. What are some ways that you can think of to care for the Lord's creation? (*Answers may range from water conservation to helping elderly grandparents.*)



THE LORD MADE ALL THINGS | Activities

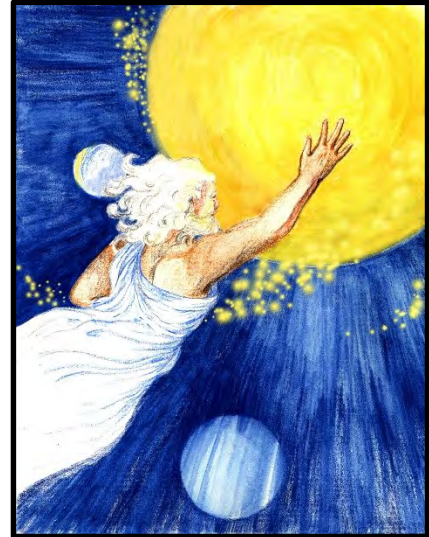
Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Songs

- This Is the Day
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-this-is-the-day-2/>
- And God Said
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-and-god-said-let-there-be-light/>

Videos

- The Seven Days of Creation (story)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-seven-days-of-creation/>
- And God Said Let There Be Light (song)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-and-god-said-let-there-be-light-song/>
- 7 Days of Creation (song)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/>

Projects

- Creation Ribbon (continue in following lesson)
- Picture to color

Creation Ribbon

This project helps children learn the order of the days of creation as well as what the Lord created each day. Do illustrations for 3 or 4 days for lesson 5 and complete the project for lesson 6.

Supplies needed

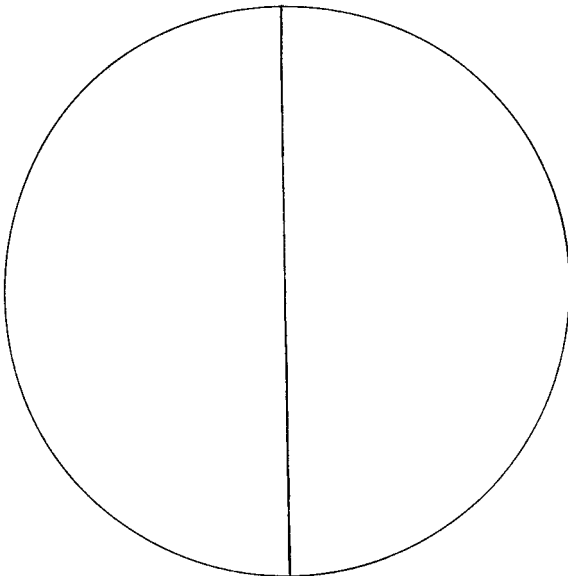
- 4 pieces of colored paper in a darker color such as purple, blue or green approx. 9"x12" (22.5cm x 30cm)*
- 4 pieces white paper approx. 9"x12" (22.5cm x 30cm)*
- 1 template with cutting circles for the white and colored paper
- 1 ribbon approximately 1½" wide x 39" long (3.5cm x 100cm)
- crayons, colored pencils or markers
- glue or tape
- scissors

**Note:* stiffer paper, such as construction paper is recommended for this project.

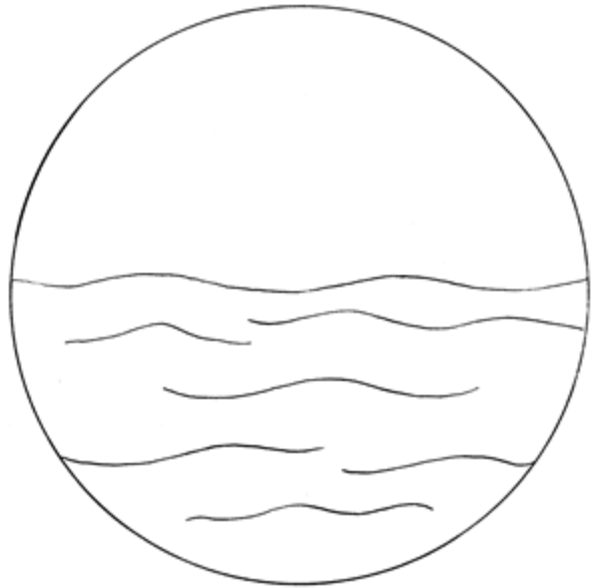
Directions

1. Using the larger circle template, cut seven circles out of colored paper.
2. Using the smaller circle template, cut seven smaller circles out of white paper.
3. Look at the creation pictures on the printed pages. Think about each day of creation and draw your own picture of it on each of the white circles. Label each day with its name ("The First Day," etc.) or put the number of the day at the bottom of the picture (1, 2, 3, etc.).
4. Glue each white circle with a creation picture to a circle of colored paper to create a colorful border. Try to center each one carefully.
5. Put the days of creation in order and glue or tape them in sequence to the ribbon, starting with the first day at the top of the ribbon.
6. Display the finished ribbon.

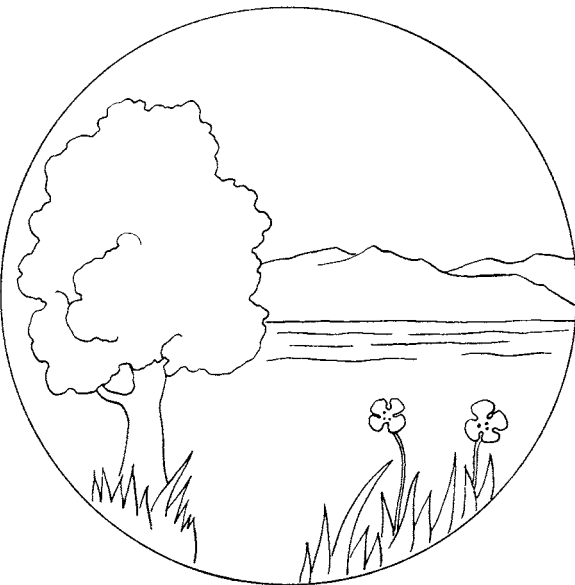




In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light...and God divided the light from the darkness.



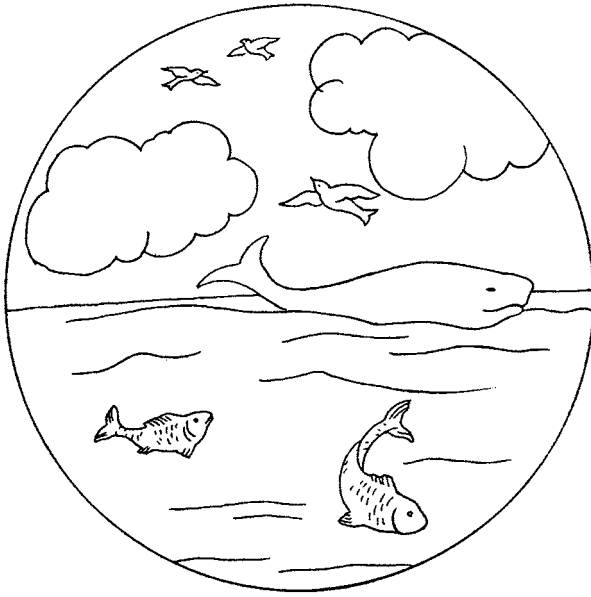
Then God said, "Let there be a firmament...and let it divide the waters from the waters"...and it was so.



The God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together...and let the dry land appear...Let the earth bring forth grass, herbs, and fruit trees."



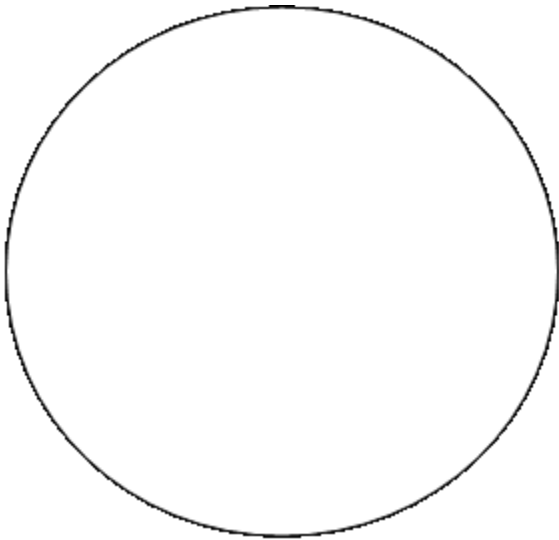
Then God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to divide the day from the night." And God made the sun, the moon, and the stars.



Then God created great whales and every living thing that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, and every winged bird.



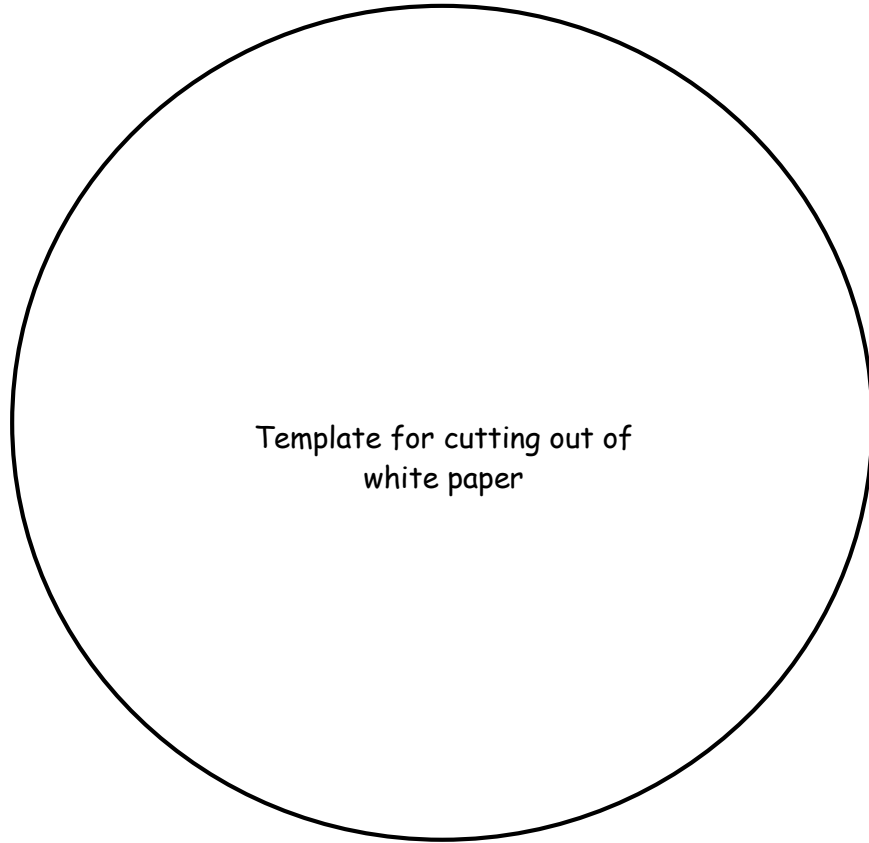
Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creatures.... Then God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him: male and female He created them.

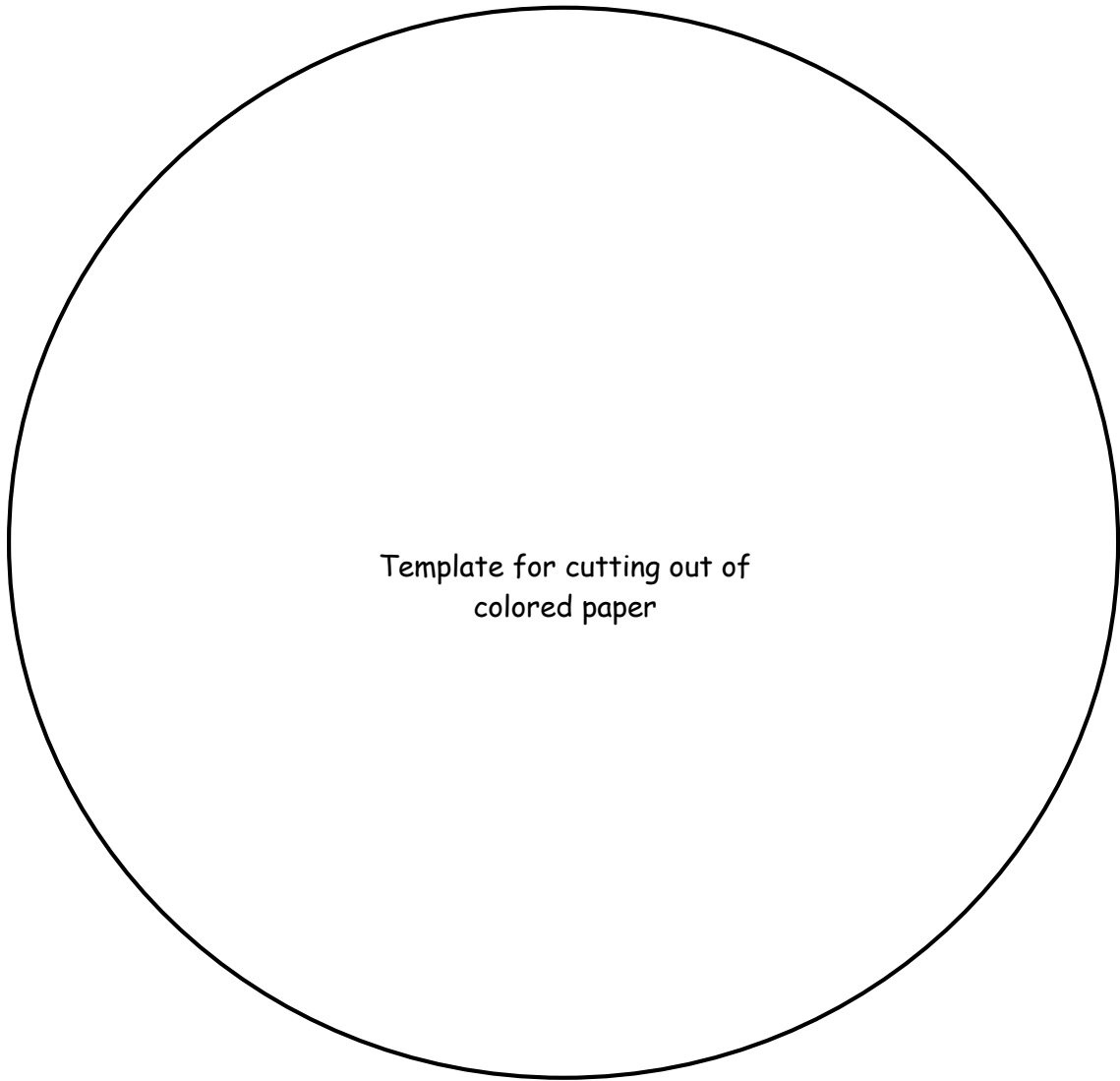


Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. God ended His work which He had done. And God rested on the seventh day and blessed it.

The Days of Creation

Genesis 1







Recitation Award | Lesson 5

