

General Church Education



The First Day

Genesis 1:1-5

Lesson 1

Youth Journey Program

Creation: Reflection of God

Level A: For ages 5-6 years

Teacher Background

Creation: Reflecting God through Correspondences

A Key for Understanding the Word

The New Church teaches that, “The Word of God is like a body with a living soul” (*Arcana Coelestia* 1408). Many have sensed this deeper level of meaning within the words and images of the Bible.

God wrote His Word so that every image contains multiple levels of meaning. The literal meaning focuses on the natural, physical world. A deeper symbolic meaning focuses on the world of the spirit, the world of the human mind. The relationship between the two levels is called “correspondence”. Natural images and symbols “correspond” to spiritual qualities.

We often make this connection between levels without thinking. For example, we may talk about not “muddying the waters”, or say a child is “testing the waters”. When we say “not muddying the waters” we are not talking about water at all; we are saying that false or misleading ideas should not be brought into a situation. Similarly, children “testing the waters” are experimenting with their behavior to see how others react. These sayings make connections between the way true ideas work in our minds with the way water works in the natural world.

Jesus made connections like this in His conversations with people. To a woman at Jacob’s well, He said, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). Jesus was associating the true spiritual ideas He came on earth to teach with water. The connection is in how they are useful—how they work in our lives. True ideas from the Word cleanse our thoughts just as water cleanses our bodies.

Sometimes these connections are harder to see in the stories of the Old Testament. The key, according to the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church, is this concept of correspondences. Correspondences allow us to see more than the general allegory of the human journey to the “promised land” of heaven. They help us see who God is and what He intends for us in specific ways. A knowledge of correspondences can help us gain fresh insight into the stories of the Old Testament.

This is true for the creation story. The Heavenly Doctrine explains creation in terms of a person’s step-by-step spiritual progress along the path to heaven. Each “day” of creation pictures a new level of personal development. The seventh day is a beautiful picture of the restful state of heaven—a state free from the struggles against selfishness that we all deal with in this world.

The spiritual meanings of the days of creation are interwoven throughout this lesson. We hope they bring the familiar story of creation to life in new ways.

Correspondences are natural truths in which spiritual truths are reflected as in a mirror. *Arcana Coelestia* 9300



The First Day

Level A

Genesis 1:1-5

Ages 3-6

Life Focus: The Lord creates everything.

Lesson Focus: Light helps us see so that we can serve the Lord. Darkness helps us rest, preparing us to serve again.

Reading: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day (Genesis 1:1-5).

Lesson 1

Materials Supplied

Materials Needed

		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Let There Be Light directions p. 4	
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word	see <i>Reading</i> above; picture p. 8	
	Talk About It discuss the reading	Talk About It discussion guide p. 4	
	3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Act It Out children wave a light or dark streamer and then separate into groups of light or dark while the story is read	Light and Darkness Game and Song directions p. 5 video at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/
	Make separate light and dark paper pieces and use them to create a collage	Separate Light and Darkness Collage directions p. 5-6 <i>Night and Day</i> p. 7	scraps of light and dark paper torn into pieces, glue, <i>optional:</i> shiny and textured papers (e.g. tin foil)
	Coloring Picture	The First Day p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce memory verse for the week	Memory Verse p. 6 <i>Parent Note</i> p. 10	

1. Getting Started

Welcome **Let There Be Light**

Warm-up Activity Seat everyone in a group on the floor. Say, “Let’s see what it would be like if it was dark in here! Let’s shut our eyes and put our hands over them.” While their eyes are shut say, “How does it feel to be in the dark? Imagine what it was like when the whole world was in darkness. Now let’s imagine that the Lord is just creating light. When I say, ‘Let there be light’ uncover your eyes.” Say, “Let there be light!” Look at all of the wonderful things the light shows us! I can see _____. What do you see?

2. Focus on the Word

Read **Genesis 1:1-5**

Talk About It **Show the children a copy of the Bible or Word. What book is this?** Answers may vary. The key is for them to know that it is the Lord’s book. He has written it so we can learn about Him.

The Lord tells us about Himself in the Word. What can you tell me about the Lord? Encourage a variety of responses. He is our Heavenly Father. He made us. He loves us and takes care of us. He tells us that when we try to do what is right it can help us be happy, etc.

Did you know that the Word is written in two parts? The first part is the Old Testament and the second part is the New Testament. The Old Testament is about how the Lord made the world and led people to heaven. The New Testament teaches about how the Lord who created everything came into the world as Jesus Christ. He taught us His prayer—the Lord’s prayer. *Optional:* show the first pages of the Old and New Testaments.

The Word begins with the story of how the Lord created or made everything. On the first day He made the light. What kinds of things can light help us do? Encourage a variety of answers, e.g. helps us see colors, animals, trees, other people—especially their faces to help us know how they feel. We can see everything even when it is raining because the sun shines so brightly in the sky that even the clouds cannot hide it!

When the sun goes down every evening it gets dark outside—and inside too (unless you turn lights on). What kinds of things can darkness help us do? It helps us rest and sleep. Rest gives us energy for each new day. When it is dark at night we can see things that are hard to see during the day—like the moon and stars and things that glow. When it is dark the sun has not stopped shining—it is shining on people like us who live far away on the other side of the world.

The Lord created all of the wonderful things in the world and gives us light every day so we can see them all. The Lord made the world a beautiful place because He loves us and wants us to be happy. As we love Him and love each other, the Lord will lead us to a heavenly life.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Light and Darkness Game and Song

Game

Each child will become “light” or “darkness” by holding a streamer that is light or dark. As you read the story, the children will separate and go to the correct light or dark side of the room.

1. Let’s pretend we are the light and darkness that the Lord separated.
2. Seat the children on the floor in front of you. Hand each child a light or a dark streamer.
3. I am going to tell the story of how the Lord separated light from darkness. When I say “light”, everyone with a light streamer will wave it up high over their heads. Let’s practice! When I say “darkness”, everyone who has a dark streamer, wave it up high. Let’s practice that one!
4. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness (*wave dark streamers*) was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light” (*wave light streamers*); and there was light. (*continue to wave light streamers*); And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness (*all stand and wave streamers; go to the side of the room with the dark or light streamer*). God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.
5. Have children trade light streamers for dark streamers. Re-read and replay.

Song

Use our video to start learning a song about the seven days of creation. Focus on teaching the first day. To make class more fun, hold hands and walk in a circle, raise hands or wave one finger as you sing.

Day One, Day One, God made the light when there was none,
Day One, Day One, God made the light when there was none.

Choice Separate Light and Darkness Collage

Children will “divide the light from the darkness” by sorting light and dark paper scraps into separate piles and then gluing the separated scraps on to a background page.

1. Show the children the large bowl with the combined scraps of light and dark paper.
2. Say, “Look at all of the pieces of paper in this bowl! All of the light and dark pieces



Materials for Each Child

Light or dark crepe paper streamer for each child (30-60cm, 1-2ft); *substitute* paper, tissue or cloth if crepe is not available

Prepare in Advance

Choose one side of the room to be dark and one to be light. Hang a streamer on each side so children easily remember which side is which.

Video Online

Hear song and sing along at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/>

Materials Needed

see next page

Prepare in Advance

Tear or cut pieces of light and dark paper into small scraps ready for creating a collage.

Light and Darkness Collage *continued*

are mixed together. Can you please help divide them into two piles: a pile of light ones that are like the beautiful sunshine, and a pile of dark ones that are like the darkness at night time?"

3. Seat children at their places and give each child a handful of scraps to sort and a *Night and Day* (p. 11) page. Have them use the *Night and Day* page to keep their piles separate.
4. The Lord saw everything He had made and said "it was good". Remind the children of this as they work by saying something like "I can see the beautiful light now; it is very good!"
5. Once all of the scraps are sorted, have the children put glue on the background paper. Glue the dark scraps to one side of the page and light scraps to the other side, creating night and day.
6. Praise the children's work as they finish. Say "It is good."



Materials Needed

light and dark paper torn or cut into small pieces, paper cutter to speed up cutting, large bowl to toss the light and dark paper scraps together, as if you were making a tossed salad, glue, *Night and Day* p. 7 for each child; *optional*: shiny gold or silver paper to add sparkle to the light, scraps of paper with a variety of textures that appeal to the sense of touch, e.g. tissue, "velvet", crepe, or construction paper

Choice

Coloring Picture: The First Day

Hand out copies of *The First Day* (p. 9) and invite the children to color one half black or dark, and the other half light.

Materials for Each Child

The First Day p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Read the memory verse aloud. Invite the children to repeat it after you and then have them try to say it on their own.

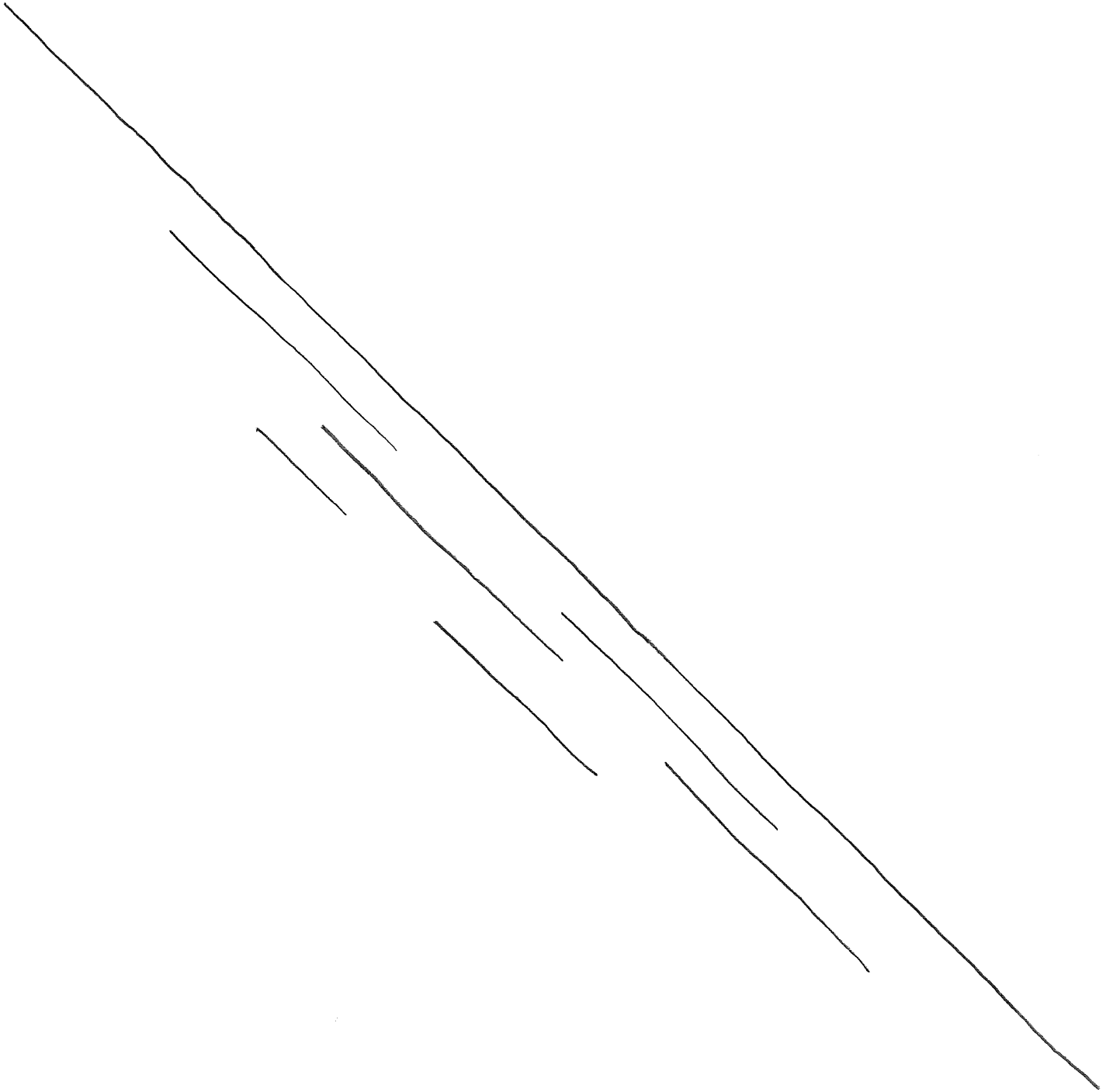
**Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
Genesis 1:3**

Closing

Each day the Lord gives us light so we can work and play. We sleep when it is dark at night. Sleep helps give us energy for a new day. Where can we learn about the Lord's creation? (In His Word.)

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 10) to children as they leave.





Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, We are learning about the story of creation. This story is at the very beginning of the Old Testament. Today we heard how the Lord created light in Genesis 1:1-5. There is a fun song about the 7 Days of Creation at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/</p> <p>We encourage you to help your child keep the Lord's Word in his or her heart by learning this week's Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light (Genesis 1:3).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, We are learning about the story of creation. This story is at the very beginning of the Old Testament. Today we heard how the Lord created light in Genesis 1:1-5. There is a fun song about the 7 Days of Creation at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/</p> <p>We encourage you to help your child keep the Lord's Word in his or her heart by learning this week's Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light (Genesis 1:3).</p>
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