

General Church Education



The Second Day

Genesis 1:6-8

Lesson 2

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

There is a New Church teaching that, “The Word of God is like a body with a living soul” (*Arcana Coelestia* 1408). Many readers 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 about it. For example, we may talk about not “muddying the waters”, or say that 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, a child “testing the waters” is experimenting with his or her 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 Creation Youth Journey Program. We hope they bring this familiar story to life in new ways.

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



The Second Day

Level A

Genesis 1:6-8

Ages 3-6

Life Focus: The Lord made me.

Lesson Focus: When I do what the Lord teaches He helps me be the happiest I can.

Reading: Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day (Genesis 1:6-8).

Lesson 2		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Make It Rain! directions p. 4	<i>Optional:</i> a cup of water for each child
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word Talk About It discuss the reading	see <i>Reading</i> above Talk About It discussion guide p. 4	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Moving Picture color and paint a moving picture of the Lord dividing the waters	Waters Above and Waters Below directions p. 5 <i>Teacher Folding Directions</i> p. 7 <i>Assembly Directions</i> p. 8 <i>Waters Above and Below</i> p. 9 <i>Lord Picture Page</i> p.10	crayons, blue water-based paint wash, brushes, tape, scissors <i>optional:</i> cotton balls, glue, hair dryer, newspaper
	Water activity act out a poem by wetting and squeezing a sponge to make it rain	Rain from Heaven directions pp. 5-6 video of the rhyme and actions at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-rain-from-heaven-rhyme/	computer or other viewing device sponge; basin, tub or large bowl of water
	Coloring Picture	The Second Day p. 11	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. 12	

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Make It Rain!

Have you ever been really thirsty? What is it like? *Optional:* offer children small glasses of water to drink as you talk. Encourage sharing about how the water tastes, makes them feel, etc. as they drink.

Where does water come from? It falls from clouds in the sky as rain and comes up from the ground in springs. We are going to pretend to make it rain! To do this we must sit around a table. Choose one finger. We are going to tap gently on the table with this finger. Now keep tapping and close your eyes. Can you hear the sound of a gentle rain? Let's use a finger from our other hand and make raindrops with two fingers.... Now the rain is getting heavier. Let's use all of our fingers! Now it's raining very hard. Let's use our whole hands! Look, the rain is stopping! I can hear just a few raindrops dropping off the trees.

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 1:6-8

Talk About It

We have been talking about the Word and what makes it different from other books in the world. Do you remember why it is different? It was written by the Lord.

What is the name of the first book of the Word? Genesis.

What does "Genesis" mean? Beginning.

We are talking about the story of creation from the beginning of Genesis. On the first day the Lord created light and darkness.

What did the Lord create on the second day? The "firmament." (Translations may vary.)

What did the Lord call the expanse? Heaven.

The expanse or firmament is another word for what we call the "sky".

What kinds of water are high up in the sky? Clouds, rain, snow, hail.

What kinds of water are "under the sky" on the earth? Streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, seas, oceans.

The Lord gives us many kinds of water! What are some of the ways we use water to help us? Drinking, cleaning ourselves and other things, growing plants, etc.

The Lord waters the earth by sending rain to make things grow. True ideas from heaven can come into our minds when we hear the Word, and these ideas can help our spirits grow.

Different kinds of water (rain, rivers, oceans, etc.) are like different ways we learn, such as trying to do things ourselves, listening to our parents and teachers, going to church and Sunday School, and going to the Word for ourselves.

The Lord gives us His Word so we can learn how to be truly useful and happy!

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Waters Above and Waters Below

Children will “divide” the waters by creating a moving picture that separates to show the Lord creating the expanse in between the waters above and waters below. (Step-by-step picture directions are on pp. 7-8.)

1. Give each child a copy of *Waters Above and Below* (p. 9) and water-colored crayons. Encourage the children to use wave-like movements as they color.
2. Give each child a paintbrush that has been dipped in a blue water-based paint “wash”. Brush over the crayoned pictures. Set aside to dry.
3. Give each child a pre-folded copy of the *Lord Picture Page* (p. 10) and crayons. Invite them to draw a picture of the Lord. *Hint:* present the page so that it sits in front of the children as shown on p. 19. Encourage a larger picture of the Lord by suggesting that children draw His head above the top fold, His body in the center area and His legs below the bottom fold. Take time to make a wonderful picture!
4. Check to be sure the *Waters Above and Below* page is dry. *Optional:* if it is still damp, use a hairdryer to dry it out.
5. Hand out scissors and direct the children to cut the page apart between the waters. It’s not important to make the line straight or the cut even.
6. Tape the project together following the steps on p. 7. It doesn’t matter which side becomes the waters above and which side becomes the waters below. *Optional:* glue cotton balls on the waters above (which ever is taped above the Lord’s head) to represent clouds.
7. Fold the page so all you see is water. Show how the Lord divided the waters above and waters below by opening and closing the project.

Materials for Each Child

a copy of *Waters Above and Waters Below* (p. 9) and *Lord Picture Page* (p. 10), crayons, wide paintbrushes to share, thin blue water-based paint in a jar to share, scissors, tape, newspaper to cover table *optional:* cotton balls and glue to make clouds, hairdryer to speed drying

Teaching Hint

Wetting paintbrushes for the children instead of having them do it themselves reduces the wetness of the project so it dries more quickly.

Prepare in Advance

Mix up a thin blue watercolor wash. One or two jars should be enough for the group. Fold a copy of *Lord Picture Page* p.10 for each student. See directions on p. 7. Cover the table with newspaper.

Choice

Rain from Heaven

Demonstrate the idea of waters below the firmament (or expanse or sky) and waters above with a basin of water and a sponge. Follow by reciting a rhyme about how truths from the Word are like rain from heaven coming into our minds.

1. Ask the children, “Where did the Lord divide the waters?” (below and above the firmament or sky) This bowl of water is like the ocean, which is one of the waters below.
2. Dip the sponge in the water and hold it up above the basin. This sponge is a little bit like a cloud that holds the waters above.
3. Squeeze the sponge lightly so it “rains” into the basin. This is like the rain coming from up above, down to the waters below. Give each child a chance to make it “rain”.
4. Introduce the idea of water being like truths. Ask how water helps us

Video Demonstration

View demonstration at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-rain-from-heaven-rhyme/>

Materials

sponge; basin, tub or large bowl of water

Prepare in Advance

Fill your basin, tub or bowl 1/2 full with water.

Rain from Heaven *continued*

and how true ideas help us.

5. Recite the following poem and model the actions one line at a time. Invite the children to repeat each line after you and mimic the actions.

Rain From Heaven

The Lord divided the waters just so.
He made waters above and waters below.
Rain comes from above to make all things grow.
It washes me clean, from my head to my toe!

*Hold arms straight out together, then move apart.,
Put one arm up high and the other down low.
Make rain gesture*; spread fingers and move hands up.
Wash arms with opposite hands; touch head; touch toes.*

Truths from the Word come down like soft rain,
Come into my mind, go to heaven again.
They make my thoughts clean, help me do as I should.
Thank you, Father in heaven, for teaching what's good.

Hold hands out together like a book; make rain gesture.
Touch head with both hands; hold arms up to sky.
Wash head with hands; put hand over heart & nod.
Fold hands together; look up and hug yourself.*

**Rain Gesture: Put arms up and move down slowly, wiggling fingers.*

Choice

Coloring Picture: The Second Day

Hand out copies of *The Second Day* (p. 11) and invite the children to color it.

Materials for Each Child

The Second Day p. 11; 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.

God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.

Genesis 1:7

Closing

Where can we find water? (Clouds, rain, rivers, ponds, lakes, oceans, etc.)

How does water help us?

The Lord's Word helps keep our minds clean and healthy, just as the water helps keep our bodies clean and healthy.

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 12) to children as they leave.

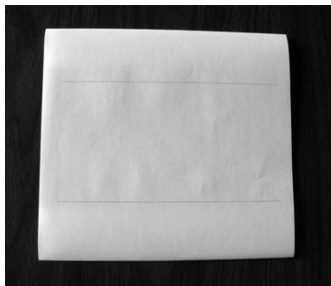
Teacher Folding Directions for *Waters Above and Waters Below*



1. Place the page on a table with the print side down. Fold along the dotted lines closest to the ends of the page as shown.



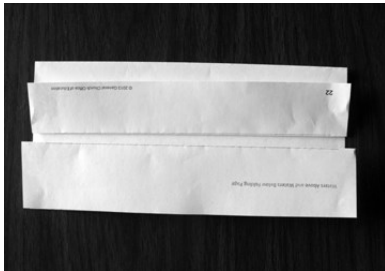
2. Your page should look like this.



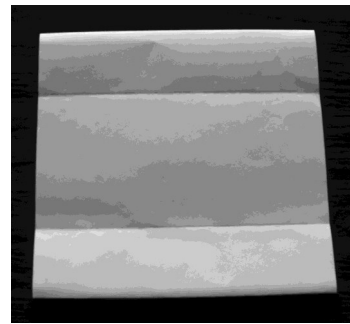
3. Turn the page over so you can see the remaining two dotted lines.



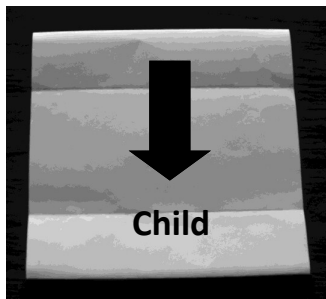
4. Fold the page towards you along the dotted line at the top of the page.



5. Fold the page away from you along the dotted line at the bottom of the page.



6. Fold the page back along the last two folds you just made. Your page should now look like this.

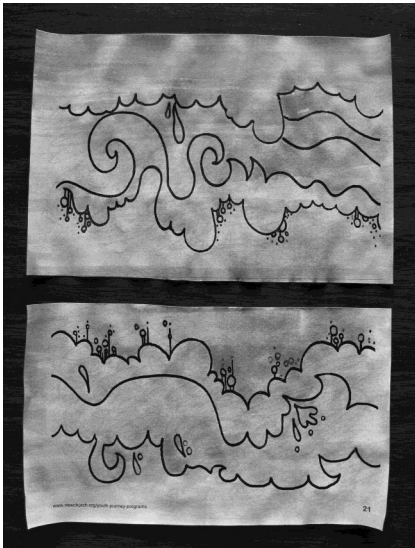


7. When you give the children a folded page to draw on, make sure they are seated in front of it this way.

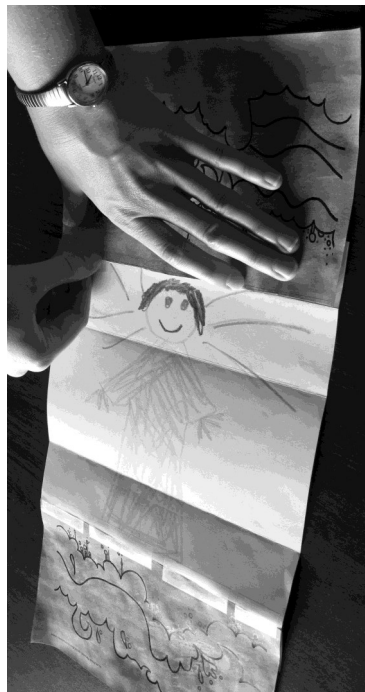


8. Encourage the children to draw nice big pictures.

Assembly Directions *Waters Above and Waters Below*

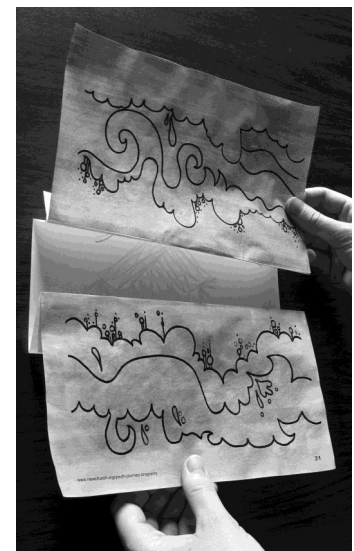
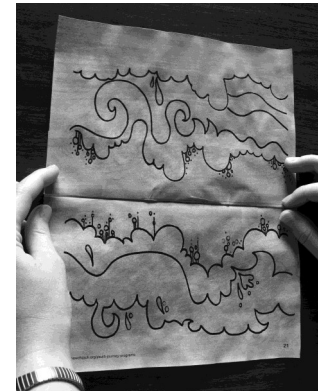


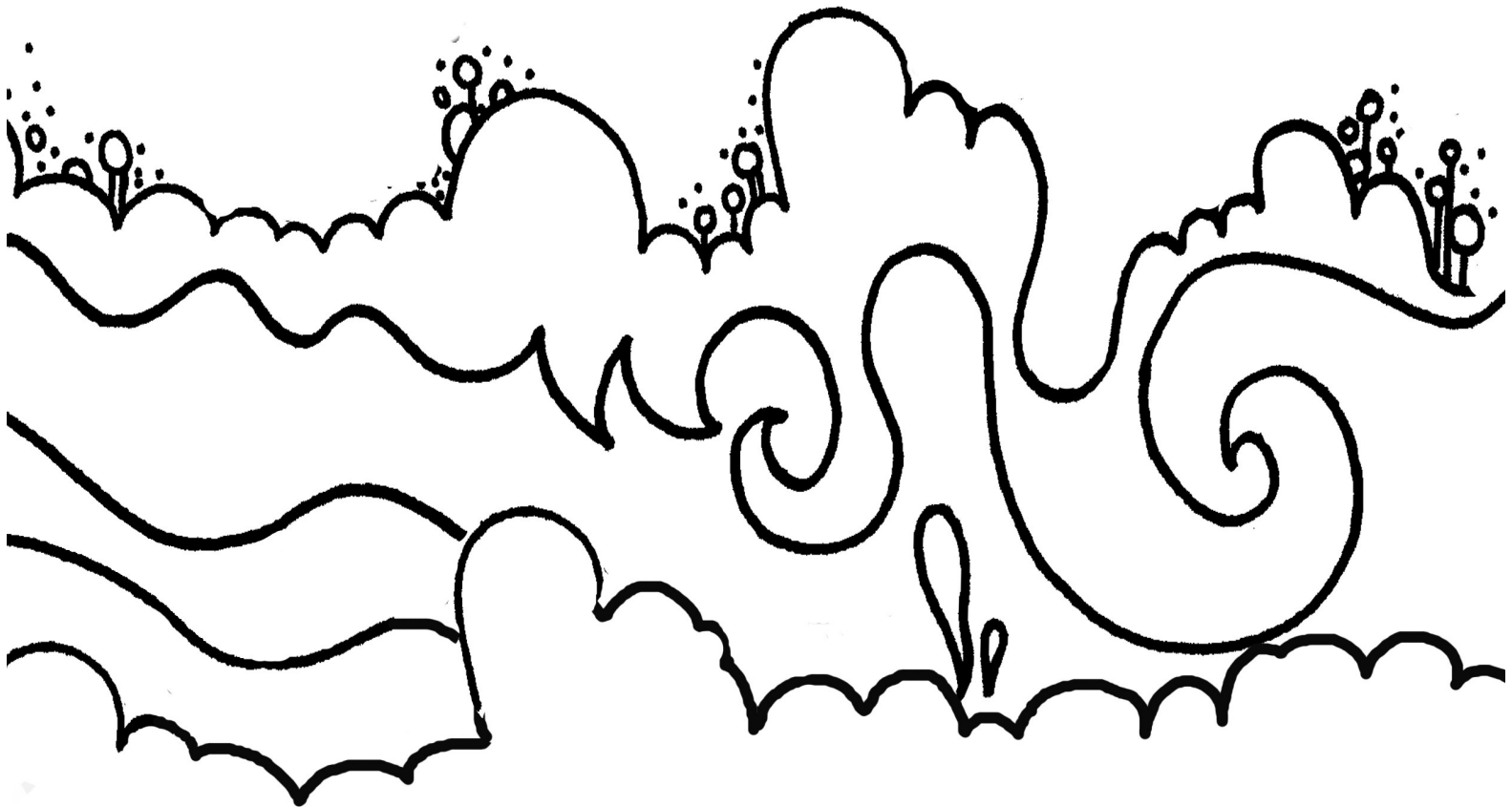
1. Cut the water page in half to make two pieces.
2. Fold out the top and bottom of the Lord picture.



3. Tape one piece of the water picture to the flap above the Lord picture. Tape the other water picture piece to the flap below the Lord picture.
4. Fold the project again along the four fold lines so you only see water. (See picture at the top of the next column.)

5. Fold and unfold the project to show the Lord dividing the waters above and below!





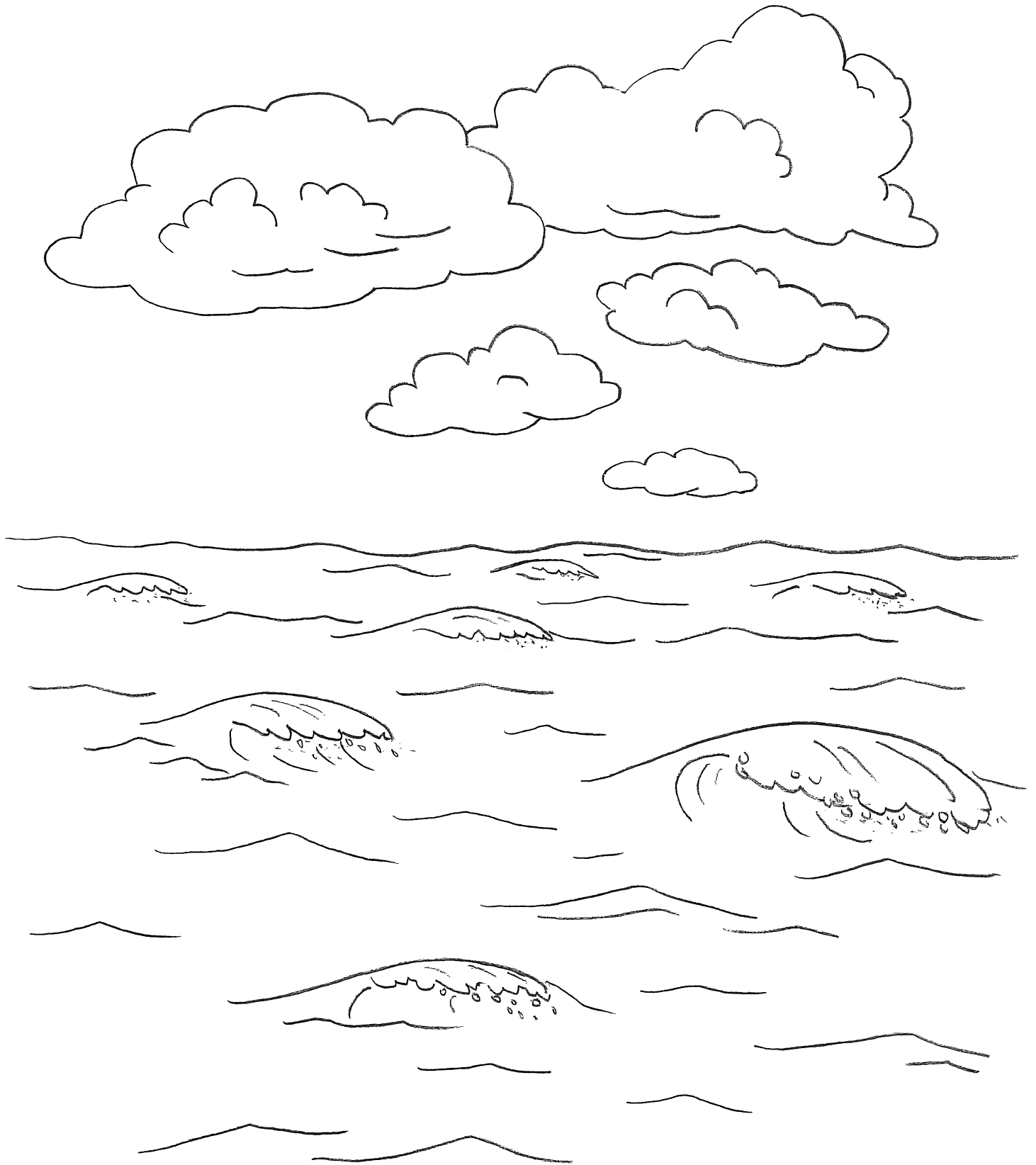
Waters Above and Below

.....

.....

.....

.....



Parent Notes

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

<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, The story of creation is in Genesis. Genesis means “beginning”. Today we learned how the Lord divided the waters above from the waters below and made the sky in Genesis 1:6-8. There is a fun rhyme with actions you can see at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-rain-from-heaven-rhyme/</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>God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament (Genesis 1:7).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, The story of creation is in Genesis. Genesis means “beginning”. Today we learned how the Lord divided the waters above from the waters below and made the sky in Genesis 1:6-8. There is a fun rhyme with actions you can see at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-rain-from-heaven-rhyme/</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>God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament (Genesis 1:7).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, The story of creation is in Genesis. Genesis means “beginning”. Today we learned how the Lord divided the waters above from the waters below and made the sky in Genesis 1:6-8. There is a fun rhyme with actions you can see at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-rain-from-heaven-rhyme/</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>God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament (Genesis 1:7).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, The story of creation is in Genesis. Genesis means “beginning”. Today we learned how the Lord divided the waters above from the waters below and made the sky in Genesis 1:6-8. There is a fun rhyme with actions you can see at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-rain-from-heaven-rhyme/</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>God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament (Genesis 1:7).</p>