

General Church Education



# The Third Day

Genesis 1:9-13

## Lesson 3

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.

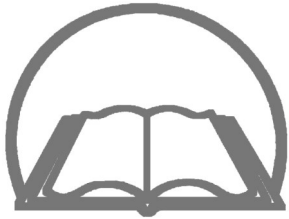
Jesus made connections like this in His conversations with people. To a woman at Jacob’s well, He said, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). Jesus 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 lesson. 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 Third Day

# Level A

Genesis 1:9-13

Ages 3-6

**Life Focus:** The Lord made me.

**Lesson Focus:** The Lord creates everything around me so I can become fruitful by helping others.

**Reading:** Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day (Genesis 1:9-13).

## Lesson 3

		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
<b>1. Getting Started</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Welcome Warm-up Activity</b>	<b>Welcome Warm-up Activity</b> directions p. 4	apple or other fruit, sharp knife, plate, napkins
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	<b>Read the Word</b>	see <i>Reading</i> above	
	<b>Talk About It</b> discuss the reading	<b>Talk About It</b> discussion guide p. 4	
	<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	<b>Make a Play Dough Picture</b> use play dough to model seas, land and a tree with fruit on a paper plate	<b>Seas, Land and Trees</b> directions p. 5 <i>Seas, Land and Trees Project Stages</i> p. 7
	<b>Make and Sing</b> create fruits on popsicle sticks to hold; stand like a tree and sing a song about the fruits of the spirit	<b>The Tree That's Me</b> directions pp. 5-6 <i>Fruit Shapes</i> p. 8 Song video at <a href="https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/">https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/</a>	stiff paper for printing, two popsicle sticks for each child, crayons or markers computer or other viewing device
	<b>Coloring Picture</b>	<b>The Third Day</b> p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
<b>4. Wrap It Up</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Memory Verse</b> introduce memory verse for the week	<b>Memory Verse</b> <i>Parent Note</i> p. 10	

# 1. Getting Started

## Welcome Warm-up Activity

### Seed to Fruit

*Supplies needed:* apple or other fruit, sharp knife, plate, napkins

Show the apple or other fruit and build curiosity by asking questions such as, “What is this? Where did it come from? What can we do with it? What is inside?”



When each child has had an opportunity to respond, cut the apple in half to show the beautiful star shape of the seeds. What would happen if we planted these seeds in good dirt or soil? Each of the seeds could grow into a tree that can make more apples. Just think how many apples we would have if each of these seeds grew into a tree! Let’s find out what this apple tastes like! Cut the apple into pieces and share.

# 2. Focus on the Word

## Read

Genesis 1:9-13

## Talk

**What is the name of the first book of the Word?** Genesis, which means beginning.

## About It

**Genesis starts with the story of creation. What did the Lord create on the first day?** Light.

**What did the Lord create on the second day?** The sky (or firmament). He also separated the waters above (clouds) from the waters below (rivers, oceans).

**What did the Lord create on the third day?** Seas, dry land and plants with seeds and fruit.

**At first the world was covered with water—but we can’t live just on water! We need land so we can build houses, and fields so we can grow food. The Lord “gathered the waters together” into seas, and then the dry land could appear.**

**People use stones from the earth and trees that grow on land to make houses, furniture and many useful things. The land also contains metals like gold, silver and iron so we can make tools, homes and even jewelry. Look around the room. Can you see something made from stone, metal or wood?**

**As soon as the Lord made the earth, He made grass, leafy plants and trees so that there would be food for the animals and people He was going to create later.**

**Fruit is one of the foods the Lord created for us. How many kinds of fruit can you think of?** Encourage children to say the names of their favorite fruit, describe the tastes and textures of the fruits they name, talk about a fruit they would like to try, etc.

**The Lord tells us that we produce fruit too. Our fruits are the kind and useful things we do for others—like saying kind words to someone who is sad, helping our parents or sharing with a friend. The Lord says that if we do what He teaches in the Word we will “bear much fruit” (John 15:5). And He creates everything around us to help us be fruitful.**

# 3. Learn by Doing

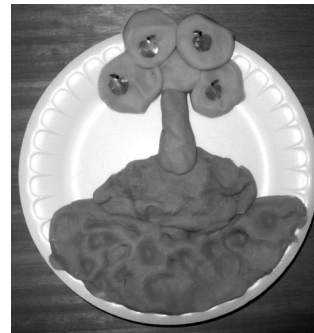
Choose one or two activities

**Choice**

## Seas, Land and Trees

Create a 3-D picture from play dough showing the seas, land and a tree bearing fruit. Pictures of each stage of this project are on p. 7.

1. Before class, set a place around the table for each child with the following materials: a disposable plate, three balls of play dough (1 blue, 1 brown and 1 green), *your choice* of fruit-colored beads (in a small cup to prevent them from rolling away), sequins or fruit stickers.
2. We are going to make a scene showing some of the things the Lord made on the third day of creation. We will start by making the seas. Place the blue ball of play dough near the edge of the plate and flatten it to the plate. Show the children how to create waves by pressing the dough with their fingers.
3. Divide the brown ball of play dough into 2 balls: a larger and smaller ball. Put the small ball aside. Press the larger ball to the plate over top of the seas to make dry land rise from the seas.
4. Roll the remaining brown ball into a “snake” to use as a tree trunk. Set the tree trunk up on top of the land and press firmly to the plate.
5. Divide the green ball into several smaller balls. Press each ball into the plate to create the leaves on top of the tree.
6. Press the beads, sequins or stickers (“fruit”) into the green play dough.



### Materials for Each Child

disposable plate; blue, brown and green play dough; colorful beads, sequins or stickers to use as fruit

### Prepare in Advance

Make or buy play dough in blue, brown and green. Each child will need some of each color. Set up the supplies each child needs before class (see step 1).

### Play Dough Recipe and Directions Video

Play dough is inexpensive and easy to make! Recipe and directions at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-play-dough/>

**Choice**

## The Tree That's Me

Cut out and color paper fruits and attach to popsicle sticks or stiff cardboard handles. Learn a song about fruitful qualities we need to invite into our spirits so we can serve our friends and the Lord in the most fruitful way possible. These qualities are called “fruits of the spirit” (see Galatians 5:22-23, *True Christian Religion* 571).

1. How is a plant “fruitful”? (It grows food for people and animals to eat.)
2. What is your favorite kind of fruit?
3. The Lord has created many kinds of fruits for us. I have four kinds of fruit here: apples, oranges, pears and peaches. Show the children p. 8. I would like you to choose two of these fruits to decorate.
4. Color the fruits with crayons. When finished, tape a popsicle stick to the back of each fruit to use as a handle.
5. Now let’s hold our fruits in our hands and put our arms out to the sides and stand tall like a tree. Can you feel the warm sun shining? It will help the fruit ripen. Here comes a breeze. Let’s make our arms wiggle about in the wind!
6. Now we are going to learn a song about the kind of tree we want to be.

### Materials for Each Child

two *Fruit Shapes* from p. 8 printed on heavy paper, two popsicle sticks, scissors, crayons or markers, tape

### Prepare in Advance

Print enough fruit shapes for children to have choices. Students will need 2 shapes each. Separate fruit shapes. For a young group, cut around the shapes.

## The Tree That's Me *continued*

### The Tree That's Me!

(sing to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*)

Gentle, joyful, patient, kind,  
God's great goodness in my mind.  
Faith and love and self-control,  
Give me peace within my soul.  
Please God make the tree that's me,  
Kind and loving as can be.

Stand like trees and sing the song again.

**Choice**

### Coloring Picture: The Third Day

Hand out copies of *The Third Day* (p. 9) and invite the children to color it.

#### Video

Song video online at  
[https://  
www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/](https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/)



#### Materials for Each Child

*The Third 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.

And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the tree that yields fruit.

Genesis 1:12

### Closing

On the third day the Lord gave us land. What kinds of things come from the land? (rocks, metal, precious stones, soil, plants, etc.)

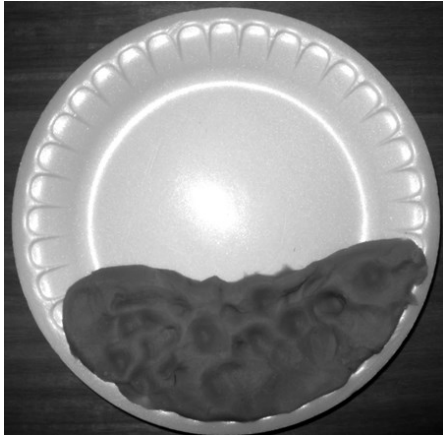
What do plants give us? (food, fruit, seeds, flowers, etc.)

What is one way we can remember the Lord when we eat our food? (We can say a blessing.)

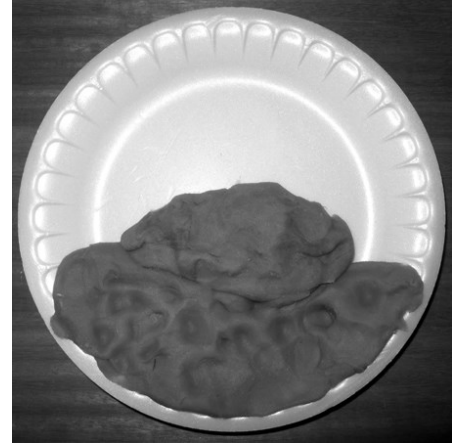
Give *Parent Notes* (p. 10) to children as they leave.

# Seas, Land and Trees Project Stages

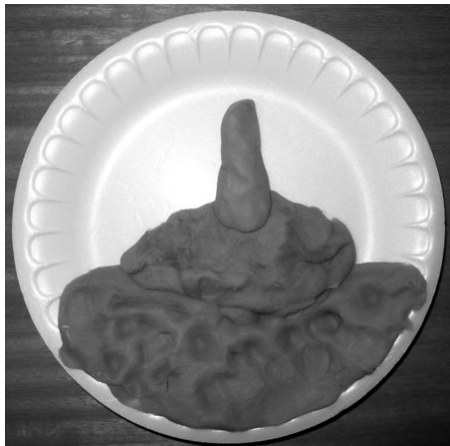
1. Seas



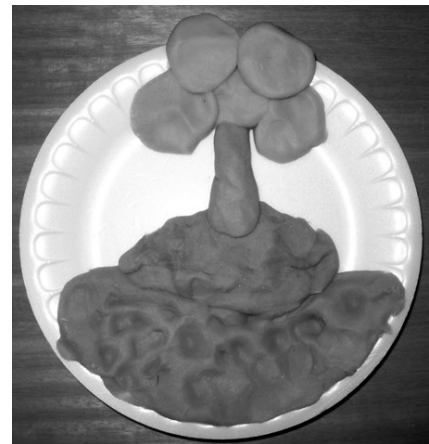
2. Land



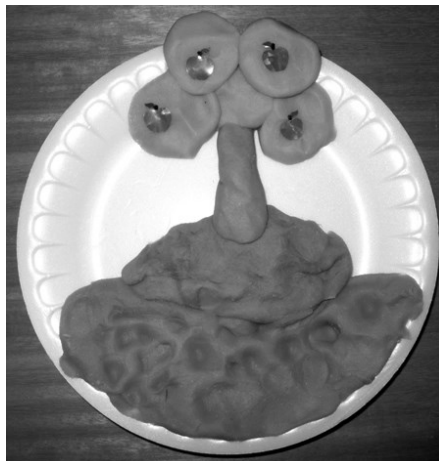
3. Tree Trunk

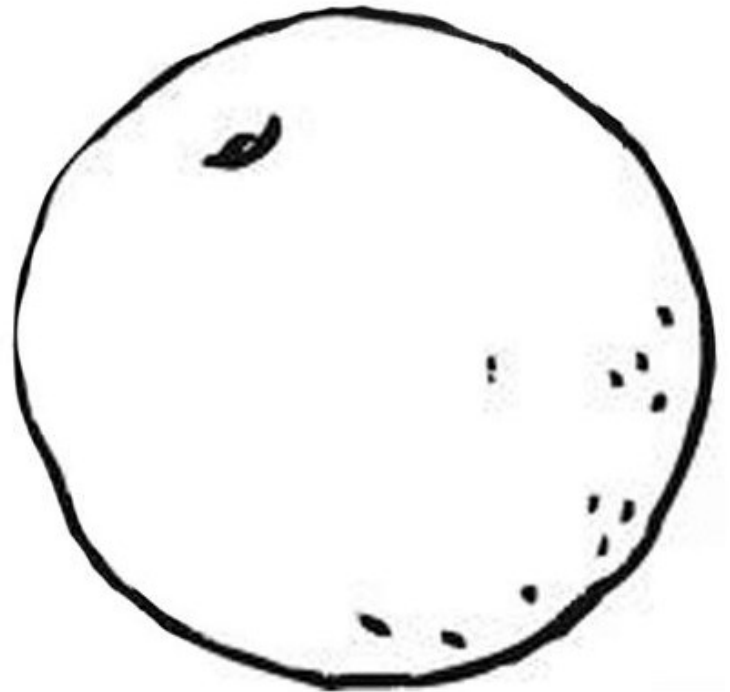
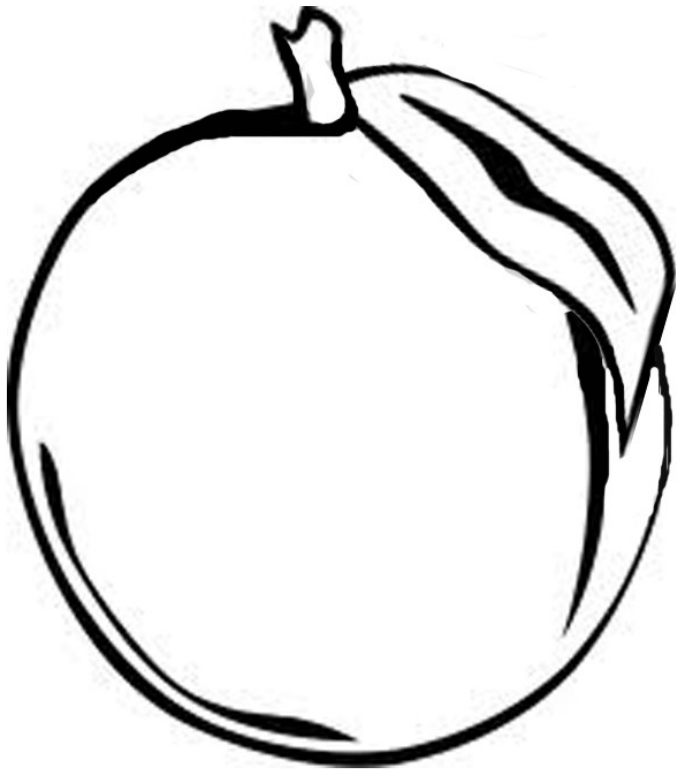


4. Tree Leaves



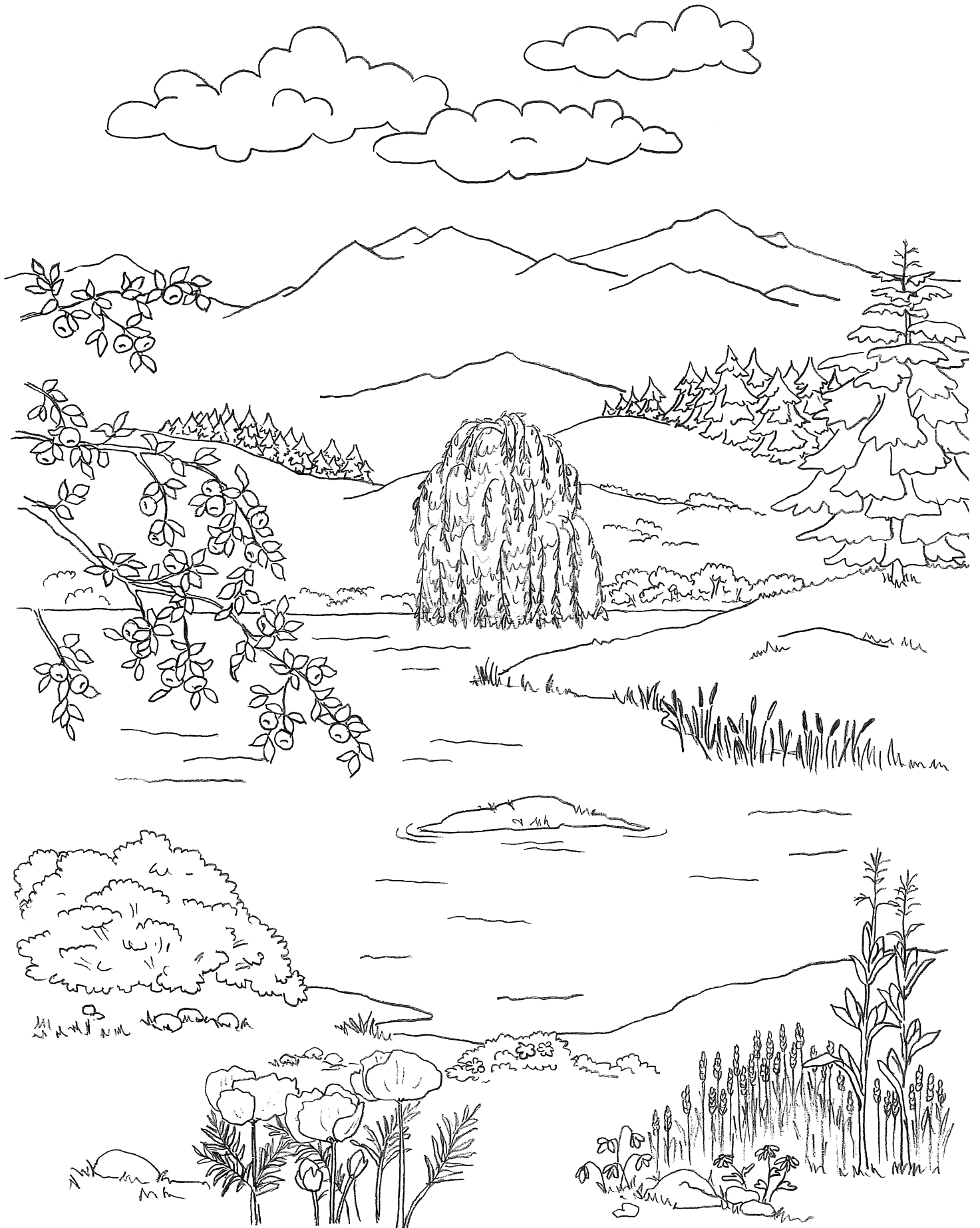
5. Fruit





Fruit Shapes





The Third Day

**Parent Notes**

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENT NOTE</b></p> <p>Dear Parents,          Today we learned how the Lord made the seas, land and plants from Genesis 1:9-13. Our lives can become fruitful just as trees can be fruitful. Our fruits are the helpful things we do for others. There is a song about this at <a href="https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/">https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/</a></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;"><b>Memory Verse</b></p> <p>And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the tree that yields fruit (Genesis 1:12).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENT NOTE</b></p> <p>Dear Parents,          Today we learned how the Lord made the seas, land and plants from Genesis 1:9-13. Our lives can become fruitful just as trees can be fruitful. Our fruits are the helpful things we do for others. There is a song about this at <a href="https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/">https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-tree-thats-me-song/</a></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;"><b>Memory Verse</b></p> <p>And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the tree that yields fruit (Genesis 1:12).</p>
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