

General Church Education



The Sixth Day

Genesis 1:24-31

Lesson 6

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.

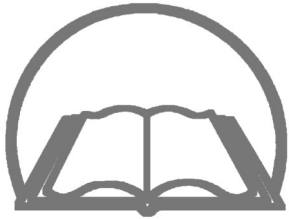
Jesus made connections like this in His conversations with people. To a woman at Jacob’s well, He said, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). Jesus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

Level A

Genesis 1:24-31

Ages 3-6

Life Focus: The Lord made me.

Lesson Focus: The Lord created me to look like Him.

Reading Summary: And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.... Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:24-31, excerpts).

Lesson 6

		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Be Like Me! directions p. 4	
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word		Bible or copy of Genesis 1:24-31
	Talk About It discuss the reading	Talk About It discussion guide p. 4	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Make and Act look at the variety in creation and make finger puppets illustrating this	Puppet People and Animals directions p. 5 <i>Finger Puppet Templates</i> p. 7 <i>Finger Puppet Examples</i> p. 8	stiff paper for printing, crayons or markers <i>optional:</i> special decorative supplies such as glue and glitter, yarn for hair, fur, ribbons, etc.
	Act Out and Sing choose an animal to name; act like the animal; review the days of creation with the Creation Song	Animal Antics and Creation Review directions pp. 5-6 <i>Animal Pictures</i> pp. 9, 10 <i>7 Days of Creation</i> at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/	stuffed animals <i>or</i> <i>Animal Pictures</i> pp. 9-10 computer or other viewing device <i>optional:</i> Animal Crackers for a snack
	Coloring Picture	The Sixth 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 <i>Parent Note</i> p. 12	

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Be Like Me Mirroring Activity

Stand the children in a circle or group with each child facing you. Ask the children to copy your movements. Make large and small movements using limbs, facial expressions, your whole body, etc. After a minute or so, sit the children down and ask, “What was it like to copy me? Was it easy/hard? What was the most difficult part?”

The story of creation in the Word says that the Lord made us in His image—that means just like Him! We have arms and legs and a head like Him because we are made in His image! As well as looking like the Lord, the Lord wants us to try to *be* like Him—to *do what He does*, to love others as He does! And when we learn to do this we can live with the Lord in heaven.

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 1:24-31

Talk About It

Who made everything—including you and me? The Lord God Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father.

Our story tells us about the first people the Lord made. Before the Lord made people He first made a world for them to live in so they would have food and homes. What are some of the things the Lord made? Light, water, seas, sun, moon, stars, dry land, plants that could give seeds and fruit, birds and fish.

What did the Lord create on the sixth day besides people? Animals.

Let each say the name of one animal!

The Lord is loving and wise. He cares for each animal He has made and gives it what it needs. Examples: He gave giraffes long necks to eat leaves high in the trees. He gave sheep nice warm coats for cold winters. He gave lions strong legs to run fast to catch food or away from danger.

People are the most wonderful creation of all the things the Lord made. The Lord gave people dominion over everything He had made. In other words, everything that the Lord created was intended to help people.

What are some of the ways animals and other created things help us? Sheep give us soft wool for warm clothes, dogs are good pets, cows give us milk, chickens give us eggs, the ground gives us good food such as wheat, apples, etc.

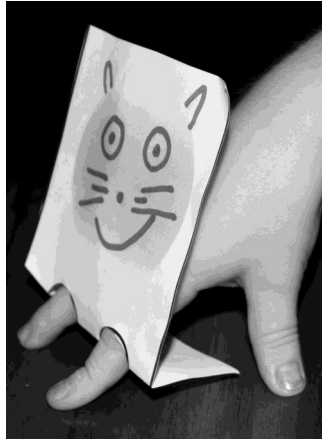
The Lord gave us everything that is good. He also gave us His Word. His Word tells us what He wants us to do with what He has given us. This way we—and everyone else—can know how to be happy.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Puppet People and Animals

Each human being is created in the image and likeness of the Lord—and yet each is different. The wonderful variety reflects just how big the Lord is! Children will create their own people and animal puppets and gather with their puppets to see how each is a unique reflection of the Lord.



1. Gather in a circle. Look at each other's faces and notice ways in which everyone looks similar (eyes, nose, ears, etc.). Notice ways in which each person is different (curly/straight hair, hair/eye color, skin tones, etc.).
2. No two people in the world are exactly the same—even if they are twins! Seeing how many different people there are helps us understand just how big the Lord is—and at the same time we can see that we are all created in His image.
3. We are going to make finger puppet people and finger puppet animals. Show the children your sample puppets. Talk about the animal and person you made. Show them how to put their fingers in the holes and make the puppet walk. Inspire creativity by talking to the puppet and making the puppet “respond”.
4. Hand out previously cut out *Finger Puppet Templates* (p. 7) and puppet decorating supplies. Encourage the children to be creative—to “create” their own animals and people! Offer help with fancy supplies if needed. Suggest children use the circle as the face.
5. When the children have completed the puppets, help them get their fingers in the holes and “talk” to each other.
6. Encourage the children to notice and enjoy the variety of people and animals they have created—just as the Lord created wonderful variety in the world!

Materials for Each Child

Finger Puppet Templates (p. 7) printed on stiff paper, crayons or markers

Optional: special decorative supplies such as yarn for hair, fur, ribbon, glitter, glue, etc.

Prepare in Advance

Print *Finger Puppet Templates* (p. 7) on stiff paper. Cut puppet shapes out using a paper cutter or scissors. Fold puppets on the dashed fold line and cut out finger holes using scissors. Each child will need 2 puppet pieces. Create two puppets of your own as models.

Choice Animal Antics and Creation Review

The Lord created so many wonderful animals! Children love imitating animal noises and gestures since they resonate with their emerging feelings. Children will choose a stuffed animal or animal picture to share and name, and for the group to imitate. Finish by singing the *7 Days of Creation* song. Review days 1-6 with an online sing-along video.



1. Seat children in a circle. Place a basket containing a variety of stuffed

Materials for Each Child

a stuffed animal or an *Animal Picture* from pp. 9-10

optional: buy Animal Crackers and have an animal cracker snack! Find a fun song to play while acting out the Zoo.

Animal Antics and Creation Review *continued*

- animals OR *Animal Pictures*, pp. 9-10, in the center of the circle.
- Invite each child to come forward, one at a time, and choose an animal from the basket. Show the animal to everyone. Ask each child to name their chosen animal—just as Adam named the animals (Genesis 2:20).
 - What noise does (this animal) make? What makes it special? Where does it live? (where we live, jungle, desert, water, hot, cold, etc.)
 - Let's move like (this animal)! (Choose whether children will move in place as they sit or get up and move around.)
 - When everyone has had a turn choosing an animal, make a "Zoo". Each child can choose a favorite animal and stand in their own space to act like that animal. The teacher can visit the "Zoo" and see all the animals!
 - Optional*: Have an Animal Cracker snack!
 - Sit in a circle and review the 7 days of creation. Watch the *7 Days of Creation* song and sing along. Repeat several times until children are comfortable with the different days. Hold up fingers for each day as you sing.

Prepare in Advance

If using the animal pictures instead of stuffed animals, print pp. 9, 10 and cut apart.

7 Days of Creation Song Video

Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/>

Choice

Coloring Picture: The Sixth Day

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

Materials for Each Child

The Sixth 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.

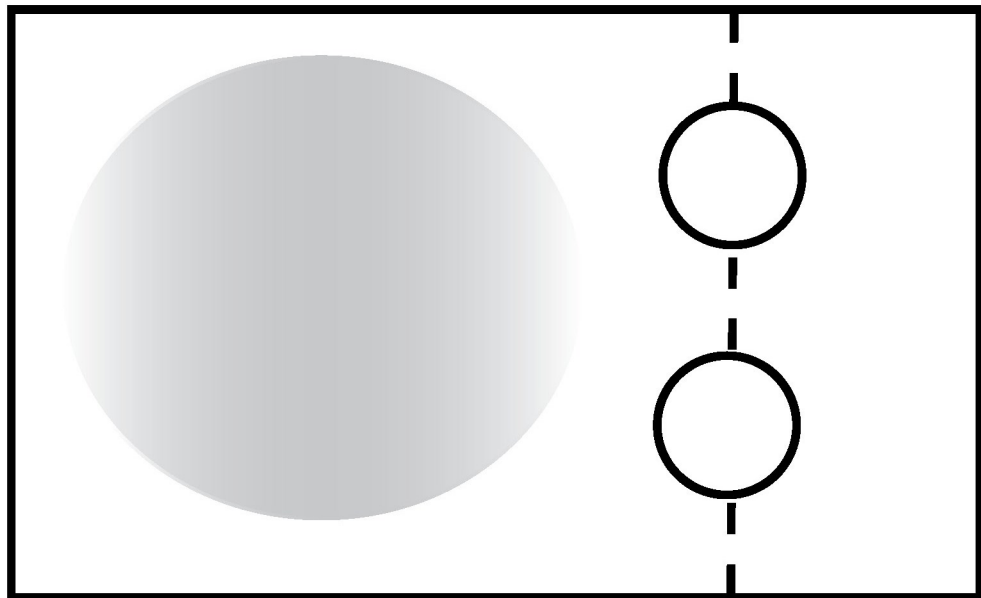
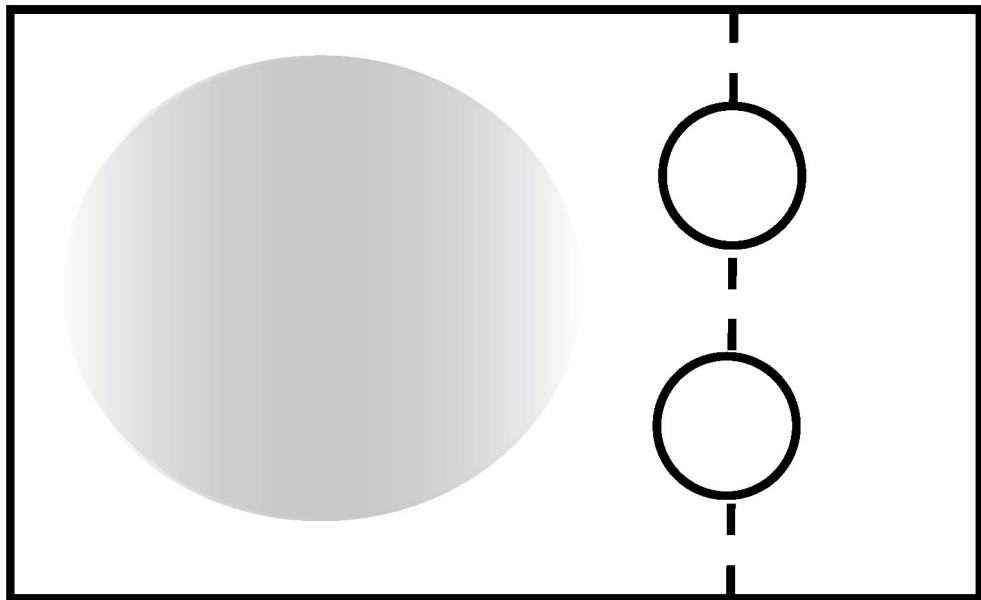
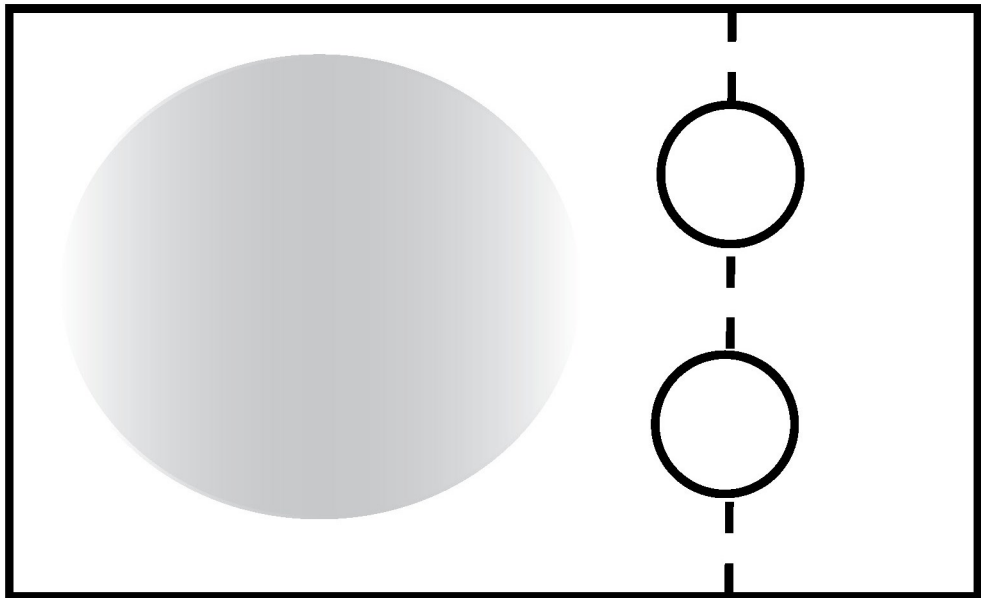
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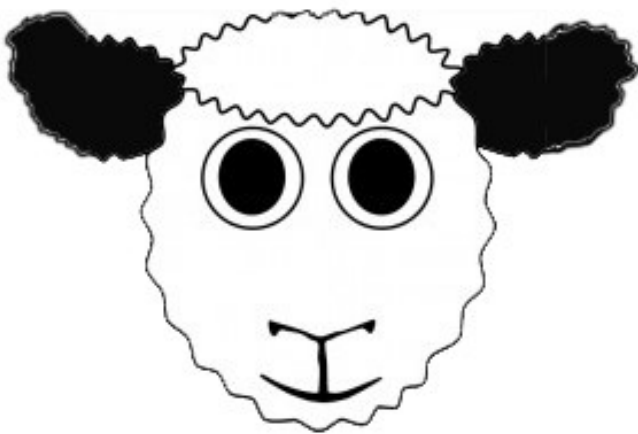
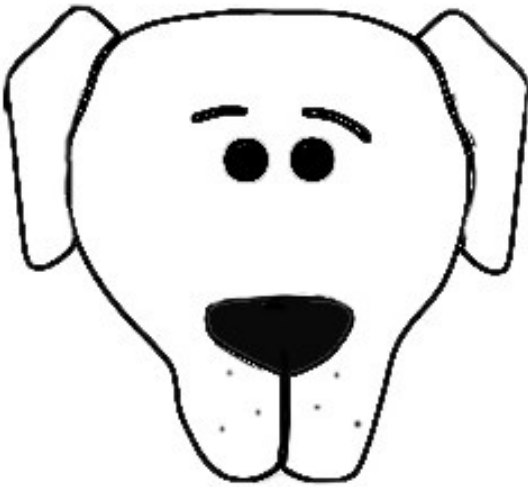
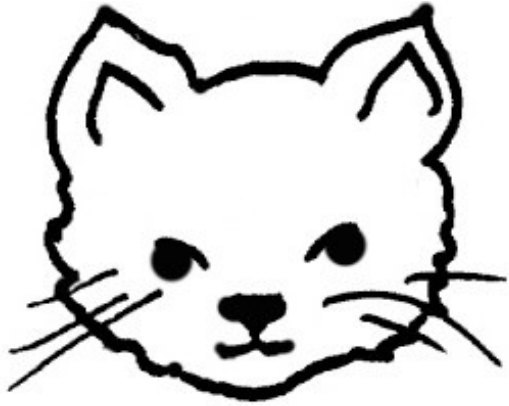
Genesis 1:27

Closing

Why are people the most wonderful part of the Lord's creation? (They are made to be like the Lord.) The Lord asks us to care for everything He has made, just as He takes care of us.

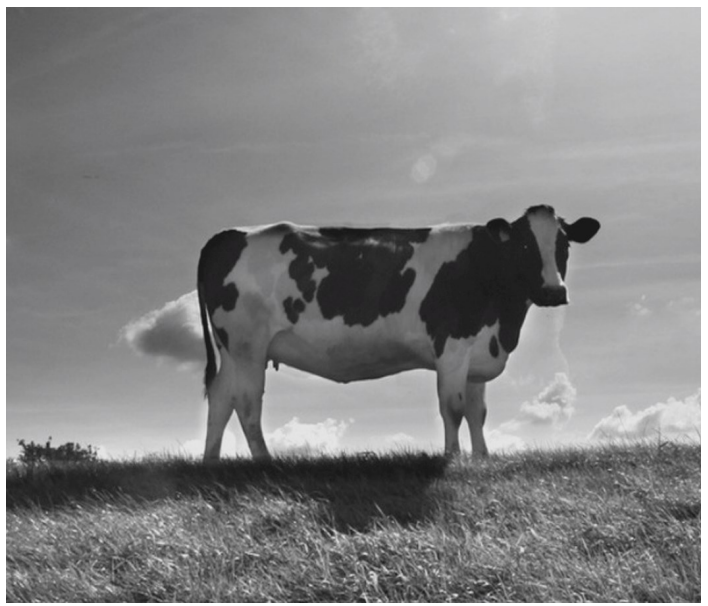
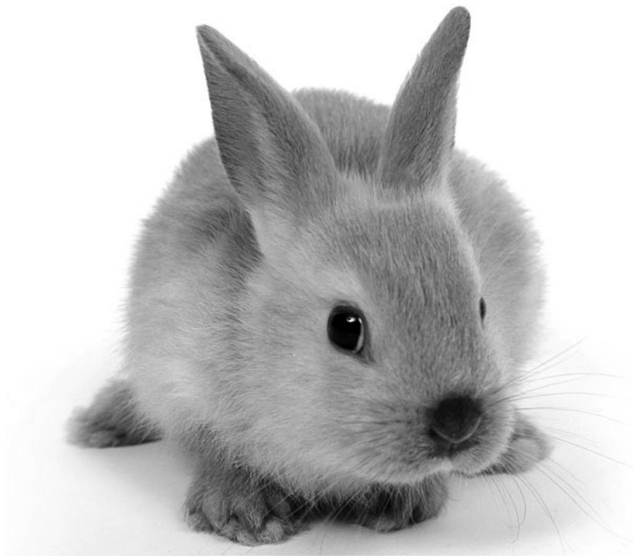
Give *Parent Notes* (p. 12) to children as they leave.





Finger Puppet Examples





Animal Pictures



The Sixth Day

Parent Notes

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

<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, Today we learned how the Lord made animals and people, Genesis 1:24-31. The Lord made everything so that people have everything they need. His Word tells us how to live so we can be happy. We know almost all of our 7 Days of Creation song. You can listen at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/ 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>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).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, Today we learned how the Lord made animals and people, Genesis 1:24-31. The Lord made everything so that people have everything they need. His Word tells us how to live so we can be happy. We know almost all of our 7 Days of Creation song. You can listen at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/ 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>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).</p>
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