

General Church Education



The Seventh Day

Genesis 2:1-3

Lesson 7

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 Seventh Day Level A

Genesis 2:1-3

Ages 3-6

Life Focus: The Lord made me.

Lesson Focus: The Lord created me to become an angel.

Reading: Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Genesis 2:1-3).

Lesson 7		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Creation Review Song directions p. 4	computer or other viewing device
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word Talk About It discuss the reading	<i>see Reading above</i> Talk About It discussion guide p. 4	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Explore and Make discuss ways that things the Lord created are a blessing to us and create "the world" showing hands blessing everything the Lord made Make review creation by making a crown that depicts each of the seven days	God Blessed the World directions p. 5 <i>Blessing Title</i> p. 7 <i>Blessing Hands</i> p. 8 Creation Crown directions pp. 5-6 <i>Creation Crown</i> p. 67	paper plates; water-based blue, green and a variety of skin tone paint; paint trays (e.g. Styrofoam); newspaper; sponge cut into 1.5" (3cm) squares; stapler; soap and water for cleanup stiff paper for printing, crayons or markers, scissors, tape or stapler
	Coloring Picture	The Seventh 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 **7 Days of Creation Sing-Along Review**
Warm-up Review the seven days of creation with a sing-along video. Watch at
Activity <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/>
Encourage the children to engage with the song. Sing along, put fingers up for each day, or make up your own motions for children to copy.

2. Focus on the Word

Read **Genesis 2:1-3**

Talk **What happened on the seventh day of creation?** God finished His work, and He
About It rested.

Resting is important. Our bodies and minds get tired, and so we need to rest. We rest in bed at night. We also have a “day of rest” each week. Which day is it? Sunday.

How is Sunday different from other days ? We go to church to hear the Lord’s Word and worship Him. The Lord “sanctified” the seventh day—that means He made it holy and set it apart. (Responses may include eating a meal or spending time with family, helping others, etc.)

The Lord blessed the seventh day. Let’s say “blessed” together. “Blessed.” Blessing people means making them happy. The Lord blessed creation and gave us everything we need to have a happy life. What are some of the things the Lord made for us?

The Lord blesses you too. He created you to become an angel and live in heaven when you die. He gives us everything we need so that we can be happy in heaven in His Word.

The work the Lord did on the first six days of creation is like the work we do to get ready for heaven. Our work is to do what the Word tells us to do.

We can use Sunday, the Sabbath day, in ways that make us better and more ready for heaven. What could you do that would make you ready for heaven? Remember the Lord, listen to His Word, obey parents and teachers, be nice to others, be kind and helpful, etc. The Lord did some of these things on the Sabbath when he was in the world.

When we work hard to become angels the Lord can give us heavenly rest.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

God Blessed the World

The Lord blesses us by giving us everything we need in the world and in heaven after we die. Gather samples of the Lord’s creation into a basket, e.g. stone, bottled water, leaf (picture will do), animals (stuffed toys), copy of the Word for the Sabbath. Share and talk about ways in which each thing is a blessing. Finish by sponge painting a paper plate blue and green to represent the world. Add hands and a title.



1. Gather children around the story basket. Share and discuss one item at a time. If you would like, share items in the order they were created: light/dark, waters, land/plants, sun/moon/stars, birds/fish, animals/humans, God rested (Word). Encourage children to feel each item and to think of ways it is a blessing, (e.g. hard rocks are good for building strong walls, etc.). End with showing the Lord’s Word—which He gives to us so we can be blessed with a happy life in heaven for ever.
2. When people look at the earth from far out in space all they can see are the big blue oceans and the shapes of the land covered in green plants. We are going to make a picture of the whole world using blue for oceans and green for plants.
3. Give each child a paper plate. Seat children within easy reach of blue and green paint trays. *Optional:* put on old shirts to cover clothing before painting. Use sponges to paint one color on the paper plate. Do not worry about how much or little of each color is used. When finished, switch to the other color. Set aside to dry.
4. Lay out two *Blessing Hands* (p. 8) in front of each child, corresponding to the child’s right and left hands. Roll up sleeves! Put skin colored paint trays within easy reach. Let children choose tone. Put both hands into the paint tray. Make hand prints on each of the *Blessing Hands*.
5. Allow to dry. Staple the *Blessing Hands* and *God Blessed the World* (p. 7) to the project as shown in the picture above.

Materials Needed

paper plate; sponge cut into 1.5” (3cm) squares; blue, green and a variety of skin tones paint; paint trays (Styrofoam); newspaper; stapler; copy of *Blessing Hands* (p. 8) and 1 *Blessing Title* strip (p. 7) per child; soap and water for cleanup; *optional:* old shirts to protect clothing

Prepare in Advance

Story Basket Gather samples from each day of creation into a basket for sharing. If possible, gather things the Lord made. Stuffed animals, pictures, etc. also work.

Project Cut a sponge into 1.5” (3cm) squares. Prepare 3 trays (e.g. small Styrofoam trays) of washable water-based paint: blue, green, and a variety of skin tones. Put one or more sponges in each tray. Cut out 2 *Blessing Hands* (p. 8) shapes for each child. Cut out one *Blessing Title* (p. 7) for each child.

Teaching Hint

Keep each sponge with a specific color of paint to avoid blending colors.

Choice

Creation Crown

The purpose of creation is that there should be a heaven from the human race. At a spiritual level, the story of creation is the story of how a human being is prepared for heaven, represented by the seventh day. In this project, each child will create a heavenly crown. The crowns show pictures of the seven days of creation and can be used as a review activity.

1. The Lord made you to be an angel in heaven. In heaven, angels have beautiful clothing. Some angels wear crowns! Today, you are going to make a heavenly crown showing the seven days of creation.

Materials for Each Child

Creation Crown (p. 9) copied on stiff paper if possible, crayons or markers, tape

Prepare in Advance

Cut the *Creation Crown* pages along the dotted lines. Tape the two strips together to form one long rectangle.

Creation Crown *continued*

2. Do you remember what the Lord did on the first day of creation? (God created light and separated the light and dark.) That's right! See the first picture on the crown? Color it in to show the light and the dark separated.
3. What did God make on the second day? (waters beneath and waters above—the sea and sky). Color the second picture on the crown. Ask what the Lord made for each of the next four days of creation and have children color the pictures. (day 3: dry land, trees and other plants; day 4: the sun, moon and stars; day 5: fish and birds; day 6: animals and people)
4. What happened on the seventh day? (The Lord rested.) Yes, He also looked at everything that He had made in the first six days and saw that it was good. Color the last picture which shows some of the things the Lord might have looked at on the seventh day.
5. Look, there is one more circle on the crown. What do you think that might be for? Do you know why the Lord made all the things He made? He made them so that there could be people who can become angels if they choose to love and follow Him. He wants you, and all other people, to someday live in heaven with Him where you can be happy forever. Draw a picture of yourself as an angel in the last circle. Then, whenever you wear the crown, remember that the Lord wants you to become an angel and live with Him in heaven one day.
6. Help children tape the ends of their crowns together to form circles. Put on the crowns and imagine being angels!



Choice

Coloring Picture: The Seventh Day

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

Materials for Each Child

The Seventh Day p. 68; 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 rested on the seventh day from all His work.

Genesis 2:3

Closing

What does the Lord want you to become? (An angel)
How can you do this? (By doing what He teaches in His Word.)
This is how the Lord can make us happy in heaven for ever.

Give a *Parent Note* (p. 12) to each child as he or she leaves.

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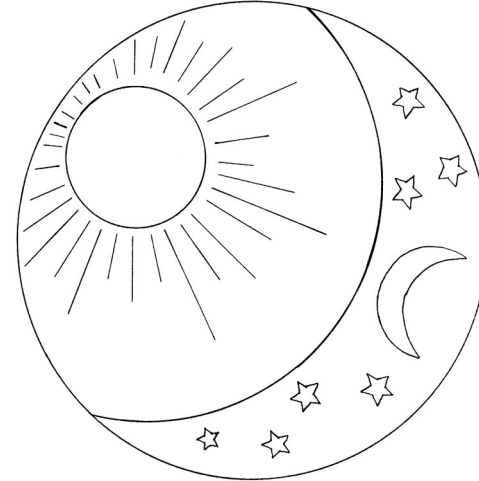
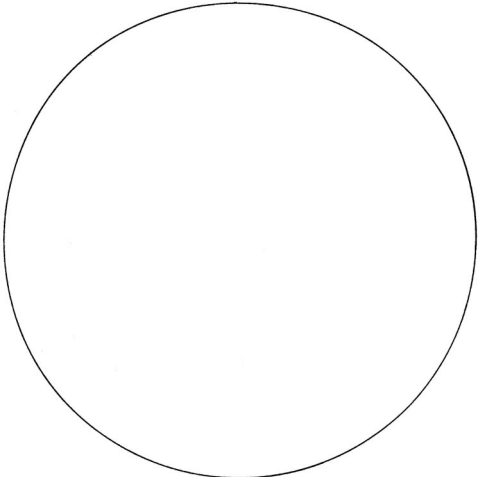
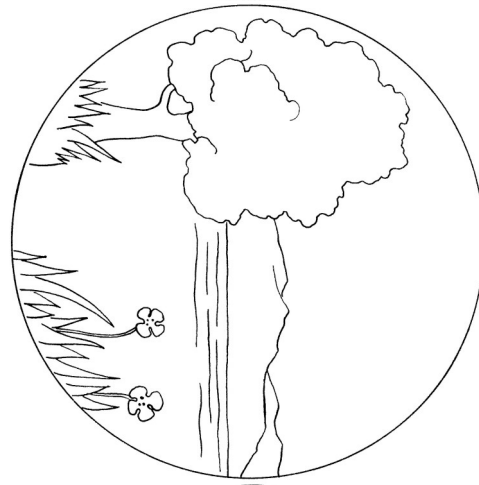
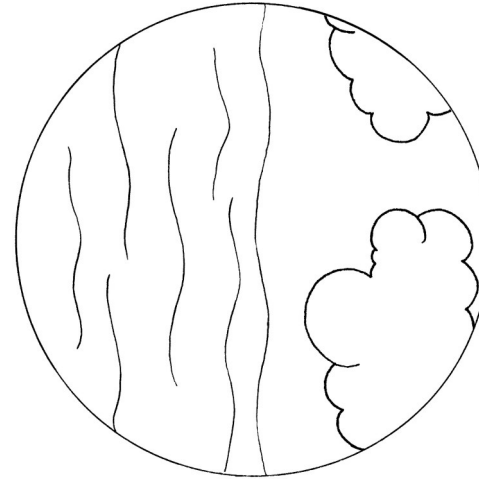
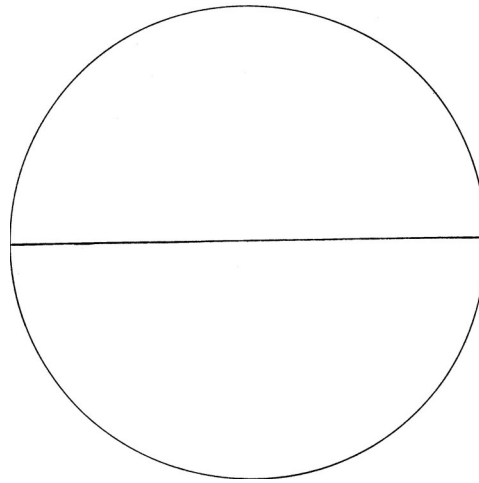
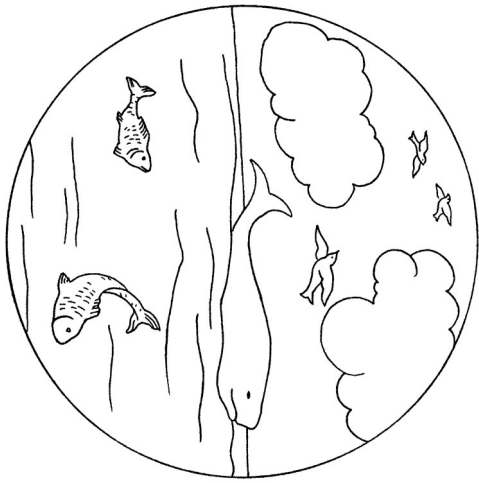
God Blessed the World

God Blessed the World

Blessing Title



Blessing Hands







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 that the Lord rested when He had finished creating the world, Genesis 2:1-3. We have a day of rest too—it is Sunday. We can use Sunday in ways that make us better and more ready for heaven.</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 rested on the seventh day from all His work (Genesis 2:3).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, Today we learned that the Lord rested when He had finished creating the world, Genesis 2:1-3. We have a day of rest too—it is Sunday. We can use Sunday in ways that make us better and more ready for heaven.</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 rested on the seventh day from all His work (Genesis 2:3).</p>
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