

General Church Education



# The Second Day

Genesis 1:6-8

## Lesson 2

Youth Journey Program

# Creation: Reflection of God

Level B : For ages 7-10 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 Second Day

# Level B

Genesis 1:6-8

Ages 7-10

**Life Focus:** The Lord made me and wants me to live with Him in heaven.

**Lesson Focus:** The Lord is always with me.

**Reading:** Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Then God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were over 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
<b>1. Getting Started</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Welcome Warm-up Activity</b>	<b>Water Cycle in a Jar</b> directions p. 4	jar with lid, hot water (not boiling), 2-3 ice cubes; <i>optional:</i> washable blue marker or food coloring
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	<b>Read the Word</b>  <b>Talk About It</b> discuss the reading	<i>see Reading above</i>  <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 Mobile</b> create a mobile to remember the different kinds of water that benefit us	<b>Water Cycle Mobile</b> directions p. 5 <i>Waters Above</i> p. 7 <i>Waters Below and Handle</i> p. 8	blue paper, stiff white paper, crayons or markers, scissors, tape or stapler, glue, single hole punch, cotton balls, yarn or ribbon, <i>optional:</i> blue or silver glitter
	<b>Experiment</b> brainstorm ways we can clean up dirty water and try them out	<b>Cleaning Selfish Thoughts</b> directions pp. 5-6 video demonstration at <a href="https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/">https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/</a>	4 transparent bowls of equal size, pitcher of water, “pollutants” to (e.g. candy wrapper, sticks, tea, sand, soil), colander, sieve or strainer, 1-2 coffee filters or paper towel, large spoon, water and towels to clean hands
	<b>Coloring Picture</b>	<b>The Second 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

### Water Cycle in a Jar

**Needed:** glass jar with metal lid, hot water (not boiling), 2-3 ice cubes, *optional:* washable blue marker or food coloring

**Where does water come from?** Water falls as rain. It makes its way into streams and rivers, and then it flows into oceans. As the sun heats the surface of the ocean tiny droplets of water evaporate into the air, rise up, and form clouds. This is called the water cycle.

We are going to set up a miniature water cycle inside a jar so we can watch how this works. First we will fill the jar up halfway with hot water. (*Optional:* dip a marker into the water to turn it blue.) Next we will turn the lid upside down and put it on top of the jar. Now, we place some ice cubes inside the lid. We will come back and find out what is happening at the end of our class.

# 2. Focus on the Word

## Read

Genesis 1:6-8

## Talk About It

**How is the Word different from all the other books in the world?** It was given to us by the Lord. He guided many people to write it down.

**The story of creation is in Genesis. What does “Genesis” mean?** Beginning.

**What did God create on the first day of creation?** Light.

**On the second day He created the expanse or firmament. What did He call the expanse?** Heaven.

**What everyday word do we have for the “expanse”?** The sky.

**God divided the waters under the expanse from the waters above the expanse. What kinds of water are “above the expanse”?** Clouds, rain, snow.

**What kinds of water are “under the expanse”?** Streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, seas, oceans and water under the ground.

**What are some of the ways in which water is useful?** Water helps us get things clean, grow food, satisfy our thirst, cook, etc.

**Water corresponds to true ideas from the Lord’s Word. True ideas from the Word act in our minds just as water acts on our bodies. For example, they satisfy our thirst or desire to know the Lord, show us what is right and wrong and clean our thoughts. Knowing true ideas allows us to do what is right—what will lead us to heaven!**

**Think of all the different sources of water. Different water sources are like different ways true ideas can come to us. We can learn from our parents, teachers, ministers, or right from the Lord in the Word.**

**True ideas about the world around us come from our experiences and from discoveries made by scientists—e.g. gravity. Ideas like this help our lives in the natural world, but they cannot connect us with heaven. We can only be connected with heaven when we know and live by heavenly truths from the Word as well.**

# 3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

**Choice**

## Water Cycle Mobile

True ideas from the Word sometimes drop into our minds like gentle rain. When we willingly receive them and make them part of our lives by being kind and caring toward others we return them to the Lord like the drops of water that rise into the clouds. Create a water cycle mobile as a reminder of how the true ideas from the Lord's Word gently "water" our minds.

1. Show the children your demonstration mobile.
2. Give each child a set from the *Waters Below Circle and Handle* page (p. 8), crayons or markers, and scissors. Cut out the circle and the handle. Color both sides of the disc. Encourage the children to make waves as they color. *Optional:* decorate the tops of the waves using blue or silver glitter.
3. Give each child a *Waters Above* page (p. 7). Show how to cut the paper into strips of rain. Cut straight or wavy lines all the way up to the dotted line.
4. Loosen the fibers on the 3 cotton balls and glue to the top of the mobile as clouds.
5. Form the top of the mobile into a circle and staple or tape together.
6. Bend the handle to fit inside the circle at the top of the mobile. Staple or tape it in place on each side.
7. Punch a hole at the top of the oceans disc. Thread yarn or ribbon through the hole. Bring it up through the circle and tie it around the handle, adjusting the length of the yarn so the waters below hang freely beneath the rain.



### Materials for Each Child

*Waters Above* (p. 7) printed on blue paper, 1 set of *Waters Below Circle and Handle* from p. 8 printed on stiff white paper, crayons or markers, scissors, tape or stapler, glue, single hole punch, 3 cotton balls, 15" (40cm) yarn or ribbon, *optional:* blue or silver glitter

### Prepare in Advance

Cut yarn or ribbon into 15" (40cm) lengths. Make a sample to show.

**Choice**

## Cleaning Selfish Thoughts

The Lord is the source of all truth. We receive truth through the Word. How we receive the Lord's truth depends on what we know and care about. In order to clearly see and understand the truth, we must examine our minds and remove false ideas that can prevent us from seeing clearly. This is the work of a lifetime. The longer we work, the more clearly we will see the Lord. Clean up some dirty water and see what it takes!

1. Pour water into one of the bowls. This clean water corresponds to true ideas from the Lord's Word. When we read the Word, ideas from the Lord come into our minds. Our minds have many other ideas in them as well. Some of these are true and some are not true. When ideas from the Word mix with ideas that are not true, it becomes harder to see the Lord's ideas clearly. For example, the Word teaches that we should do good things for others. But if we do good things so that others will think we are great, we are mixing a true idea with a false idea!
2. We will now make the water in the bowl dirty so we can get a picture



### Materials

4 transparent bowls (glass/plastic) of equal size; pitcher of clean water; 4-5 large, easily-removed "pollutants" to put in the water, e.g. candy wrappers, lids, sticks; smaller sized "pollutants" such as wood chips, tea, sand, soil; large spoon to stir; 2 strainers with different sized holes; 1-2 coffee filters or paper towels; spoon for stirring; water and towels to clean hands

## Cleaning Selfish Thoughts *continued*

of what our minds look like when true and false ideas are mixed. Have each child add a “pollutant” to the water. Encourage the sharing of false ideas as each thing is added.

3. If we want to know what the Lord really wants for us, we need to separate the true and false.
4. How can we clean this water up? (Encourage brainstorming. Steer discussion toward taking one step at a time. What is easiest to take out? What will be the hardest?)
5. What shall we do first? (Pick out large items.)
6. How can we get more dirt out? (Pour water through a strainer or colander to remove larger debris.)
7. Is the water clean? (No.) What shall we do next? (Use a strainer with finer mesh. Repeat with a coffee filter to remove dirt and sand.)
8. Is the water clean—as clean as it was to start with? (No.) If it is this difficult to clean the water, do you think it would be easy or difficult to clean false ideas out of our minds? What ideas would be easy to clean? What would be hard?
9. During our whole lives on earth we can slowly work with the Lord to clean our minds and learn what is true! Even the angels continue to do this to eternity!

### Video Demonstration

View at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/>

### Prepare in Advance

Organize supplies on a table. Set up a pitcher of water, four bowls, and various kinds of “pollutants” for children to add. Prepare filtering devices such as a colander, strainer and coffee filter, hide them from sight to begin with to encourage free brainstorming.

**Choice**

## Coloring Picture: The Second Day

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

### Materials for Each Child

*The Second Day* p. 9, crayons, markers, or colored pencils

## 4. Wrap It Up

### Memory Verse

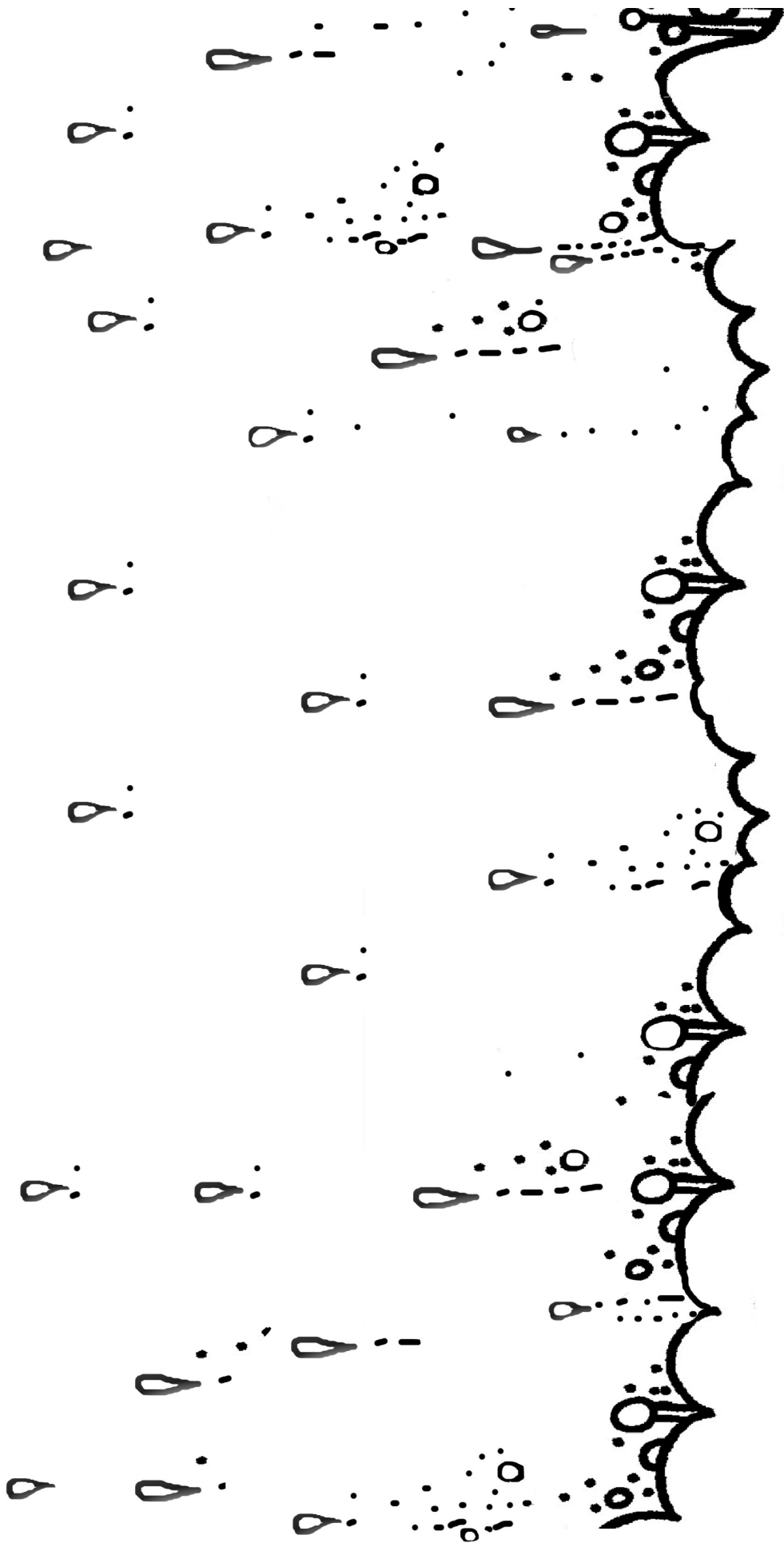
Read the memory verse aloud. Invite the children to repeat it after you and then have them try to say it on their own.

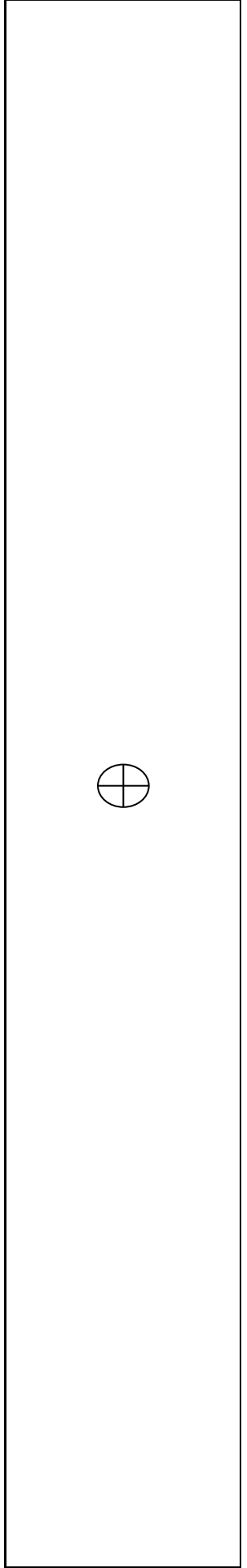
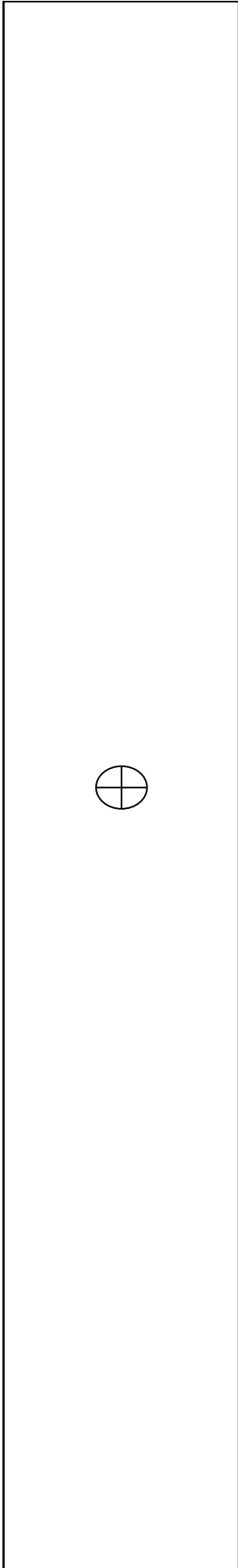
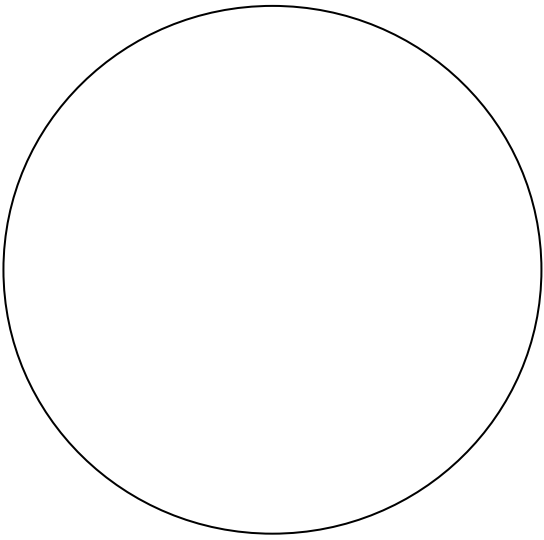
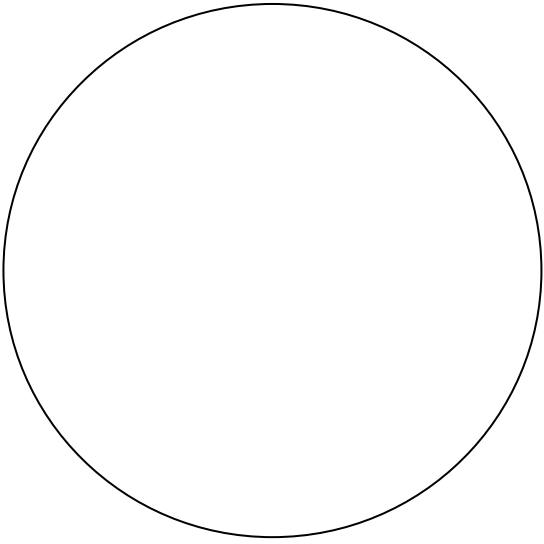
**God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. Genesis 1:7**

### Closing

Look at the water cycle in the jar you set up at the start of the lesson. If it is working, droplets will form inside the jar on the bottom of the lid. They will eventually drop back down into the water as “rain”. What is happening inside the jar? (Water is evaporating and falling as “rain”.) How is this like what happens outside in nature?

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





For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud...so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Waters Below Circle and Handle





## 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,</p> <p>Today we learned that the Lord divided the waters above and below the firmament. These water sources represent the ways true ideas come to us—some come from the Word (above) and some come from the world (below). Here’s an experiment illustrating how we can clean up selfish thoughts: <a href="https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/">https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/</a></p> <p>We encourage you to help your child learn 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>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;"><b>PARENT NOTE</b></p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today we learned that the Lord divided the waters above and below the firmament. These water sources represent the ways true ideas come to us—some come from the Word (above) and some come from the world (below). Here’s an experiment illustrating how we can clean up selfish thoughts: <a href="https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/">https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/</a></p> <p>We encourage you to help your child learn 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>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>
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