

General Church Education



The Third Day

Genesis 1:9-13

Lesson 3

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 Third Day

Level B

Genesis 1:9-13

Ages 7-10

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

Lesson Focus: The Lord loves me. I can receive the Lord's love and return it 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
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Watch a Plant Grow! directions p. 4 choice of movies at www.bitly.com/WondersOfCreation	computer or other viewing device
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word	see <i>Reading</i> above	
	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 & Serve Others decorate a plate or platter; cover with plastic wrap and use to serve fruit to others	Fruits to Share directions p. 5 <i>Fruit Shapes</i> pp. 7-8	colored paper for copying, paper plates, glue, brushes, plastic wrap or plastic bags large enough to cover the plates, crayons, cut up fresh fruit or dried fruit <i>optional:</i> crayons, hair dryer, platter to decorate and serve a larger group
	Service Project create a table decoration	Seed to Flower to Fruit Table Decoration directions pp. 5-6 <i>Seeds, Flowers and Fruit</i> pp. 7, 10-11 Quotation Strips p. 9	colored paper for copying pages, scissors, glue, <i>optional:</i> crayons or markers
	Coloring Picture	The Third Day p. 12	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. 13	

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Watch a Plant Grow Video Activity

Witness the miracle of a plant growing in a time-lapse video. Choose from a variety of plant and tree videos from our playlist at www.bitly.com/WondersOfCreation. Encourage questions and discussion as you watch. For example,

1. What happens after the flowers fade away? (fruit)
2. How could this plant help us? (food, wood for homes and furniture, lift a person's spirits—smell, sight, etc.)
3. What would the world be missing if this plant did not exist?

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 1:9-13

Talk About It

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

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

What happened on the second day of creation? God created the expanse or firmament (sky) and separated the waters above (clouds) from the waters below (rivers, oceans).

What did the Lord create on the third day? Dry land and plants bearing seeds and fruit.

Imagine what it would be like if there were no land! Why do we need land? We need land to build homes and grow food. The Lord “gathered the waters together” into seas, so there could be dry land.

Many useful resources come from the land. Look around the room. What can you see that comes from the land? Stone, bricks, plaster, metals of various kinds, wood, etc.

Have you ever planted a garden and harvested fruits and vegetables? Grass, leafy plants and trees were the first living things created on the land. They provided food so that animals and people could be created. Fruit and seeds from plants provided that the earth would keep on producing food. What part of gardening do you like most?

Just as seeds planted in good soil can grow into plants that shelter and feed us, heavenly seeds of truth from the Word can grow in our minds to nourish and protect our spirits. Heavenly seeds of truth come into our minds when we learn good and true ideas from the Word. Thinking about what we know and trying to do it, are like the light and water seeds need.

Our lives bear fruit just as plants do. Our fruits are the useful services we do for others—like comforting a friend who is sad, or helping our parents by doing our chores. Jesus said that if we do what he teaches we will “bear much fruit” (John 15:5). Returning His love by helping others can bring us true joy and happiness.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Fruits to Share

Encourage children to share their “fruits” with others. Decorate a paper plate and use it to serve a fruit snack to your group. Cut out fruit shapes and glue (decoupage) them to a paper plate. Cover the entire project with plastic wrap. Fill the plate with fruit and serve!

1. We are going to use the talents the Lord gave us to prepare and serve His fruits to others!
2. We will start by creating a beautiful plate for serving. Hand each child a paper plate, *Fruit Shapes* (pp. 7-8) to cut out, and scissors.
3. First, choose fruit shapes you would like to put on your plate. Cut them out and arrange them on your plate.
4. As children complete step 3, give them a paintbrush to dip in the glue pot. Thoroughly glue the paper fruits to the plate, being careful not to rip or tear them with the brush. Seal all of the edges carefully with the glue. (This may take patience!)
5. *Optional:* Use a hairdryer to speed up the project drying time, or lay them in the sun. The glue does not have to be completely dry before you cover the project with plastic wrap.
6. Have the children wash their hands. Give each child enough plastic wrap or a plastic bag to completely cover both sides of the plate. Encourage children to work in pairs to using the plastic wrap easier.
7. Have each child fill his or her plate with a different kind of fruit and serve each other.



Materials for Each Child

paper plate (any color), scissors, *Fruit Shapes* (pp. 7-8) printed on white or colored paper, water-based glue, brushes, plastic wrap or a plastic bag large enough to fit over the plate, a “glue jar” to share, cut up fresh fruit or dried fruit, *optional:* crayons to color fruit, hair dryer

Prepare in Advance

Print *Fruit Shapes* on colored paper if possible. Cut pages apart so students can share different colors. Prepare a jar with diluted, water-based glue. Purchase fresh or dried fruit. Cut fresh fruit into serving-sized pieces.

Option: Serve Your Congregation

Decorate a large serving platter as a group instead of individual paper plates. Cut out fruit shapes. Fasten to the platter with little rolls of tape instead of gluing. Cover with plastic wrap. Cut up fruit and serve on the platter.

Choice Seed to Flower to Fruit Table Decoration

This pretty table decoration helps teach the idea that the Lord’s creation works in a cycle of continual renewal.

1. We are going to make a decoration that you can put on a table at home to celebrate the things the Lord created on the third day. (If you brought a piece of fruit, hold it up to show the children.) How does fruit grow? Where did the tree it grew on come from? Where did that seed come from? (Cut fruit in half and show the seeds inside.)
2. Every seed comes from inside another piece of fruit. That is what is meant when the Lord 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...” (Genesis 1:11). Isn’t it amazing that a piece of fruit has what it takes to make more fruit already inside it!
3. Over many years a seed grows into a fruit tree and each spring, the tree

Materials for Each Child

quotation strips (p. 9) copied onto heavyweight green paper; 3 *Seeds* (p. 10) copied onto yellow or brown paper; 3 *Flowers* (p. 11) copied onto pink or blue paper; 3 *Fruit* (p. 7) copied onto red or orange paper, scissors, glue, *optional:* crayons or markers

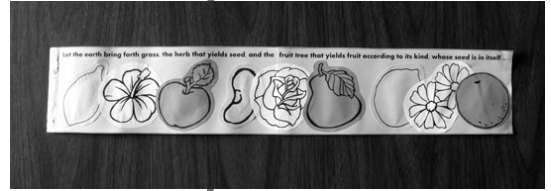
Prepare in Advance

You may wish to bring 1-2 pieces of fruit and a knife to cut the fruit in half to show.

Seed to Flower to Fruit *continued*

puts out flowers. As the summer comes, those flowers turn into fruits. Each fruit has new seeds inside it. If someone plants the seed, the cycle starts over again, to make a tree that will give more flowers and fruit!

4. Cut out the two quotation strips (p. 9). Put the two strips together to form one longer rectangle, overlapping to the dotted line so the quotation lines up evenly. Glue together.
5. Cut out around the seed, flower and fruit shapes. (Note: Don't worry about cutting right on the lines.)
6. Choose a seed and glue it to the strip below the beginning of the quotation. Choose a flower shape and glue it beside to the seed, overlapping them slightly. Choose a fruit shape and glue it beside to the flower, overlapping them slightly.
7. Repeat step 6 two more times with the remaining shapes. Remember that the order—seed-flower-fruit—is important!
8. If time allows, add more color to the fruit with crayons or markers. Finish by gluing the two ends together to form a circle. Use as a table decoration, perhaps with a vase of flowers or small bowl of fruit in the middle.



Choice

Coloring Picture: The Third Day

Hand out copies of *The Third Day* (p. 12) and invite the children to color it.

Materials for Each Child

The Third Day p. 12;
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.

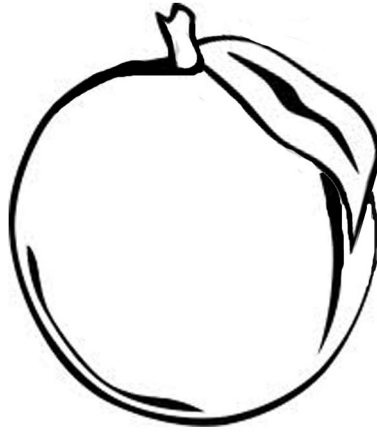
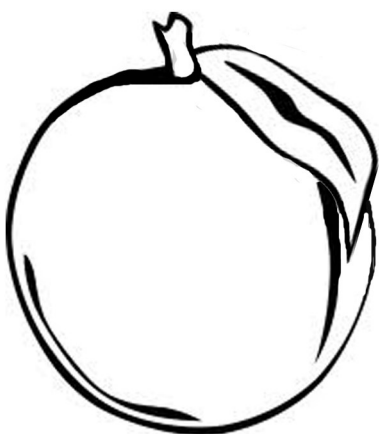
Genesis 1:12

Closing

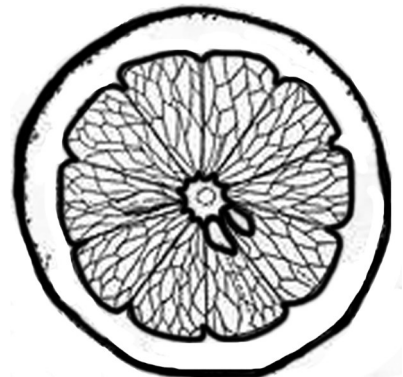
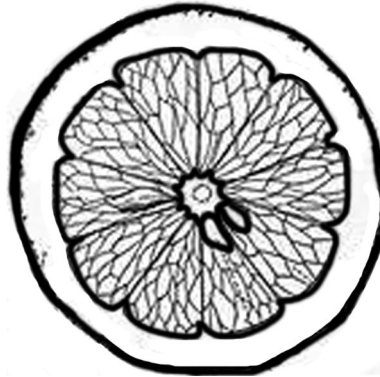
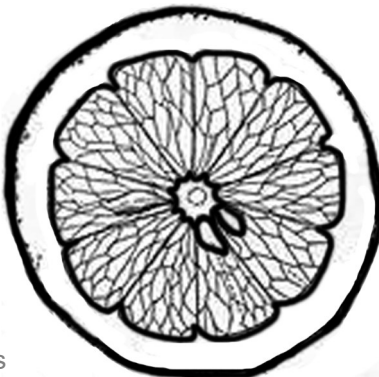
Why is land important? (It gives us materials for building, food for eating, etc.)

True ideas from the Lord's Word are like seeds that the Lord plants in our minds. What kinds of fruit grow from the seeds the Lord plants? (useful service to others)

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 13) to children as they leave.



Fruit Shapes

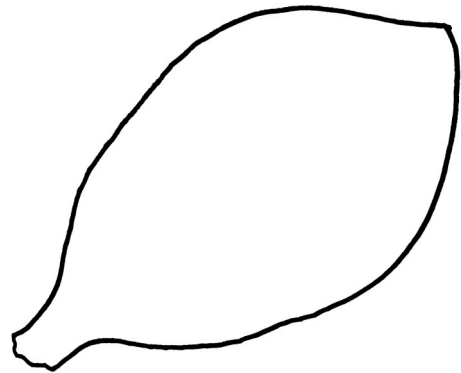
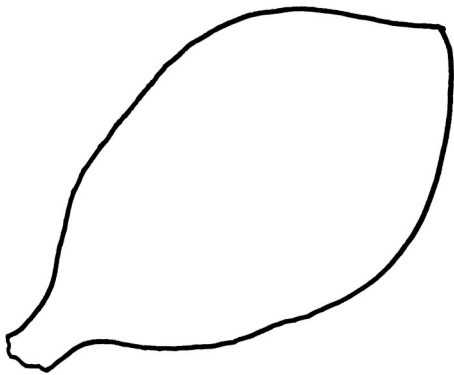
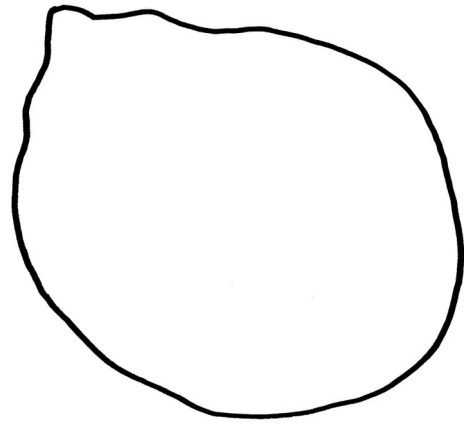
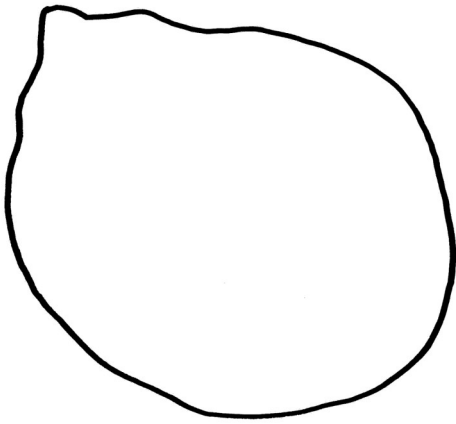
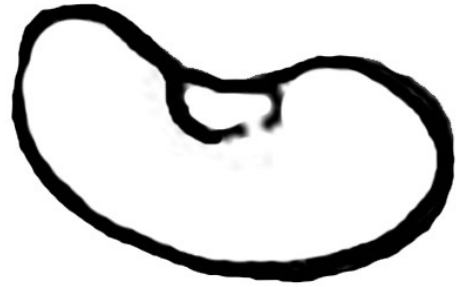
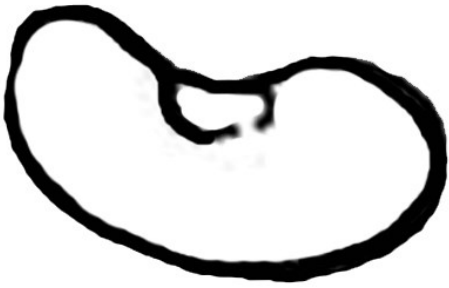


Fruit Shapes

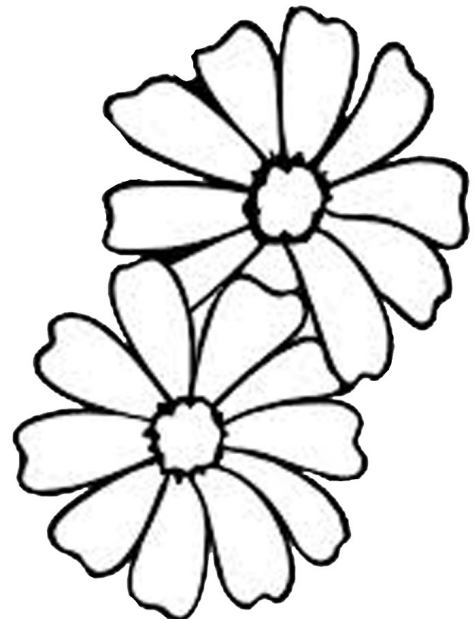
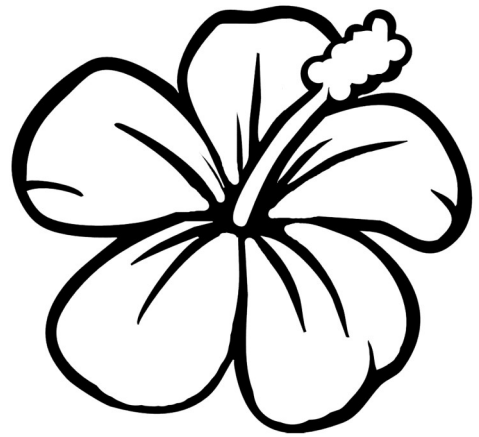
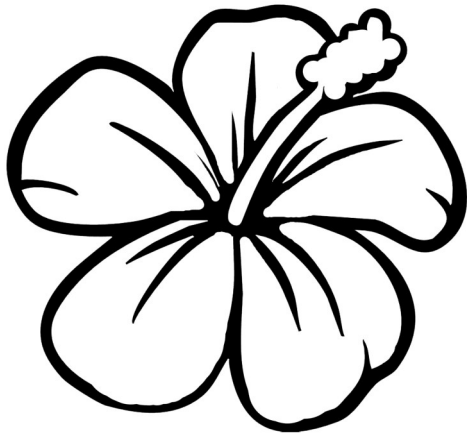
fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself. Gen. 1:11

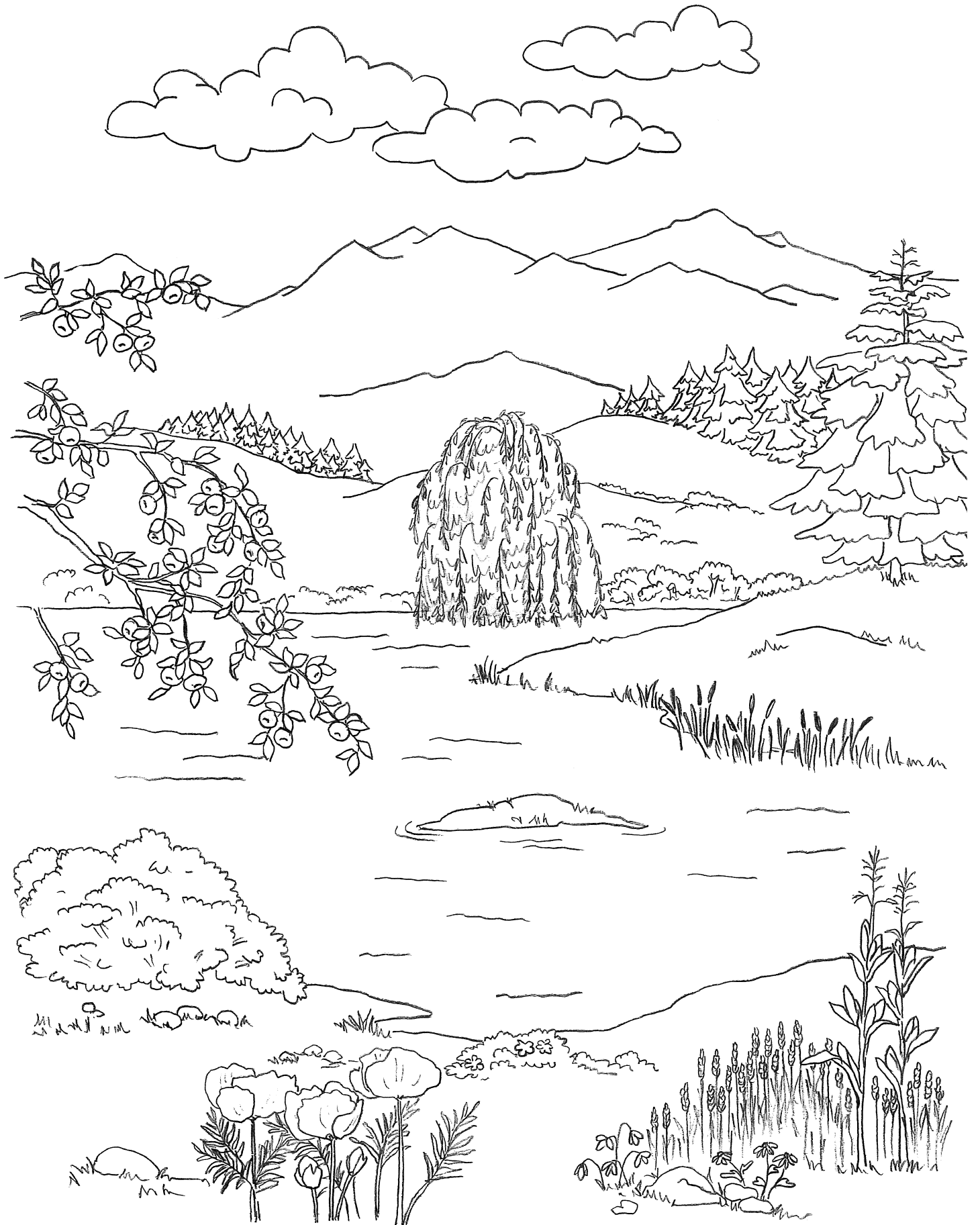
Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the

Quotation Strips



Seeds





The Third 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 that if we do what the Lord teaches we will “bear much fruit” (John 15:5). Our fruits are the useful things we do for others. You might like to look at some amazing videos showing creation in action at www.bitly.com/WondersOfCreation. 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;">Memory Verse</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;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, Today we learned that if we do what the Lord teaches we will “bear much fruit” (John 15:5). Our fruits are the useful things we do for others. You might like to look at some amazing videos showing creation in action at www.bitly.com/WondersOfCreation. 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;">Memory Verse</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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