

General Church Education



The Sixth Day

Genesis 1:24-31

Lesson 6

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 Sixth Day

Level B

Genesis 1:24-31

Ages 7-10

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

Lesson Focus: I am made in the Lord's image and likeness.

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	Mirror Mime 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)	First Activity create paper chain animals and people to show the earth being populated on the sixth day	Fill the Earth directions p. 5 <i>Fill the Earth Templates</i> pp. 7-11	scissors, crayons or markers, green tablecloth, open space on table or floor, paper or plastic bags or envelopes for taking the project home <i>optional:</i> paper in gray, brown, beige, yellow and a variety of skin-tones
	Second Activity make and decorate coupons for kind or helpful acts to give to others	In the Image of God directions pp. 5-6 <i>In the Image of God Coupons</i> p. 12	scissors; pencils or pens; glue; decorations such as stickers, sequins, glitter, fake gems, buttons, pressed flowers, etc. (alternatively, provide markers to draw decorative borders) <i>optional:</i> large envelope or bag to take coupons home
	Coloring Picture	The Sixth Day p. 13	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. 14	

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Mirror Mime

Divide the children into pairs and have them stand facing each other. One person will be the leader and make movements. The other person will be the follower and mirror the movements. Movements may be large or small—from whole body movements to facial expressions. Switch leaders after about a minute and repeat. Sit to discuss when finished. How did it feel to do what the other person did? Was it easy? Was it hard?

The Word tells us that the Lord made us in His image and likeness. What does that mean? (On a simple level this means we look like Him. On a higher level this means we can act like Him, and love others as He does!) What might make this easy or hard? Why does the Lord want us to do what He does? How does the Lord bless us when we act like Him?

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 1:24-31

Talk About It

On the sixth day of creation the Lord created animals and people. Everything created during the first five days prepared the world for them to live in. Let's remember what was created during the first five days. 1. light/dark 2. divided waters/created seas 3. dry land/plants 4. sun/moon/stars 5. birds/fish

In what ways are *plants* and *animals* different? Plants grow in the ground, animals move about; plants are fed by nutrients in the soil and rain, animals are fed by people or find their own food; plants make oxygen, animals use oxygen, etc.

How are *animals* and *people* different? Animals are only concerned with their physical bodies—what they eat, where they go, with safety. People are concerned with this too, but they can also know and love the Lord and choose to follow what He teaches. Since people can know and love the Lord they can be completely different from animals.

How do animals help us? Animals give us food (eggs, milk, meat), clothing (wool), take us places (horse), pull heavy loads (mule, donkey) and make great pets!

People sometimes behave like animals. An example of this would be grabbing food and eating it without making sure others will also have enough to eat.

The Lord tells us to have dominion over the animals. Does this mean we can use things in the natural world in any way we want to?

Having “dominion” over the “animals” means making loving the Lord and doing what He wants more important to us than worldly and physical things we might want. The Lord teaches us how to do this in His Word. It takes time and practice to learn how to do it—and as we are learning this the Lord is preparing us for heaven.

The seven days of creation are like the steps we go through to get ready for life in heaven. The more we learn and do, the more we are made in the Lord's image and likeness, and the more heavenly we become.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Fill the Earth

When God blessed the people He had just created, He told 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.” In this group project, the students will symbolically “fill the earth” with animals and people.

1. How many different kinds of animals there are? People don’t really know the answer to this question. There are probably some that haven’t even been discovered yet. There are thousands of kinds of animals all over the earth.
2. Spread a green tablecloth out on the table or the floor to represent the earth. Hand out copies of the animal templates. Demonstrate how to fold and cut the templates. (See directions on p. 12). As the animal figures are completed, stand them up on the green tablecloth and enjoy the variety.
3. What else did the Lord create on the sixth day? People! And when God created human beings, He told them to fill the earth. Together, let’s see if we can fill our “earth” with people along with the animals. Hand out copies of the people templates. *Optional:* Color them before cutting out. There are many different kinds of people too. Set the figures on the green tablecloth as they are finished.
4. Look at what we made together! Imagine how excited and happy the Lord must have felt when He saw the real animals and people that He had made. Do you remember what the Word says about that? “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”
5. Give children bags or envelopes to take their figures home.

Materials Needed

copy of pp. 7-11 for each child, scissors, crayons or markers, green tablecloth (*note:* inexpensive plastic tablecloths can be purchased at most dollar stores), open space like tabletop or cleared floor area, bags or envelopes for taking figures home

Prepare in Advance

Copy animal templates (onto gray, brown, beige or yellow paper, if available). Copy the people templates onto a variety of skin-tone papers.

Teaching Hint

Moving the paper and not the scissors when cutting out the figures makes this activity easier!



Choice In the Image of God

Human beings were created in the image and likeness of God. We honor our likeness to Him when we try to love other people and live in charity with them. In this activity, children create “coupons” for helpful or kind acts that they will do for others.

1. On the sixth day of creation, God said “Let us make man[kind] in our own image, according to our likeness....” What does this mean? (God is human. We look like Him, and we can learn about Him and choose to try to be like Him or not.)
2. The Lord loves everyone and wants to make everyone happy. We can try to be like the Lord by doing loving things for other people that we

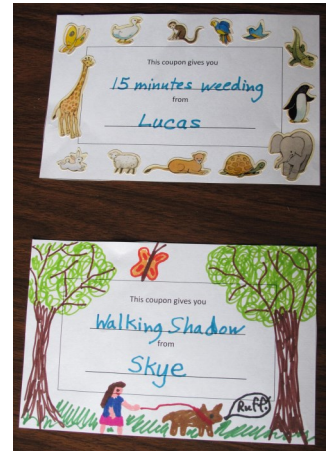
Materials Needed

copy of the *In the Image of God Coupons* p. 12 for each child; scissors; pencils or pens; glue; decorations such as stickers, sequins, glitter, fake gems, buttons, pressed flowers, etc. (alternatively, provide markers to draw decorative borders)
optional: large envelope or bag to take coupons home

In the Image of God *continued*

hope will make them happy.

- Let's brainstorm some ways that you can be helpful or kind to someone else, for example, your mom or dad. Do they like hugs, pictures you make or when you do a job without being asked? (Allow children to brainstorm ideas. After several, ask them about what they could do to make other specific people in their lives happy, e.g. grandparents, siblings, friends, a neighbor, etc.)
- Hand out a coupon page to each child and read the sentence aloud. Explain that they are going to make coupons to give to two people offering to do something kind or helpful for them. They can choose any two people that they want. Have them write in the action they are offering to do and then sign their name below. Help younger children with writing as needed.
- Cut out the coupons. Decorate the borders as you wish. Choose decorations you think the person who will receive the coupon will like. Let dry before putting in an envelope or bag (*optional*) to take home.
- Remember to give your coupons to the people you made them for! It's exciting to imagine how happy they will be. When we do our best to try to love other people and make them happy, we make the Lord happy. And, in the end, this is what will make us truly happy, as well.



Choice

Coloring Picture: The Sixth Day

Hand out copies of *The Sixth Day* (p. 13) and invite the children to color it.

Materials for Each Child

The Sixth Day p. 13;
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.

**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God
He created him; male and female He created them.**

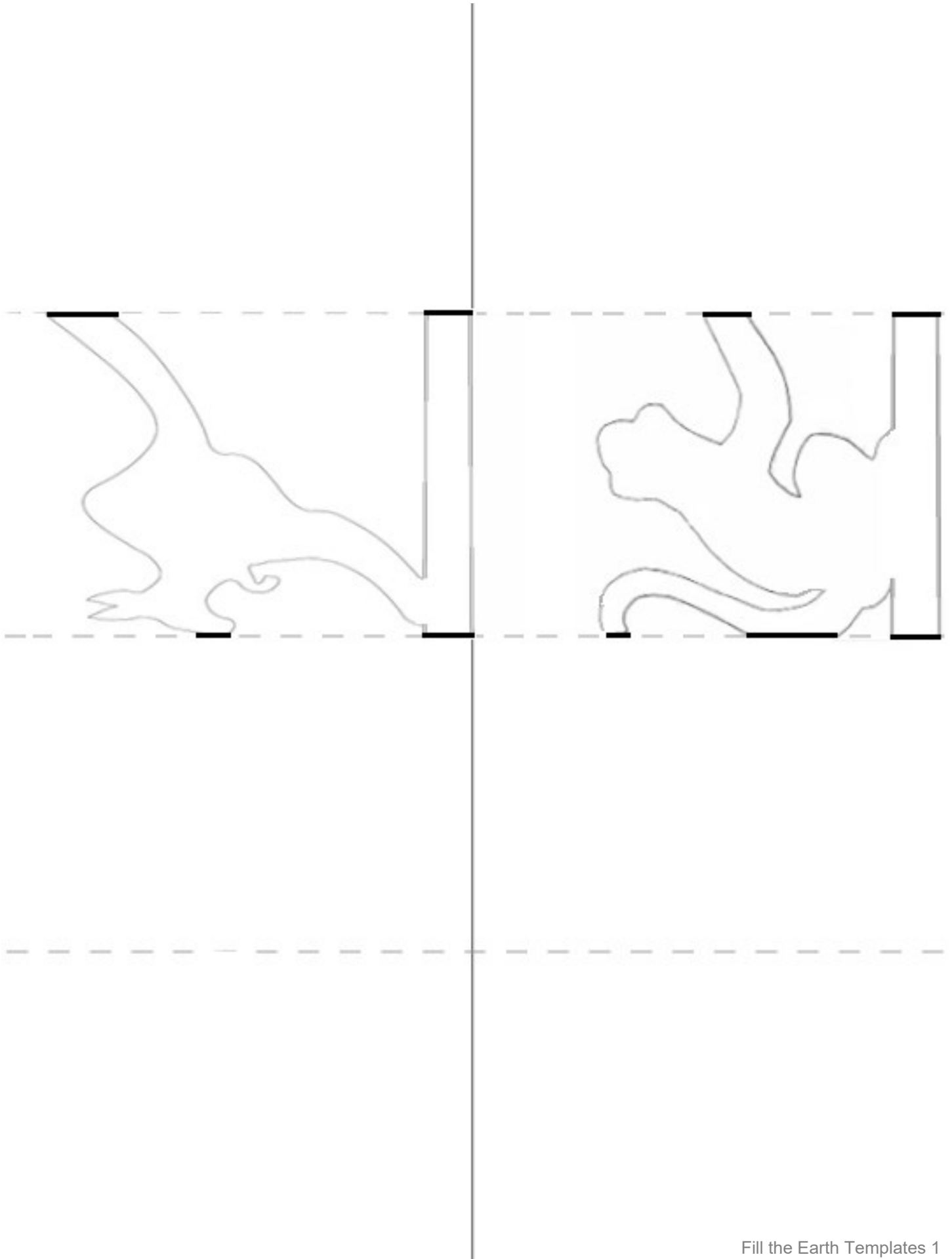
Genesis 1:27

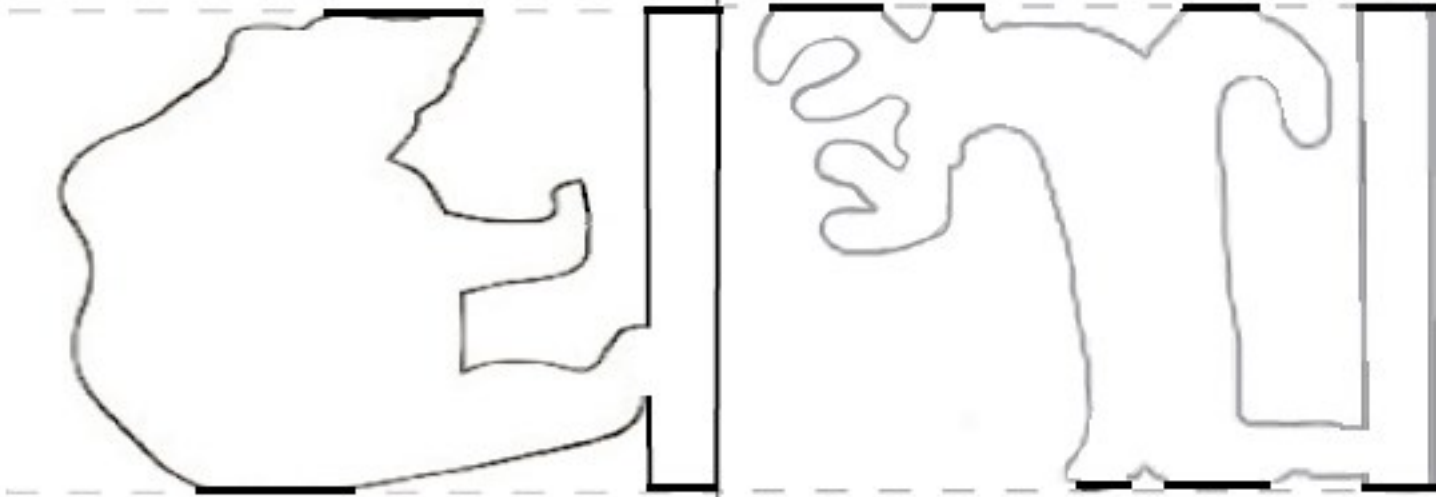
Closing

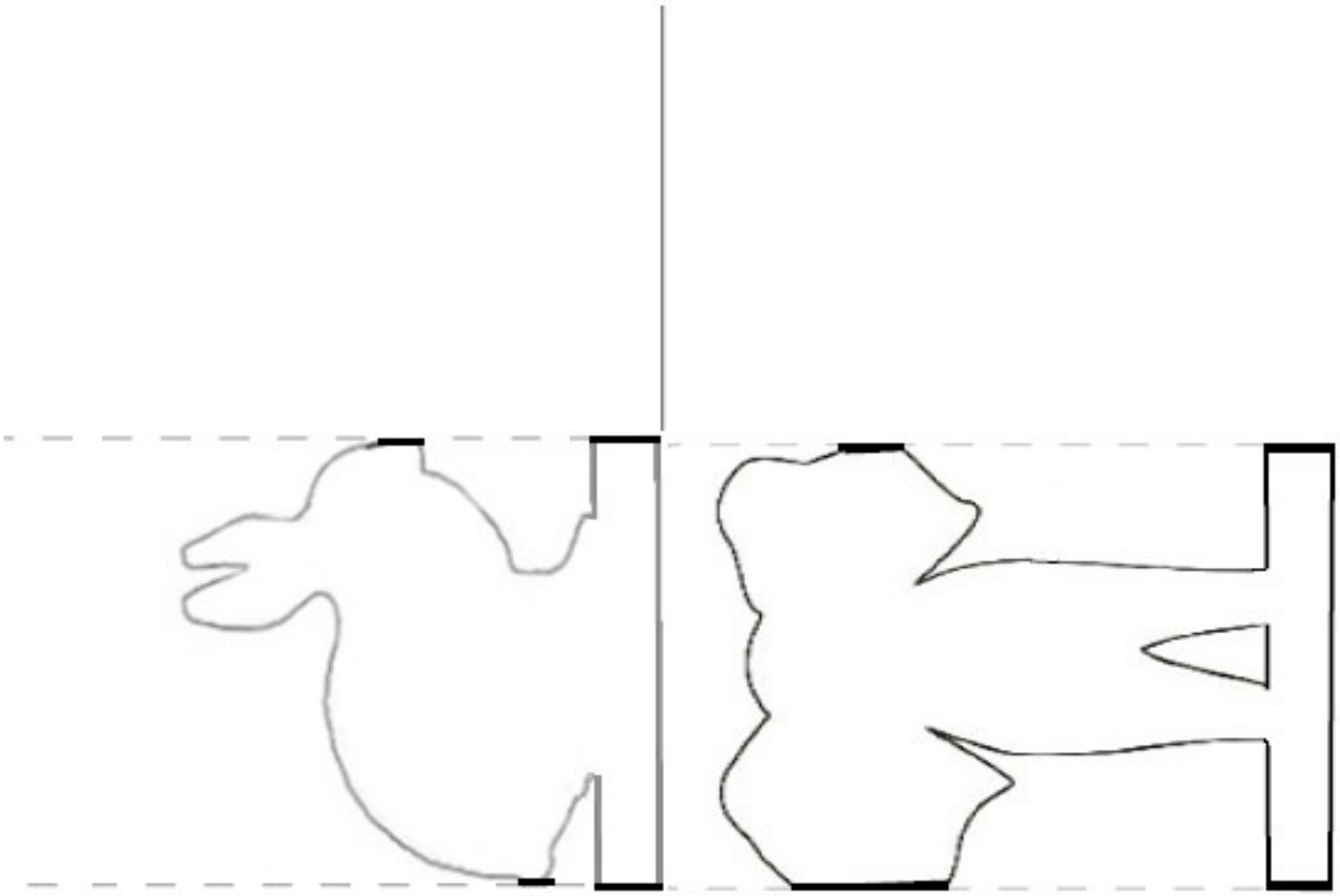
Why are people the most special of all the things the Lord created? (People are made in the Lord's image and likeness.)

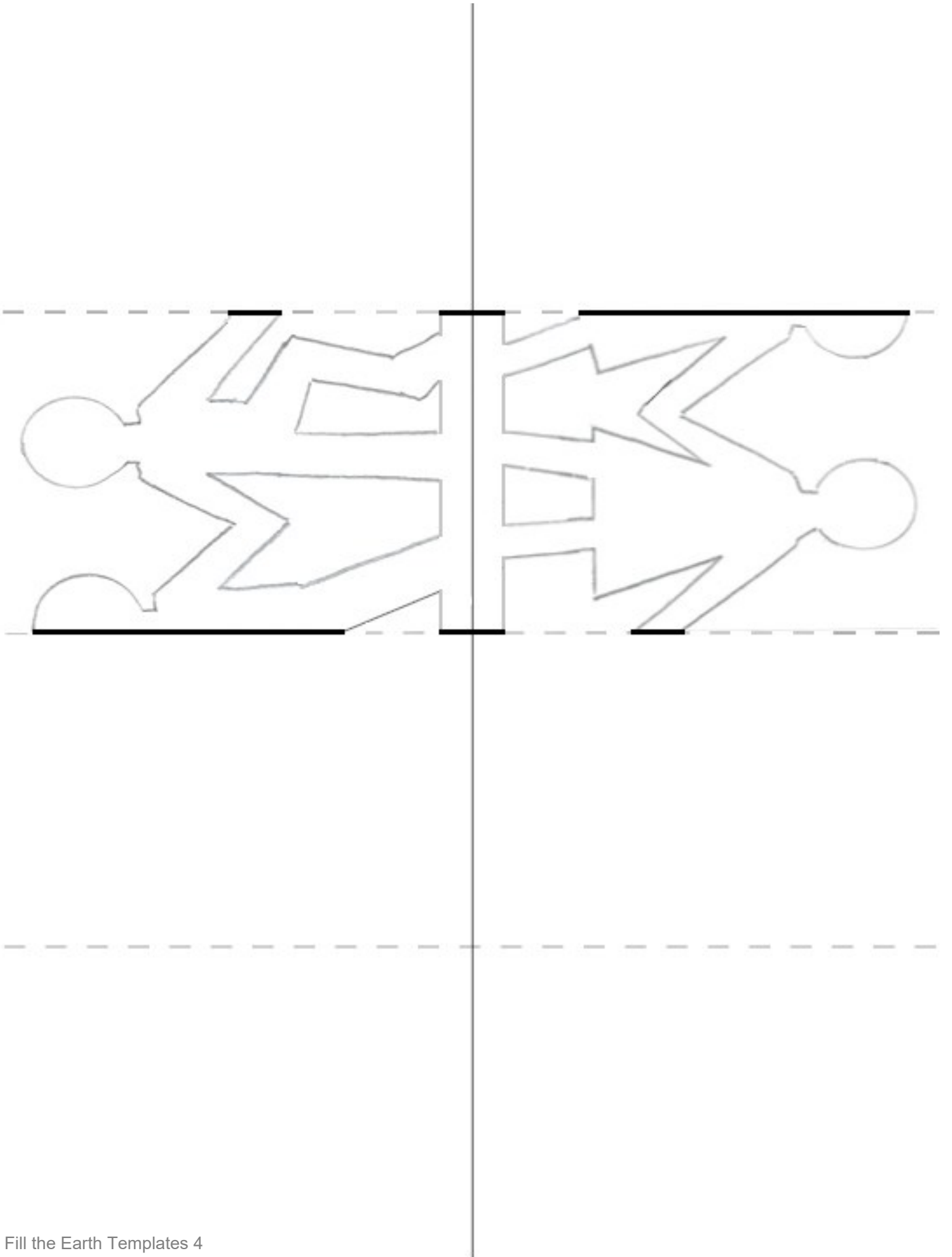
If animals are like what we love, why is it important to have "dominion" over them? (We need to make loving the Lord and doing what He wants more important than worldly and bodily things we might want. The Lord teaches us how to do this in His Word.)

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 14) to children as they leave.









Fill the Earth Folding Directions

1. Cut the template pages in half as shown.



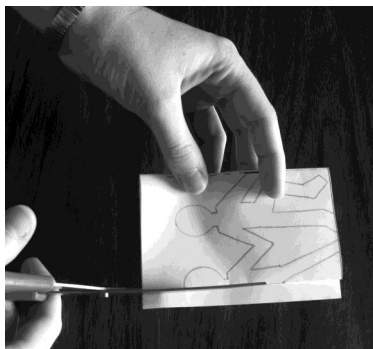
2. Fold the strip in half along the central dotted line.



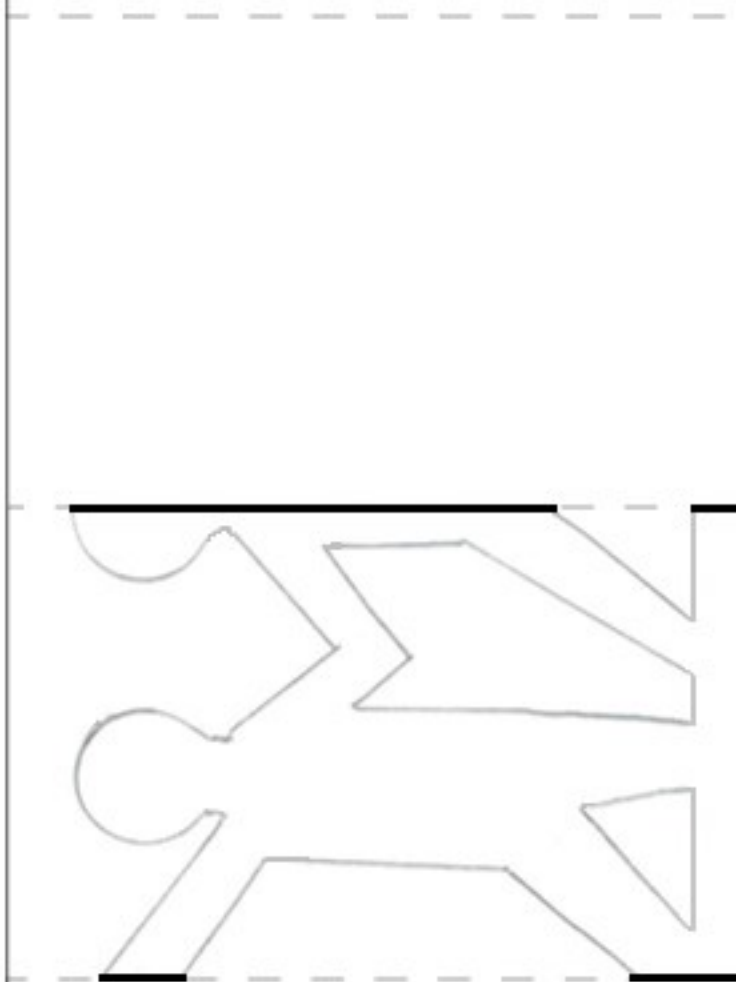
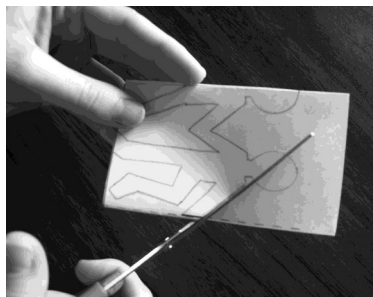
3. Fold the paper over again on the dotted line on the other side of the figures.



4. Carefully trim off the excess paper that sticks out beyond the fold line on one side.



5. Cut out the figure. Be careful not to cut where there are dark lines along the folds.



This coupon gives you

from

This coupon gives you

from



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 about the most special of the Lord’s creations—people. The Lord told people to “have dominion” over all living creatures. This means making loving the Lord and doing what He wants more important than worldly and physical things we might want. The Lord teaches us how to do this in His Word.</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;">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 about the most special of the Lord’s creations—people. The Lord told people to “have dominion” over all living creatures. This means making loving the Lord and doing what He wants more important than worldly and physical things we might want. The Lord teaches us how to do this in His Word.</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;">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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