Unit 2



God Is Creator



Answers Bible Curriculum

Unit 2 • Family Devotional

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Introduction

Welcome to the Answers Bible Curriculum family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training and teaching their children the things of the Lord:

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children— how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, "Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so." (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

We suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller pieces.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and he delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that his wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



The Seven C's of History

Lesson Summary

The Bible records actual history. We call it The history book of the universe. It is not made up. God would not lead us astray—after all, he has been here all the time—he has seen it all, and he does not lie!

Because we know this about God and his Word, we can trust it as our absolute authority. In other words, if you hear something that does not fit in with God's history, then it can't be true.

The evolutionary story of the world begins with a big bang about 13 billion years ago. The earth supposedly formed about 4.5 billion years ago, and the first simple life forms arose about 3.5 billion years ago. From these simple life forms evolved all species of animals we have today, including man. This history is totally contradictory to the biblical account. Unfortunately, it is prevalent in our culture and increasingly found even in the church.

God's history can be easily recapped with the Seven C's of History. They start at the beginning of creation and end at the ending of this present earth. They are Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Six of these events are in the past; one is still to come. These events are actual historical accounts—Adam was real; he was created on day six of creation; his sin cast the whole human race into sin; the flood was a real, global catastrophic event; the confusion at the tower of Babel really occurred and was the beginning of different languages and people groups; Jesus Christ really lived, died, and rose again; and one day he will return. The Bible is true, and its history can be trusted.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passage and discuss the questions together.

John 3:12

1. Can we believe the "heavenly things" that the Bible speaks of?

2. According to this verse, should we then believe the "earthly things" that the Bible speaks of? What are some of these things?

- 3. Discuss how the following Old Testament and New Testament passages explain each of the Seven C's of History.
 - Genesis 1:31; John 1:1-3
 - Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12
 - Genesis 7:23; 2 Peter 3:5-6
 - Genesis 11:9; Acts 17:26
 - Isaiah 9:6–7; Matthew 1:21

- Isaiah 53:4–5; John 19:17–18
- Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:4
- 4. How does having a biblical worldview help us make sense of the world we live in?

5. How could you use the Seven C's to explain the gospel to someone?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:3–4 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Prayer

Thank God for his Word that gives us the true history of the universe. Ask him to help us have a truly biblical worldview—to see the world the way it really is. Ask God for opportunities and boldness to share the truth of his Word with others.

Family Prayer Requests:

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God Creates the Universe

Lesson Summary

The information given to us in the early chapters of Genesis is foundational to many important doctrines. Included in these are the Trinity (Genesis 1:26), death (2:17), marriage (2:24), sin (3:6), the gospel (3:15), and clothing (3:21). The book of Genesis is to be taken as literal history, provided by God to give us a glimpse of his majesty, wonder, creativity, and eternal purpose.

When we read Genesis 1 as a historical account of how the universe was created, it answers many questions about how we got here. Unless we rearrange the order of Genesis 1 or claim that it is some type of allegory or myth, there is no way to reconcile it with the evolutionary origin of the universe and life on earth.

God's omnipotence—his absolute power over absolutely everything is put on display in the description of the creation week. By simply speaking, God created the stars, the planets, the sun, the earth, the fish, the birds, the insects—everything. It is all a demonstration of his power and creativity.

Our Creator is all-powerful and worthy of worship and praise. He created everything in six 24-hour days. Anything you hear that contradicts the infallible Word of God cannot be true.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Hebrews 11:3

1. How do we understand that God created the universe?

2. How did he create it?

Psalm 33:6, 33:9, 148:5

3. How do these verses confirm how God created the universe?

4. What does that tell us about God's Word and his omnipotence?

Romans 1:18-23

5. What can be clearly seen from creation?

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6. What do men do with this truth (v. 18)?

7. What do men do instead of worship the Creator (v. 23)?

John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2

8. What was Jesus' role in the original creation?

9. What is his current role in creation?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:3–4 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Prayer

Take time to thank God for his creation. Praise him for his omnipotence as revealed in creation. Confess that we often do not worship and honor him as he deserves. Ask him for faith to believe all of his Word.

Family Prayer Requests:

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Creation: Days and Kinds

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we began looking at the creation account in Genesis 1. God spoke the entire universe into existence from nothing. Creation reveals his omnipotence, and every person owes the Creator worship and honor.

This lesson we examined days 1–4 of creation. We saw that God created the earth, water, the atmosphere, vegetation, and the sun, moon, and stars; and each day was a 24-hour day! The Hebrew word for "day" is *yom*. It can mean a 24-hour day, part of the day, or a period of time—the context determines its meaning. In Genesis 1, *yom* means 24 hours because the Bible says "evening and morning" and it says which day (first, second, third, fourth). There is no room to insert millions of years either before or between the days of creation.

God created the plants on day three—all according to their kinds. An apple seed will always produce an apple tree, and an orange seed will always produce an orange tree. Plants reproduce according to their kinds, just as God said. We know this is true because we know that God's Word is true, and science confirms it.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Revelation 4:9–11

- 1. How many things did God create (v. 11)?
- 2. What is one reason that God deserves glory, honor, and power?

Psalm 146

3. What did the psalmist say about putting our trust in man (vv. 3-4)?

4. Why can we hope and trust in the Lord?

5. What are some of God's attributes that this psalm extols?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:3–4 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Prayer

Take time to praise God for who he is. Ask him for a new appreciation of his creation and of him as the omnipotent Creator.

Family Prayer Requests:

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Creation: Animals and Man

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we looked at days 1–4 of creation. We saw that God created all things from nothing by the power of his Word. He created every plant to reproduce "according to its kind." Science confirms God's Word as we see limits of biological change and see that plants (and animals) truly do reproduce only within their kinds.

This lesson we looked at days five and six of creation: the creation of all sea creatures, flying creatures, land animals, and man. Man was a special creation of God, created distinctly from the animals. Man was made in God's image and given dominion over the animals. Because of this, God has a unique relationship with mankind that he does not have with the rest of the earthly creation. All of the creation brings God glory, but God has chosen mankind to have a special relationship with him and share some of his attributes.

Unlike the animals, we can reason, write, communicate, learn, love each other, forgive each other, ask forgiveness, know right from wrong, and most importantly, have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 1:20-31

1. What various kinds of animals did God create on days five and six? How did he make them? Hint: What phrase is repeated?

2. How was man created differently from the animals?

3. What did God give to man and the animals to eat?

4. What was God's estimation of everything he had made? Would this allow room for death, suffering, and evil?

Psalm 8

5. How does this psalm echo the themes of Genesis 1?

6. Have you ever looked in awe at the nighttime sky? How does it make you feel?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:3–4 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Prayer

Use the words and themes of Psalm 148 to praise God for who he is and for his mighty acts of creation. Thank God that you can have a relationship with him through Jesus Christ, and ask him to reveal more of himself to you as you continue in this study of his Word.

Family Prayer Requests:

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God Creates Adam and Eve

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we looked at days five and six of creation week. We saw that, like the plants of day three, God created animals "according to their kind." God made man in his own image and gave man dominion over his creation.

This lesson we looked at Adam and Eve. The Bible gives us a lot of detail about how God created man and then woman. Because Genesis is a historical account—and the Bible is God's history book of the universe—we know that everything he tells us is true.

God created Adam from the dust of the earth, and he created Eve from Adam's rib. They were created on day six of creation week—only about 6,000 years ago—not millions of years ago like some evolutionists would have us believe. We did not evolve from an ape-like ancestor! We are not animals. We are human beings made uniquely by God in his image!

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 1:26–28

- 1. What does this passage tell us about how God created man and woman?
- 2. What does it mean that we are created in God's image? How are we different from the animals?

Genesis 9:1-7

3. What are some of the similarities between God's command to Noah and his command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1?

4. What is different now about humans' diet (see Genesis 1:29–30)?

5. Why did God institute capital punishment for murder (see v. 6)?

James 3:1–12

- 6. Can man tame his tongue? What are some of the things that a tongue can do?
- 7. Why does James say that we ought not to curse men (v. 9)?
- 8. What can you do to tame your tongue?

Romans 8:28-30, 12:1-2

- 9. What does God do for those who love him?
- 10. Whose image are we predestined to be conformed to?
- 11. What are we to not be conformed to? How can we allow God to conform us to Christ's image?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:5–6 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Prayer

Praise God for who he is as Creator. Ask him to help us understand what it means to be created in his image and to help us treat others accordingly. Thank him that he works everything together for good for those who love him. Submit yourselves to his will in becoming conformed to the image of Christ.

Family Prayer Requests:



Dinosaurs and Dragons

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we read about being created in God's image. Though that image is marred due to the fall of man, we are still to treat others with dignity and respect as God's image-bearers. And God is working in the lives of those who love him to reproduce the image of Christ, for his glory.

This lesson looked at the topic of dinosaurs—those fascinating creatures created by God. Dinosaurs (and dinosaur-like creatures) were created on days five and six of creation week. God's Word helps us understand the history of these creatures.

They were originally friendly in a perfect world and ate only plants. After the fall of man, they began to eat other animals. Pairs of the various dinosaur kinds boarded the ark, but the rest were destroyed in the flood. Dinosaurs continued to live alongside man but went extinct and began to fade from man's memory. Dinosaur fossils have been found all over the world, showing us that they existed and that they were victims of the global flood. And dragon legends from around the world attest to a shared memory of encounters with dinosaur-like creatures.

The book of Job gives us the clearest biblical description of these creatures and attests to the fact that man and dinosaurs lived at the same time.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Job 40:15-24

1. What are some of the words used to describe Behemoth?

2. Why can't the Behemoth be a hippopotamus or elephant as many Bible commentaries suggest?

Job 41:1-21

3. What are some of the words used to describe Leviathan?

4. What do verses 18–21 speak of? Have you ever seen an animal like this?

5. How do we know that Behemoth and Leviathan are real creatures and not mythical? (Hint: See Job 39:1, 39:5, 39:9, 39:13, 39:19, 39:26.)

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:5–6 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Prayer

Thank God for his amazing creation and his care for it. Thank him that he has given us the true history of the world in the Bible—his Word. Ask God for opportunities to share the truth of his Word with schoolmates, coworkers, neighbors, friends, and relatives.

Family Prayer Requests:

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The Age of the Earth

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we saw that God created dinosaurs (and dinosaur-like creatures) on days five and six of creation week. Job obviously was familiar with Behemoth and Leviathan since God mentioned these in a list of other animals with which Job would have been familiar. The descriptions of these animals seem to depict a large dinosaur and a sea dragon.

This lesson we studied a contentious issue, both inside and outside the church—the age of the earth. To come up with the biblical age of the earth, we use God's Word, of course. The Bible tells us how old the earth is. All the names and ages in Genesis 5 and 11 (the genealogies) help us to figure out that the earth is really about 6,000 years old.

Those who say the earth is billions of years old are not relying on God's Word. They are depending on dating methods that have been shown to be unreliable. When we hear that some artifact has been dated at millions or billions of years old, we need to remember that those dating methods are based on faulty assumptions. Not only that, but they present ideas that are completely against what we learn in God's Word, which indicates that the earth is only about 6,000 years old.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Luke 11:49–51

1. Who was the first prophet that Jesus referred to? Since when have there been prophets on earth?

Luke 1:70; Acts 3:21

2. How long has God spoken through his holy prophets?

3. How do these verses support the idea that the earth is young?

Mark 10:2–9

4. What does verse 6 tell us about when God created Adam and Eve? If millions of years had passed from creation until Adam and Eve, could Jesus be right?

Exodus 20:11

5. How long did God say he took to create the universe? Who are we to argue with God's perfect Word?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:5–6 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Prayer

Thank God for his perfect, all-sufficient Word. Ask him for the faith to take it as written and to defend it when it is attacked. Ask him for opportunities to teach others all that you have been learning.

Family Prayer Requests:

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Stewards of God's Creation

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we saw how the Bible gives us the approximate age for the earth. By adding up the dates given in the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11, we can determine that the earth is about 6,000 years old.

This lesson we discussed God's care for his creation and man's responsibility to care for it. God created Adam and Eve and then gave them dominion—responsibility or rule—over the earth. They were to take care of the garden and all of the animals God put there. This dominion was given as a privilege and responsibility. They were to take care of God's creation, use it for their good, and manage it well. The dominion or responsibility that God gave to Adam has been passed down to us. It is a very big responsibility that we all should take seriously.

Although caring for the earth and climate change are talked about a lot these days, and the temperature on earth may have gone up and down over the past centuries, we know that God has promised to keep the earth as he wants it. And God is faithful to keep his promises.

We all need to work at taking care of the earth according to God's Word in order to honor and glorify him. However, we must never be so consumed with the earth that we forget our Creator God or the gospel. These are the things our minds need to be set on—even as we do our part to take care of our temporary home—planet earth.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 1:26–28, 2:15

- 1. What does it mean that God has given man "dominion" over the earth?
- 2. What was Adam told to do? What might that involve?

Genesis 8:22

3. What does God promise to Noah in this verse? Does this verse give you hope for the future of the earth?

Psalm 74:16-17

4. Who owns the day and night? Who makes summer and winter? What does this tell us about God's control of the earth?

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5. In what form did God's judgment come when the world perished (v. 6)?

6. How will the world be destroyed in the future judgment?

7. How should that affect how we live our lives?

8. What do we have to look forward to?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:5–6 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Prayer

Thank God that he is in control of this earth—the weather, the sunrise and sunset, the moon and stars—everything! Thank him for the promise we have of a new heavens and new earth. Ask him to help us be wise stewards of his good gifts but to reserve all of our worship for him alone.

Family Prayer Requests:



Corruption: Sin Enters the World

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we talked about what it means to be a good steward of God's creation and that ultimately he is the one in control of all things. He is faithful to his promise to preserve the earth. One day, in his timing, he will destroy it by fire and create a new heaven and a new earth for his people.

This lesson we introduced the second C in the Seven C's of History— Corruption. God's perfect creation, where everything was "very good," was ruined when Adam and Eve disobeyed their Creator's command and ate of the forbidden fruit. As a result, God cursed the ground and punished Adam and Eve as well; the ultimate punishment was death both physical and spiritual.

But God also showed his mercy. Adam and Eve deserved to die right away because of their disobedience, yet God spared them and killed an animal instead. He used the animal skins to cover them and the shame of their sin. This was the first death in the history of the world.

When God shed the blood of the first animal, it was a sign of something to come, another blood sacrifice. This first death was a picture of what God would later provide for salvation from sin. God provided his own Son, Jesus Christ, who would die and be raised from the dead, not just to cover sins but to take them away!

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Romans 5:12-19

- 1. How did death enter the world?
- 2. Who are the two men that Paul is contrasting in this passage?
- 3. What did one bring into the world, and what did the other bring?

Genesis 3:1–7

4. What was Satan's tactic as he tempted Eve?

5. What did the woman rely on as she considered Satan's words (v. 6)?

1 John 2:15-17

6. What are the three things that John says are in the world?

7. How do these align with Genesis 3:6 and Eve's temptation?

2 Corinthians 11:3

8. What is Paul concerned about?

9. How did the serpent deceive Eve?

10. What is the "simplicity" that is in Christ? How do we maintain our pure devotion to Christ?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:5–6 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Prayer

Thank God for the mercy and forgiveness he offers through Jesus Christ. Confess your own disobedience to God, and thank him for his forgiveness. Ask him to help you maintain the simplicity of your faith in him and your purity of devotion to Christ.

Family Prayer Requests:



Creation Compromise

Lesson Summary

Last lesson we talked about what it means to be a good steward of God's creation and that ultimately he is the one in control of all things. He is faithful to his promise to preserve the earth. One day, in his timing, he will destroy it by fire and create a new heaven and a new earth for his people.

Many compromise the Word of God and try to harmonize it with secular scientific ideas. The resulting views have names such as the gap theory, progressive creation, and theistic evolution. Each of these views accepts modern scientific thought as true and then goes about reinterpreting Scripture to make it fit with "modern science"—which means a 4.5 billion-year-old earth and evolution.

But, if we start with the fallible ideas of mankind rather than the Word of God, we will be misled. If we begin to open the door of questioning the creation of the universe and the life in it, what other doctrines will be reinterpreted by the modern scientific thinking of our day? We must never place human wisdom above God's wisdom given to us in his Word.

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3-4

 What do these verses tell us about the sufficiency of Scripture? Do we need to add outside information to understand and trust God's Word?

1 Timothy 6:20-21

2. What was Paul's charge to Timothy? What may happen to us if we are taken in by false knowledge?

3. What are some examples of false knowledge in our world today?

Colossians 2:1–10

- 4. Where can we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (v. 3)?
- 5. How did we receive Christ, and how are we to walk in him (vv. 6-7)?

6. What are some ways that we can be taken captive by worldly philosophy and the traditions of men?

7. What are we to be captivated by? Why?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 8:5–6 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Prayer

Thank God that he has given us his Word, which is a sufficient and a sure guide. Ask him for wisdom as we walk in this world—that we would not adopt the world's philosophy or become captive to false ideas, but rather that we would cling to Christ, the source of all true wisdom and knowledge.

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