

6. Say: The description of Day 4 is longer than any other description except for Day 6. In the myths of Israel's neighbors, the "lights in the sky" were considered deities (gods). In contrast, the Biblical account clearly states that these lights were just that: lights created by God, and purposefully placed in His world. They were not divine, and thus not worthy of worship. Even their lack of names: "greater light" and "lesser light," were intentional to show that they were merely creations, not something to be worshipped. The New Testament makes this fact even clearer, when John writes there is only one light worthy of worship. John 8:12 says, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" Let's move to Day 5.

7. Have volunteer read Genesis 1:20-23. Fill in what God created on Day 5 on the chart.

8. Say: This is the first appearance of animated life or living beings. (We have living plant life earlier, but it doesn't move). The Genesis account uses the verb for God's creative work, "bara," meaning "created out of nothing." It is the first time this verb has been used since it was used on Day One of creation. Also, this is the first day where God "blesses" it. God did not create and just leave His creation alone. He is actively involved with His creation.

ASK: In what ways do you feel God "blesses" His creation today? Discuss. Answers will vary.

9. Read the first part of Matthew 6:26 (NIV) "Look at the birds of the air." ASK: How often do you do that? Do you watch birds, or like birds, or pay attention to birds? (brief discussion). Then continue with the rest of the verse: "they [the birds] do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Again we see how much God loves His creation, with humans being at the top!

10. Have volunteer read Genesis 1:24-25. Complete the chart with what God created on Day 6. Animals and humans. (OPTIONAL: ASK: How many are animal lovers? (By show of hands). Do any of you have a "favorite animal?" What are some of them? (Discuss).

Say: Some families love going to zoos. When we look at God's created animals, we see so much creativity, especially if you look at the details. The rest of day 6 will focus on the creation of man, but we will save that for a couple of weeks later.

11. Draw attention back to the chart. Say: Note the parallel days. Light and Dark to Day and night. Air and Sea to filling the air and sea with his creation. Land and vegetation, then populating his land with animals and people. This account of creation was part of God's genius plan to show the "order" and "purposefulness" to his creation. He doesn't tell us "HOW" he did it, but "THAT" He did it!

12. Say: The Bible wasn't originally written with chapters and verses. Scribes later added that to make it easier to reference. Sometimes the "breaks," or chapters, make a lot of sense. In this case, Genesis 2:1-3 naturally flows together with chapter 1.

Have volunteer read 2:1-3.

13. Say: In these verses, we see the record of God's creation tied back together with the references to "heavens and earth" from Genesis 1:1. God rested, not because He was tired, but because it was complete. Day 7 was the only day God did not "speak."

The divine act of making the seventh day holy means that it is distinct. This day is separated from all other days. "The Old Testament clearly asserts that the God of Israel, the God who created the heavens and the earth, is the only one who is holy by his own character and nature. He is the Creator and thus distinct or separate from the entire creation."

APPLY TO LIFE

14. ASK: What do you think it means that "God rested"? Discuss. Possible answers:

- God did not take a nap.
- God celebrated His creation.
- God took time to reflect on His creation; and He was VERY Pleased with His work.

15. SAY: At the beginning of today's study, we talked about our work, and what we can learn (or teach others) from God's example of work during creation. What would you tell or teach your children (or grand children) about how God's example of work relates to ours? Discuss. Answers will vary. Possible answers: God teaches a strong work ethic, and also a strong "rest" ethic.