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1. Introduction

This first lesson begins with teaching about the Bible as the source of authority for all of the teaching. The Bible is God's revelation to man. He chose to make himself known so that people would know who he is and what he like.

What is God like? Emphasize that God is eternal, sovereign, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, righteous, faithful and immutable. These are some of his most important attributes that need to be understood and believed. Emphasize that God is not capricious, evil, undependable, limited to a location, lacking knowledge, able to be overpowered, or able to be tricked. God is trustworthy in all things and he never changes.

God, who has always existed, exercised his sovereign will and created the spirits or angels. He created them perfectly. After the spirits were created, God exercised his sovereign will and created the material universe. What did God use to create the material universe? Nothing. God did not need anything to create all things. Emphasize that God exercised his power and created all things out of nothing. Emphasize that all of God's creation; spirits and the material universe, were created perfectly.

2. The Bible

It is good to see all of you here today. I am glad that you have come to this meeting. I have an important story to tell you. It is a long story, too long to tell you all of it in just one meeting. We will continue to meet until the whole story has been taught to you. It is important for all of you to come to all of the meetings so that you will hear the whole story. In order to clearly understand this story, it is important to hear all of it, not just parts of it. It is very important that all of you hear, understand, and believe this message.

When we first came to this village, you asked us many questions. Some of you asked why we came to live with you. Others asked, “Why are you not afraid of the evil spirits?” Those were good questions. Some of you said that you had observed that there was something different about us and you wondered what it was. We told you that we needed to learn to speak your language and understand your customs before we could answer your important questions. Do you remember? We told you after we could speak like you do and understand your ways, then we would teach you a very important message. Do you remember?

I am happy to tell you that the time is here for me to answer your questions and to teach you this important message. As I teach you, I will answer the questions you have been asking us. Some of those questions will be answered today, others will be answered later. All of them will be answered as I teach you the most important of all messages.

Look at this book that I am holding. It is the Bible. It is God’s message for all people. God wants people to know him and to have a personal relationship with him. I believe this message and it directs my life. That is why I am not afraid of the sorcerers or the evil spirits. The Bible is God’s Word and it teaches me truth. If you believe the Bible’s message, then God will help you so that you too do not have to live in fear and uncertainty.

I believe the Bible is God’s message for me. I believe God wants his message to be understood by everyone. My parents and other people taught me the Bible’s message. They wanted me to know and understand the Bible’s message. God wants everyone to know his message so that they can know him personally. That is why I came to live with you, to teach you God’s most important message.

This book which I am holding in my hands is called the Bible. It has answers to our most important questions. It has answers to everyone’s most important questions. Have you ever wondered, “Where did I come from?” Have you ever wondered, “How did everything begin?” Have you ever thought about why you are here on this earth? Have

you ever wondered about the meaning and purpose of life? Do you know what happens to people after death? The Bible has answers to all of these questions. They are real answers, not just what people think, but real, true answers from God. If you listen to this story which I will teach you then you will know the answer to these questions.

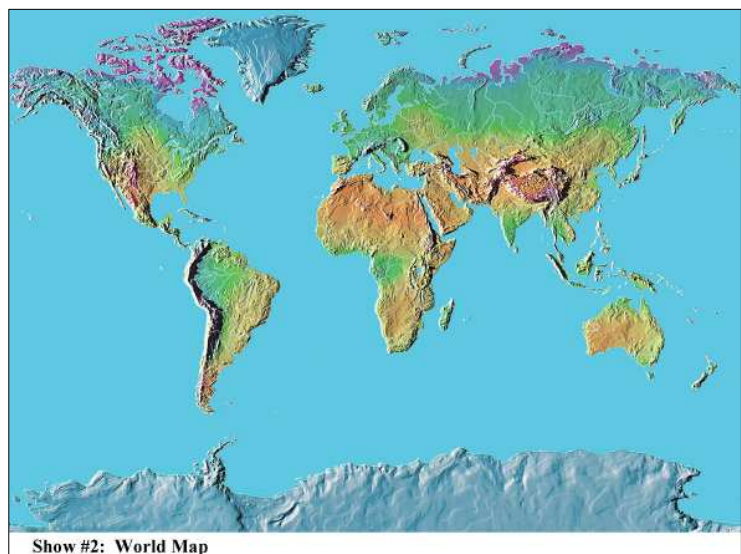
Listen carefully: Long ago God revealed his message to men whom he chose to write it down for us. All but one of these chosen men were Jews. They lived in the land of Israel. These men, who are called prophets, did not write their own thoughts. No, they only wrote what God revealed to them. Later some men made copies of these writings and stored them so that they would not be lost. Later, people who knew how to make books made copies of these writings and put them into one book which we call the Bible.

The Bible which I hold in my hand is God's revealed message for all of us. Why did God reveal his message for us? God wants us to know him because he is the only true God. He wants you to know who he is and what he is like. I too want you to know who God is and for you to have a personal relationship with him. If you listen to this message, you can learn about God and know him personally as I do.

Look at this map. Here is the land of Israel. The Jews who wrote the Bible lived in the land of Israel. They wrote it in three languages; Hebrew, Greek and some in Aramaic. However, there are many people in the world who cannot speak any of these languages. Do you speak Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic? No, none of us speak those languages so how can we read the Bible or hear its message if



Show #1: A Prophet writes God's Word



Show #2: World Map

we do not understand those languages. How can we hear God's Word in our own language? Some people have translated God's Word, the Bible, into other languages of the world. This is good because it means people who speak those other languages can hear the Bible's message in their own language and understand it.

God chose forty men to write His Word. Do you think they lived at the same time and knew each other? Most of the writers did not know each other. The Bible was written over a span of approximately 1600 years. The writers came from various backgrounds and occupations. Each of the writers only wrote what God gave him to write through inspiration and that produced one complete message from the beginning to the end. The Bible originated in God and it teaches us about God and many other important subjects. The Bible is the Word of God for all people and he wants everyone to understand it and believe it. Please listen carefully to this teaching so that you will be able to understand and believe the Bible's message.

3. Who is God?

Let's talk about God. Have you ever seen God? Has anyone ever seen God? No, no one has ever seen God at any time or place, yet he exists. My forefathers did not see him. Your forefathers did not see him. The Bible teaches us the truth about God. Listen carefully as I explain what the Bible teaches us about God.

The Bible teaches us that God is eternal. That means God always existed. God has no ancestors. He has not had a beginning nor will he cease to exist. He never changes. He is always the same. Everything we see has had a beginning and will come to an end. God is not like that. He is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever. Before everything came into being, God existed.

What is God like? Does he have a body like we have? No, God does not have a body because he is spirit. That means God is not restricted in any way like we are. Each one of us has a body. We get hungry, thirsty or tired. God does not get hungry, thirsty or tired. He simply exists. He is eternal, changeless, and he is spirit.

God is everywhere present at the same time. He is not restricted to being at one place at a time. If someone goes into a dark cave, is God there? Will God see him even though the cave is completely dark? God is everywhere present all the time and can see all things that happen everywhere all the time. He does not need light to see things. Sometimes people do bad things secretly at night because they think that no one will see them. Can God still see them? Yes he can. He sees everything that happens all the time. He sees the good things and the bad things that people do all the time. He sees and knows everything

people do secretly and try to hide from others.

We think important people and leaders have much knowledge because they teach us life skills. Do they know as much as God does? Do they know everything? No, they do not. Only God is all-knowing which means he knows everything. No one has knowledge which is equal to God's. God knows everything that has ever happened in history. He knows everything that all people in the world are doing today. He knows everything that will happen tomorrow or in the future. He even knows our thoughts which we have not yet spoken to anyone. What are you thinking right now? Is it a good thought or a bad one? Are you planning to do a good deed or thinking about evil things? God knows everything that we think and do. He knows what each of you is thinking right now. No one can hide his thoughts from God.

God is all-powerful. There is no being whose power is equal to his. No power is great enough to overtake him. We believe that the men in our village have strength and power to protect us from harm. Is their power as great as God's? No, it isn't. God has greater power than all the people in the world. He is more powerful than any earthquake or storm. He has more power than all the armies in the world. There is no power which is as great as his. He alone is more powerful and greater than all else.

Let's think about this. God has not had a beginning. Everything that we see and know about has had a beginning. God is greater than everything that exists, all of which have had a beginning. Whom do you think knows the truth about the beginning of all things? Do you know the truth about the beginning of all things? Your forefathers told you myths about the origin of things that are familiar to you. Did they teach you the truth about their origins? Only God knows the truth about the origin of all things because he alone existed before all things were created.

God is the only one who existed eternally. He alone knows about the beginning of all things. Listen carefully as I teach you about the origin of all things and many other truths from the Bible. It is important that you understand the most important message for us. If you do not understand what I am teaching you, please ask me to explain it for you. God wants you to believe what the Bible says and so do I.

4. Creation of Angels

Listen carefully to this story about the creation of angels. Long ago before the earth or anything else existed, God created many spirits which are also called angels. All of the angels were good beings. What are angels like? Do they have bodies like we have? Angels do not have bodies like we have because they are spirits. They are not male and

female. They are spirit beings.

God created these angels so that they would serve him and worship him. God knew what he wanted the angels to do. God created all of the angels perfectly without any flaws or evil in them. They were perfect in every way and they existed with God. Do you think any of these angels were as great as God is? No, they were created by God which means they were lesser in rank than he. God is greater than all of the angels. None of them are as important or as great as God is.

God chose one of these angels to be greater in rank and beauty than the rest of the angels. This angel's name was Lucifer. Do you think Lucifer did something to make God give him a special position of prominence among all of the angels? No, God created him and chose Lucifer to have this special position of prominence. Do you think Lucifer had as much power as God? No, of course not. Lucifer did not have as much power as God nor did he know as much as God knows because God had created him. God did not share his attributes with the angels he created. Because God is who he is, he alone is greater than all of his creation including the angels.

All of the angels or spirits, including Lucifer, were created by God and they were good in every way. If all of them were created perfectly, why are there evil spirits in the world today? Your forefathers taught you about evil spirits and were afraid of them. Are you afraid of the evil spirits? Where did they come from? Did God create some evil spirits too? No, God did not create any evil spirits. Later I will teach you the reason why some spirits are evil. But, for right now, it is important for you to know and believe that God created all the angels or spirits perfectly in every way.

5. Material World Creation

What happened after the angels were created? Listen carefully as I teach you the true creation story, the story of God creating all things.

The Bible teaches that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. At that time the earth was covered with water and the Spirit of God hovered over its surface. Did God use anything to make the heavens and earth? No, before God created anything, there were no material objects. There was no ground or sky. There were no plants, fish, or animals that we see today. God did not use anything to make the heavens and the earth. By his power God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. God did not use any raw materials to create the heavens and the earth.

How could God create the heavens and the earth without using any raw materials? God is

all-powerful which means he can do things which are impossible for any being or person to do. God simply exercised his inherent power and created the heavens and the earth.

Then God said, “Let there be light” and light came into being. Where did it come from? It did not come from anywhere. God created it out of nothing. By his inherent power, God commanded light to appear and right away light appeared. God saw that the light was good and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. This happened on the first day of creation.

Let’s think about God exercising his power to create things. Can you speak something into existence? Can anyone create something by commanding it to appear? No, we cannot speak things into existence like God did. This shows us that he is the most powerful being of all. If we want to make something, we use materials to make the object. We cannot make things out of nothing. Only God can do that.

Was God finished creating things? No, he was not finished with his work of creation. Look around you. Look at everything that exists, the trees and plants, the animals, the birds, and the fish in the streams. All of these things also have had a beginning. They did not always exist.

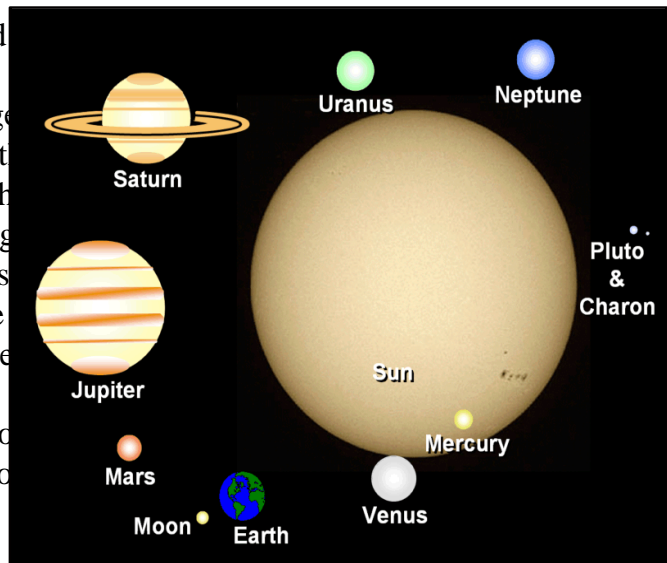
On the second day, God commanded a firmament or sky to come into being which would divide the waters. What do you think happened? Did a firmament appear as God commanded? Yes, a firmament came into being and it divided the waters according to God’s command. Some of the waters were above the firmament and the rest of the waters were below it. At this point, there was nothing in the firmament and the whole earth was still covered with water. Listen carefully to what happened next.

On the third day God spoke another command. He said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and the dry land appear.” At this time water covered the whole earth. According to God’s spoken command, it happened. Oceans were formed and there was dry land. Now the earth was taking shape. There were places with bodies of water, oceans, and places with dry land or earth.

Let’s think about the awesome power of God. When the whole earth was covered with water, all of the ground was covered with water so it was very wet. But when God commanded the dry land to appear, out of the water came areas of dry land. How could this happen? Remember, God is all-powerful. Whatever he says happens. When he commanded the dry land to appear, the water covering all the earth obeyed his voice. The land which was submerged in water obeyed his command and was separated from the water. And, it was dry ground just like God commanded it to be. No other being has

power to do the awesome things God did

Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed. Did fruit trees with ripe fruit appear on the earth carefully. Immediately many kinds of vegetation appeared by God’s command. There were many kinds of seeds in them. By one command, God created many kinds of vegetation appeared. God said, and it was good. He made everything good, but imperfect things because he is totally good in creation.



Show a picture of the solar system

Let’s talk about God’s work of creation on the first three days. Why did God create the heavens and the earth? The light and darkness? The firmament? The oceans, the dry land and many kinds of vegetation on the earth? Did God need a home? Was God hungry so he made many kinds of good foods to eat? Remember this: God is spirit so he doesn’t need a home to live in, or light to see by, or oceans to swim in, or dry land to walk upon. He doesn’t get hungry like we do. So, why did he create all of these things?

Listen to what God did next. The Bible teaches us that on the fourth day God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth.” What happened when God spoke this command? Did lights appear as he said they should? Of course they did. He is the almighty Creator. Whatever he commands happens!

Look at the sky. During the daytime we see the sun. At night the moon shines and we see many stars. Can you count the stars? The sun, moon and all of the stars came into being according to God’s command on the fourth day. God made these lights good and he placed them at the right place in the firmament for our benefit. The sun, moon and stars do exactly what God created them for. They provide light and are used to tell time and seasons. God made them through the power of his spoken word without using any raw materials. God is all-powerful. There is no power which is equal to his.

Look at the sun. It provides warmth and light for us. In the morning, when you first get up and see the sun, it makes you feel good. If there were no sun, how would we warm ourselves, how could we be able to see where to go? Suppose the sun was closer to the earth than it is, what would happen to us? The earth would be so hot that we would burn

like firewood. Suppose the sun was too far away from the earth. What would happen then? We would be very cold and its light would not be very strong. We could not survive if the sun was either too near or too far away from us. God placed the sun at the right distance from the earth. He knew where to place the sun because he knows everything. Remember, all of God's work of creation was done perfectly.

Did God need these lights to see things? Of course not! He is spirit and exists well without lights. Remember he always existed well before any of these things were created. He does not change. He cannot change. Since God did not need the lights, why do you think he created them?

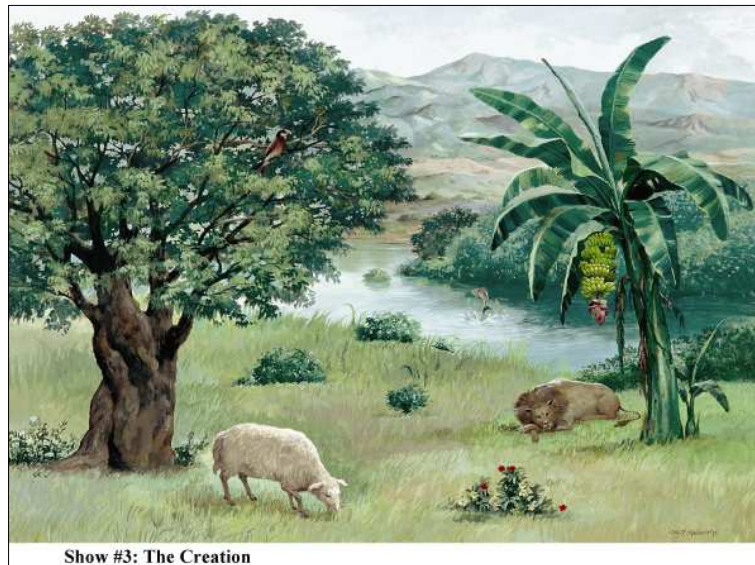
On the fifth day, God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God spoke this command and many kinds of marine life and birds were created. Now the oceans and the streams were filled with many kinds of fish. Now the firmament or sky was filled with many kinds of birds. Some birds were large, but others were very small. Some were very colorful and each made its own kind of song. Some of the fish were large, some were small, and some were colorful. God saw that all the marine life and the many kinds of birds which he had created were good. He commanded them to reproduce according to their kind and become many on the earth and that is what happened.

Think about how God first created a place for the birds to fly on the second day and oceans for the marine life on the third day. God does everything in an orderly and right way. God did not first make birds and fish without a place for them to live. God is good and all of his creating acts were orderly and good.

Since God created all these things, who owned them? Did the angels own them? If you make something and someone watches you make it, who is the owner of that object? Are you the owner or is the person who watched you make it the owner? We know that the one who makes an object is its owner. In the same way, God is the owner of all the things he made. Everything in the whole world belongs to God.

On the sixth day, God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind.” As soon as God spoke this command, many kinds of animals came into being. There were horses, cows, elephants, dogs and many other kinds of animals on the earth. These animals were not born. They were created by the power of God’s command. God spoke and they came into being. All of these animals were created perfectly. None of them were dangerous or poisonous. God is so good and all that he made was good. None of his creation was faulty or flawed in any way. All of it was very, very good.

Now that the earth was filled with many kinds of plants, birds, marine life and animals, was God finished with his work of creation? Let’s think about this question. Why did God create all of these things? Whom do you think God intended to use the plants, birds, marine life and animals? Did he have a need for them? Listen carefully because God still had one major act of creation to perform.



6. Creation of Man

Where did you come from? Where did the first people come from? Your forefathers told you a story, a myth about how your first ancestors came into being. Do you think the myth true? Let’s think about this question. Where did other people come from? Does every group of people have its unique origin or does everyone have the same origin? The Bible teaches us the truth about the origin of all people. Listen carefully to this story so that you will know the truth about the origin of all mankind.

The Bible says that on the sixth day God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Let's think about what God said on the sixth day. To whom was he speaking? Was he talking to some fish, birds or animals? Can they talk to each other? Fish, birds, creeping things and animals cannot talk to each other or to God. When God said, "Let us make man in our image," he was speaking about himself. When the world was first created, the Spirit of God hovered over the water. This shows us an important truth about God. The Spirit of God is God yet it is unique.

God said he was going to make man in his image. What did that mean? Did God say that to the fish, birds and animals? Did he say that they were created in his image? No, he did not say that he created them in his image. He just created them by his power according to his knowledge the way he wanted them to be. They were fish but they were not created in the image of God. They were birds and animals but they were not created in the image of God. God did all of this according to his knowledge. No one told him how to do it nor was he helped by anyone to create all of these things.

When God created man in his image he made man in a special, unique way. Man was different from everything else he had created. God created the first man and he had a body just like we have. God made man so that he had a mind, emotions and a will. That means God created man to be very different from the rest of creation. God created man to be greater than and more important than the rest of his creation.

Do animals think about complex issues in life? Can animals reason? Can they communicate with each other the way people do? Can they learn foreign languages or learn to read and write? Do they express their appreciation for beauty or good music? Do they have a will which can be exercised to make choices in life? Only man can do all of these things because God made man superior to the rest of his creation. God established a unique relationship between himself and man.

Did you ever wonder how God made the first person? Listen carefully so that you will know how God made the first person who was a man. It is important for all of us to know what the Bible teaches us about the origin of people.

The Bible teaches us that the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground. God used some of the ground that he had created and shaped it into the form of a man. Then God breathed into the man's nose the breath of life and the man he had formed from the ground started to breathe. He was alive! He had life and he breathed like we breathe. This man was named Adam. He is the first man, the first parent of all of us.

A dog or cat may be a person's friend. Animals such as horses, cows or elephants are used by people to do work for them. But they do not act like people nor will they ever

become people. They are animals and are not as important to God as man is. God told man to multiply which means he wants children to be born. God told man to fill the earth and subdue it and to rule over everything. Man was to rule over the fish, the birds and all things that move on the earth. God did not give this command to anything else that he created. He only gave it to man.

God told man about all the food he had already made for him. God said, “Look, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.” Before God had created man, he created many good foods for man. What does that teach us about God’s view of man? God cared for man and loved him very much so he gave him lots of good things to eat which would nourish and strengthen him.

God also provided good feed for the animals, birds and other living things. Can animals, birds and other living things stay alive without eating food? No, they cannot. They have to eat food to stay alive so God gave them green plant life to eat. God is good and he provided good food for all of his creation which was good.

7. Garden of Eden

After God had made Adam, he did something special for him. He placed him in the Garden of Eden, a very nice garden which he had planted for Adam. It was a beautiful garden and had many beautiful trees. These trees bore food which Adam could eat. God knew that this was the best place for Adam to live so he placed him in this special garden. God cared very much for Adam and provided everything that Adam needed. In the middle of the garden there were two special trees. One of them was called ‘the tree of life’. The other one was called ‘the tree of the knowledge of good and evil’.

Adam was in the garden and saw its beauty and the bountiful food God had provided for him. He saw that God had provided everything that he needed in the Garden of Eden. Do you think Adam worked in this garden? Or, did Adam just live in the garden without having to do any work? God placed him in the garden to cultivate it and be its caretaker so there was some work for Adam to do. God didn’t ask Adam if he wanted to live and work in the Garden of Eden. He simply placed him there because he knew what was best for Adam. God, the creator of Adam, knew what was best for him.

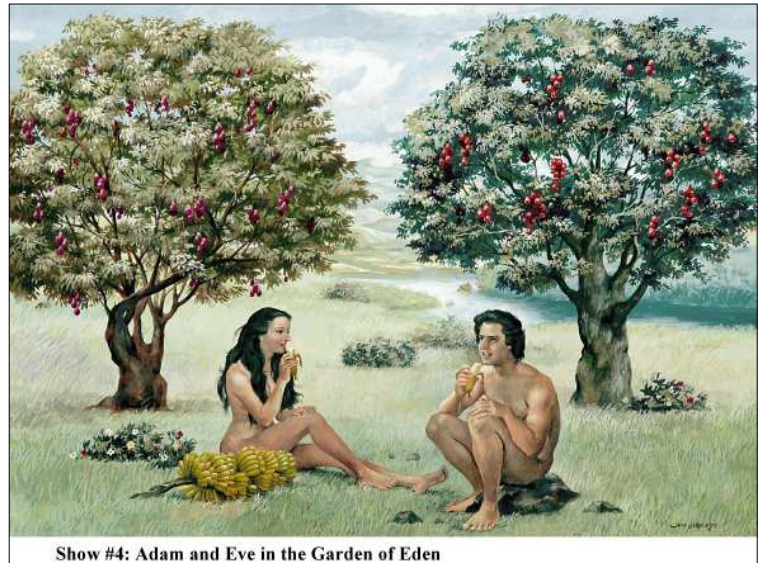
Adam looked around and saw many beautiful trees. Then God said to him. “Adam you are allowed to eat freely from any of these many fruit bearing trees except one. You are not allowed to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you disobey me and eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you will die.” Adam heard God’s

warning. He understood what God had said. God's warning, 'in the day you eat of it you will die' was sobering. What did that mean? At this time, there was no death upon the earth.

8. God made Eve

God had created many birds and animals which were now on the earth. What should these animals be called? Who should name them? God wanted Adam to name them so he brought the birds and animals before Adam so that he could see them and name them. As the birds and animals passed by Adam, he looked at each one and named them. "This one is a pig. That one is a horse. Here is a sheep. Over there is a dog." When Adam named all of the birds

and animals, he noticed something. Each kind of animal, whether a dog or a cow, a pig or a goat, had a male and a female. "As for me, I'm alone. I did not see a counterpart to myself. For me, there is no suitable helpmeet," thought Adam. Adam did not complain to God about this, he merely noticed that of all the creation, he alone did not have a suitable helpmeet.



God knew that Adam was alone. He had already said, "It is not good for man to be alone, I'll make him a suitable helpmeet." God knew that Adam needed a helpmeet. He knew exactly what kind of a helpmeet it should be. God had created Adam so he knew all about Adam and he cared very much for him. God knew just what he would do to provide a helpmeet for Adam. He knew how to make the kind of helpmeet Adam needed. He made Adam sleep very soundly. Then he took out one of Adam's ribs and made a woman from it. Then God brought the woman to Adam. Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." God did this for Adam. The woman he created was perfect in every way, a perfect and suitable helpmeet for Adam.

Adam and his wife Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. They were happy. They had a beautiful place to live. They had bountiful good food to eat. They had a perfect

relationship with each other and wonderful fellowship with God. It was a completely perfect relationship together. At that time, Adam and Eve did not have any clothes but they didn't think about it, they were not ashamed. They were together in perfect harmony with a perfect relationship with God.

Adam and Eve were different from the rest of creation. They could talk with each other and laugh together. They enjoyed being together and having perfect fellowship with God. Life in the Garden of Eden was so good. It was a perfect place to be. Everything was so nice. It was beyond description.

God's work of creating everything was exactly right. There were no flaws in anything. Everything was done right the first time. At the end of the sixth day, God's work of creating was finished and everything was very good.

9. Creation finished - God rests

After you have worked hard to complete a job, what do you normally do? If you worked very hard to clear a new garden area, what would you like to do the next day? You would like to rest wouldn't you? That's because hard work tires us.

God completed creating everything in six days. On the seventh day, he rested. Do you think God was tired? No, God was not tired. He always stays the same. He rested on the seventh day because there was no more creation work to do. God had completed his works of creation in six days so on the seventh day he rested.

Sometimes when we work hard, we can barely finish our work because we are so tired. Sometimes we start a job and do not finish it until later. When God was finished with his creation, he was not tired. He had completed everything he planned to do. His work of creating all things was done. He created everything in six days then he rested on the seventh day because creation was completed.

10. After the Meeting

Note: It is important to know whether or not people are understanding what you have taught them. To gain this understanding, interact with the people by asking them questions and listening to their answers. Ask questions about the teaching which will require them to think and explain their answers. Listen to the answers then ask more questions which go deeper into the point you are trying to make. Using only questions which can be answered by “yes” or “no” will not get you to the deeper, more important truths. Use yes-no only to begin interacting with the people.

How should you respond when wrong answers are given? If a person gives a wrong answer, restate the question carefully so that it leads people to a right answer. If you say, “That is wrong,” you may cause people to loose face and refuse to answer any more questions. However, if you say, “Everyone, please listen carefully as I ask you this question, everyone needs to understand it and know the answer,” it will help to put people at ease and give everyone the opportunity to think about the question again. Another way to handle a wrong answer is to briefly summarize teaching that supports the right answer to the question. Then ask it again in a way that people can answer it. Anytime wrong answers are given, make a note to yourself that this part of the teaching needs to be emphasized again in future teaching sessions.

How do the people understand the teaching? You need to interact with the people in everyday life settings. As you talk to the people in impromptu settings, engage them in discussion about the teaching and allow them to talk. You can learn from these discussions their understanding of the teaching. In casual and culturally appropriate ways, you can emphasize important points of the teaching which they need to remember.

In the following dialogue John and Sara talk about the things they had been taught about the Bible and creation. It is an example of how a lesson may be reviewed conversationally. It is good for people to discuss the lesson with each other and talk about what they have learned so far. It helps to reinforce what they have learned in the teaching.

Sara: How do we know the Bible is true? This is the first time we heard this teaching and I hope our teacher is telling us the truth. This new teaching is different from the stories our forefathers taught us.

John: You know very well that our teacher would not lie to us. He always does what he promises us. If he says that he will help us with some work, then he helps us. He doesn't make empty promises like we do. I know that he is trustworthy. He will not deceive us. As he taught us from the Bible about God, within myself I was convicted that I was hearing the truth.

Sara: I too was convicted that the teaching we are hearing is truth. Just think about it. Our teacher said that God loves us so much that he sent him to us to teach us the Bible's message. None of the spirits which we revere have ever given us a written message. We have our traditions. Other people have their traditions. We say ours are the right ones. They say theirs are the right ways. How do we know with certainty whose beliefs and customs are the right ones? We say that our beliefs and customs are true for us and that their beliefs and customs are true for them. How can two different ways both be true? How can both be right? We say both are right but that does not make sense, does it?

John: Our forefathers gave us stories about creation and we just believed them. We thought they were true. We didn't think about whether or not they were true but we should have. When I heard how God made everything out of nothing, something within me said "that's right, that's true. The teaching you are hearing is truth."

Sara: We use magic to make our gardens grow and to catch fish. We use magical incantations to give us success in hunting. We do things or say things to protect us. Do these really work? If God controls everything, what about the magic we use? Does it really work?

John: That's a very good question. When I heard Teacher tell us how God made everything by his power and knowledge, I thought, "If God controls everything, then our magic is powerless." We need to keep listening to Teacher's teaching and learn the Bible's truth. Our teacher taught us that God controls all of his creation. That means the weather too is controlled by him. I believe that is true. But, our forefathers taught us to use magic to control the natural elements. Is their teaching true? Are we able to control things that the Bible teaches God alone controls? What do you think? Whom shall we believe?

Sara: I believe the Bible is true and we must believe it. That means we need to make a hard choice and believe in God, not in magic or other wrong beliefs.

John: Yes, you are right. When I hear the Bible's message for us, I am convinced in my mind that all it teaches us is right and true.

Sara: After God created everything, he created Adam and Eve. God created Adam first and blew into his nostrils the breath of life and he became alive. Then God made Adam fall asleep and he took out one of his ribs and made Eve from it. Do you think God loved Adam more than he loved Eve?

John: Why do you ask that question?

Sara: Sometimes, all of us women feel like we are not as good as men are. Sometimes attitudes toward us make us feel as though we had less worth than men.

John: Now you are making me think about how God made Adam and Eve. God made all of his creation good including man and woman.

Sara: Yes, that is true. All of God's creation was perfect because God is holy and perfect.

John: I think God had the same love and care for Eve as he had for Adam. The Bible says that God made Adam from the ground then breathed into him the breath of life and Adam became a living soul. No other part of creation became a living soul like Adam did. God made him perfectly. Then God made Eve from one of Adam's ribs because Adam did not have a suitable companion. God made her perfectly. God saw that all of his creation was very good. That means Eve was just as good as Adam and God loved both of them equally. Our forefathers taught us that men are better than women. After listening to the story of God creating everything good, I think our traditional belief is wrong. We need to listen well to all of the teaching so that we will know and believe the truth.

11. Review of the Lesson's Themes

The Bible is the ultimate source of authority. All other sources of authority compete with the Bible's message. That means any other writing or traditional story must be evaluated by the Bible's teachings. It is fundamentally important to believe God's message for us and turn away from stories which compete with God's Word.

God chose to reveal himself to man. God wants people to know who he is. He wants people to have a personal relationship with him. He makes himself known to us through the Bible. If we read the Bible and are taught from it, we can know who God is. God wants everyone to believe in him.

What is God like? God is eternal, sovereign, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, righteous, faithful and immutable. These characteristics distinguish him from other false deities. He does not share his attributes with false gods. He is not one God among many; he is the only true God.

God is not like false gods. God is not capricious, evil, undependable, limited to a location, lacking knowledge, able to be overpowered or able to be tricked. God is totally good and he never changes. This makes him superior to the false gods people serve. False gods are not trustworthy or dependable.

God is Creator of all things and sovereign over all creation. As the Creator of everything, he owns and controls all of his creation. No one can take that control from him because he alone is Almighty God.

All of God's creation was flawless. It was perfect in every way. Because God is totally good, his creation acts were good. Every act of creation, every thing that he made was perfect. Did God have to remake some of his creation or did he get it exactly right the first time? God did not need to remake any of his creation because he is holy and does all things right the first time. Because he is perfect, all of his creation was perfect.

12. Practice telling the Bible Stories

At the end of the lesson, practice telling the story you have just heard. Everyone needs to practice teaching Bible lessons by telling the stories.

In pairs, practice telling the stories of this lesson. One pair should teach the story of one of the stories in the lesson.

The Table of Contents at the beginning of the lesson lists the stories for each lesson. Some of the stories or sections of a story are short so they should be combined with another section to make practice of teaching by using stories profitable.

When you are teaching a lesson by telling the story, use questions and illustrations to keep the story interesting and to make the people think about the lesson's meanings.

Use visual aids or objects used in the lesson when you teach the story. Show the pictures at the right time. When illustrations are used, be sure to bring them to a right and logical conclusion. If you do not make the right conclusions through telling the story, people will likely guess what it means and they could easily come to a wrong conclusion.

13. Teaching Tips for Teachers

In the lesson there are numbered pictures which are like the ones you should show to the people. These pictures are visual illustrations of what you are teaching and should be explained to the people. Prepare ahead of time the pictures you will need in a lesson. When you come to the picture in the lesson, you should stop at a good point in the teaching and show the large picture to the audience.

Lesson Point #1: Tell the audience about your personal belief and trust in the Bible's message. An example of what to say: "My parents, friends (say whoever it was) taught the Bible to me. I believe its message is the most important message for people. Through believing its message, I have found truth that answers these very important questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? What is the meaning and purpose of life? What will happen to me when I die?"

Do not talk about Jesus Christ at this time: It is much too early in this series of lessons to talk about salvation through Jesus Christ. Note: Should you encounter someone who understands their lostness and is ready to trust Christ for salvation, take him aside and teach him the Gospel.

If possible, show the people you are teaching from a Bible: Hold it in your hand and let them see it. Handle it as you teach about the Bible. This will help them see that it is a real object. And, that you are using it, not your own thoughts, as the basis for all teaching.

Use a timeline to help people see history in perspective: Make a long timeline from creation to the present time. Show the audience when the prophets wrote God's Word over a period of 1600 years. Show them when major world events happened such as World War II or other familiar events.

Use a world map or globe to trace how the Bible spread from Israel to the rest of the world: First, point out the country of Israel. Then point to other countries as the Bible spread to them. Finally point to your country of origin show how you traveled to come to them. If possible, hold the Bible in your hand as you speak.

Lesson Point #2: Demonstrate God's self-existence: Some people believe that they need to offer food and drink to their gods. God, however, existed before food and water were created. He did not need any food or drink to sustain him. He is self-existent and greater than all beings. He does not need food, drink, or offerings to support his existence.

Emphasize God is greater than any deity without attacking them for having believed in false gods. God alone is eternal and greater than all beings. He alone can tell us about the beginning of things.

Lesson Point #4: Show the people an object commonly found in their culture: Show the audience an object that many people know how to make such as a woven basket, axe handle, net, etc. Then ask: “What did you use to make this object? Where do you get the materials? Who taught you how to make it? Could you make the object without raw materials?” Emphasize God’s unequaled power by which he made the material universe without any raw materials. This fact teaches of his infinite greatness and superiority to every being.

Worldview tensions: Mythological and traditional stories about the origins should be brought to tension in people’s minds as the truth unfolds by comparing them against the Bible. Do not say, “Your belief is wrong.” Allow the Holy Spirit to convict people about the wrongness of their faulty beliefs. They should be convicted that the biblical story of creation is true and that mythological creation stories are not true. The goal is to have people believe and own the Bible’s teachings and to judge their traditional stories which compete with the Bible, to be wrong. Be aware that animists can easily accept a new story and integrate it into old stories resulting in a non-biblical understanding of God.

Describe a favorite fruit: Name some favorite indigenous fruits and vegetables. Describe how good tasting they are and how people enjoy eating them. Example: Eat a juicy pineapple and talk about how delicious it is and how good God was to make it so tasty. Highlight God’s goodness as you teach about creation. “Why did God make these foods? Was he hungry? Who would eat them?” Emphasize that God is eternal so he did not need any of the food he created to exist. He made them so good because he is holy and good.

Pit the Word of God against cultural beliefs: For example, the Bible says that God created vegetation, plants with fruit with seeds in them. Ask the people, “Did God use an incantation which you say must be used to produce garden crops to empower the plants to bear fruit?” No, God did not use any incantations to create fruit-bearing plants. Since that is true, are the incantations that people use today useful for making crops grow? Are they necessary? Do they work?

At all times, respect the people: Do not belittle anyone for having followed traditional animistic beliefs and practices. Use biblical truth to call into question non-biblical beliefs and practices. Ask questions to lead them to doubt the validity of false beliefs. Use questions and interaction to lead them to deconstruct their faulty beliefs and to lead them

to understand objective truth about the belief, practice or issue in question. Reason, exhort and encourage people to believe what God's Word teaches about the natural world.

Lesson Point #7: Gender roles: When teaching about a suitable helpmeet, use contextually appropriate real-life gender roles to illustrate how each gender and its role contributes to society. For example: "If Adam was alone in the world, who would help him with his food? Who would keep the house clean? Who would he talk to about what he did that day?" Then ask, "What would it be like if only men lived on the earth? Or, if only women lived on the earth?" Create an understanding in the host society of God's perfect order in creation. God made people to be male and female.

Response to the teaching: By the end of this lesson, it is normal to observe various responses and degrees of acceptance of the message. An awe and respect for God should be developing.

Encourage the audience to think about the teaching: Encourage everyone to believe the Bible's message because it is Truth. Tell them you want them to believe God's Word because it is Truth.

An Important Note about Fielding Questions: If you are asked a question which should be answered later in the teaching, defer answering it until the right time for doing so. Consider replying like this: "That's a good question which I'd like to answer later when it will be easier for you to understand. Would that be okay?" Then repeat the question, write it in a notepad and assure the audience it will be answered when it is the right time in the teaching to do so. Later, when it is the right time to answer the question, read the question to the audience and refresh their memories about its context. Then provide the answer. This will reinforce the concept of teaching line upon line, precept upon precept. And it will demonstrate that you care for them.

14. To the Honorable Teacher

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood correctly.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.