

# LESSON 1

Scripture passage: Genesis 1:1-5

## BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

For the first lesson of the semester, the teacher may begin by asking a question such as this: do you have a good lunch with you today? A good sandwich? Or: did you have toast for breakfast? Cereal? Where did it come from? Lead the responses back step by step all the way to the hand of God Who makes the fields of grain to grow and bear fruit. Carry through this same line of questioning with the homes the children live in: from the walls to the lumber to the growing trees, or from the brick to the clay of God's ground. Encourage responses affirming that everything comes from God, because He made all things.

## LESSON MATERIAL

The following four question-words, to be used by the teacher as a guide, will help the organization and the development of the story of creation.

1. CREATION--WHEN? Keep the answer simple: in the beginning. Suggestion: chant Genesis 1:1 with the class. Explain this as long, long ago. God was there, but not the earth. And then the earth was there!
2. CREATION--HOW? God said. Show the difference between God's speaking and ours. Stress the idea of God's creative word. Explain the idea of the wonder.
3. CREATION--WHAT? Heavens and the earth. They did not look then as they do now. Suggestion: stop and look, really look at God's world (from the windows?). In explaining "without form and void," the meaning is not that the earth had no form at all and was completely empty, but that it was not finished. A first grader can understand this concept.

Describe, graphically and in detail, absolute darkness, the pitch darkness of no light at all; and then explain the presence of the Spirit of God brooding on the waters. Take the example of a hen brooding over unhatched eggs so that they will hatch alive. So the Spirit of God brooded to make a living world. Recite Genesis 1:3, and chant with the class again. The darkness of the evening did not "just come." God divided the light and the darkness: He made the night. Stress the creation of the day and night, with their dependability and regularity. You may want to say that God made time, the minutes and the hours, on this day.

Tell, or ask the children why we need light; and show why our wise Creator made light first.

4. CREATION--WHY? Quote, "and God saw that it was good." God's work is always good and perfect because He made it for His own glory. What do we, His children, do? Praise and thank Him for it.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. GOD IS LIGHT. The light of the first day is only a little picture of God as light.
2. GOD MAKES ALL OUR DAYS. Each day we see that He is good, and fill each day with His service.
3. GOD MAKES EVERY MINUTE OF OUR DAYS. How do we use this wonderful creation of God?

4. GOD ALWAYS WAS. Though we cannot fully understand it, we believe it.

#### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Tell in brief and simple terms the unbelievers' theory of evolution. Contrast faith's belief in the God of the wonder. It is not too early to warn against the evolutionistic thinking which surrounds us, and even very young children.
2. Draw a picture of things that need light.

#### MEMORY WORK

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," Genesis 1:1.

#### RESOURCE MATERIAL (FOR TEACHERS)

- \* 1. A. Edersheim, Bible History, Vol. 1 (New York: Fleming H. Revell Co.).
- \* 2. J. Calvin, Commentaries, Vol. 1 (Edinburgh: The Edinburgh Printing Co., 1850).
- 3. H.C. Hoeksema, "In the Beginning, God. . ." (Grand Rapids, Mich.: R.F.P.A., 1966).
- 4. The Standard Bearer A Reformed Semi-Monthly Magazine, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: R.F.P.A.), Vol. 27, pp. 371, 443 (by H. Veldman); Vol. 21, p. 395 (by J. Heys); Vol. 29, p. 239 (by H. Hoeksema); Vol. 40, p. 85 (by H.C. Hoeksema).
- \* 5. Prot. Ref. Theological School, Grandville, Mich., Old Testament History Notes.
- \* 6. H. Hoeksema, Reformed Dogmatics, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: R.F.P.A., 1966).

---

Note: the references preceded by an asterisk will not be repeated in each lesson.

## LESSON 54

Scripture passage: Exodus 9:13-10

### BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In the three plagues of yesterday's lesson, we saw that Jehovah taught Pharaoh that He is Israel's God. Pharaoh had still more to learn: that Jehovah is the only God. Before God sent the next three plagues, He had a sermon for Pharaoh, which He preached through Moses and Aaron: God talked right to Pharaoh in this sermon. He said: you must know that there is none like Me; I might have struck all the Egyptians dead with a sore disease (this is the meaning of vs. 15); but instead I am keeping you alive so that I can show my power in you to the whole world; and are you still trying to fight me, Pharaoh? We know that Pharaoh could not fight God; for soon Almighty God will drop him to his death in the Red Sea.

### LESSON MATERIAL

These three plagues may be too much for one day's lesson.

#### 1. SEVENTH PLAGUE.

- a. Moses raised his rod to heaven, and the Lord sent thunder, lightning, hail, and fire. No one in Egypt had ever seen a storm such as this.
- b. God had given a warning to take the animals out of the fields. Those who feared God's Word did. The rest of the animals, left outside, died.
- c. This was a dreadful plague. The thunder was the voice of God's judgment, and He sent His fire creeping along the ground to destroy plants and trees, and also the crops of barley and flax.
- d. The land of Goshen had no storm at all.
- e. Pharaoh called Moses and said, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. If the Lord will take away the storm, I will let you go." Though this sounds as if Pharaoh was sorry, look closely at what he said: "I have sinned this time." What about all the other times? He knew he was wicked, but was he sorry about it?
- g. Moses gave him this sign: as soon as Moses was out of the city, he would ask God to stop the terrible storm. And God did.
- h. Ask the children whether Pharaoh kept his promise, and show how empty his admission of sin was.

#### 2. EIGHTH PLAGUE.

- a. Before this plague started, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and asked him why he would not be humble before the Lord, and let the people go.
- b. They told Pharaoh beforehand how awful this plague would be (vss. 5 & 6).
- c. Pharaoh seemed to pay no attention to their talking, but his servants were afraid, and begged Pharaoh to let the people go. However, they blamed the wrong man: Moses instead of Pharaoh.
- d. To please his servants, Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron back and told them to go serve the Lord. Then he added a "but." But who will go? He was willing to let the men go, but no more people.
- e. When Moses and Aaron insisted that everyone should go, he drove them out of the palace.
- f. The Lord sent an east wind all day and all night; the next morning the

land became dark with the waves of grasshoppers. They covered the whole land and ate everything in their path. Note the resemblance of grasshoppers to horses. They were pictures of armies sent by God's judgment to destroy the land.

- g. Egypt became a desert, with every green thing destroyed. Now there would be famine and starvation.
  - h. Pharaoh said he was sorry, but only because he was afraid Moses would not ask God to take away the plague.
  - i. God sent a strong west wind which blew the grasshoppers into the Red Sea. Not one remained in Egypt. And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart.
3. NINTH PLAGUE.
- a. Moses stretched his hand toward heaven and the Lord sent thick darkness.
  - b. This special darkness was the kind of darkness that was before the Lord created light. No lights would pass through this darkness. It could be felt.
  - c. We need light in order to live. God sent this special darkness as a picture of death and of the horrible darkness of hell.
  - d. There was light, a special, God-given light, in the homes of the Israelites. It shone out of their homes into the darkness around. That, too, was a great wonder of God that He shone His light only on His people.
  - e. The darkness lasted three days.
  - f. Then Pharaoh called Moses and told them to go, but to leave their animals in Egypt. When Moses refused, Pharaoh angrily told him not to see his face again. And Moses agreed.

#### POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1. The light which God shone inside the homes of the Israelites is a picture of the light He shines in our hearts. The light He shines in our hearts is His salvation in Jesus Christ. For Jesus is our Light, and He will lead us to heaven, where darkness will be gone forever.
- 2. In chapter 10:2 the Lord told Moses to pay attention to all God's wonder so that he could teach his children, and they could teach their children to fear the Lord. Still today we teach you children the wonders of Jehovah. Otherwise you would not know that He is Lord.

#### MEMORY WORK

"The Lord is my light and my salvation," Psalm 27:1a.

#### RESOURCE MATERIAL

The Standard Bearer, Vol. 11, p. 199 (by G.M. Ophoff); Vol 7, p. 217  
(by H. Hoeksema); Vol. 37, pp. 298, 345 (by B. Woudenberg).

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REVIEW

## SOME GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What did God create on Day 1? Day 2? ...through Day 7?
2. Why do we need light?
3. What is the firmament?
4. What are the waters below?
5. Can you name three light-holders?
6. Who is the "Star out of Jacob"?
7. What living souls did the Lord bring forth from the waters?
8. What does made "in God's image" mean?
9. How did God create Adam? Eve?
10. What is a name for man's first home?
11. What two trees were in the middle of the garden?
12. What does God want us to do on the day of rest?
13. Who came into the serpent to tempt Eve?
14. What did God say would happen if they ate of the forbidden tree?
15. Whom did God promise He would send to save them?
16. What are the names of the two boys God gave Adam and Eve?
17. What kind of sacrifice did Cain bring?
18. What kind of sacrifice did Abel bring?
19. Of what was Abel's sacrifice a picture?
20. Why did Cain kill Abel?
21. What was his punishment?
22. What were the people in Cain's line interested in?
23. What was Enoch interested in?
24. What happened to Enoch?
25. What does "violence" mean?
26. How many years did Noah preach to the wicked?
27. Who went into the ark?
28. How did God shut the door of the ark?
29. What happened to the first world?
30. What kind of bird did Noah send out the first time?
31. The second time?
32. How long did Noah and his family stay in the ark?
33. What was the first thing Noah did when he came out of the ark?
34. What sign did God set in the heavens?
35. What was Noah's sin after he came from the ark?
36. What was Ham's sin?
37. Why did Nimrod want to build the tower of Babel?
38. Why did God change the languages there?

MEMORY WORK

Genesis 1:1	In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.	
Psalms 104:2	...who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain,	
Psalms 148:3	Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.	
Exodus 19:4	I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.	
Genesis 2:18	It is not good that man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him.	
Hebrews 4:4	And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.	
I Corinthians 15:22	For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.	
Proverbs 15:8	The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.	
Genesis 5:22	And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.	
Genesis 6:8	But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.	
Psalms 4:8	I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.	
Genesis 9:13	I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.	
Psalms 20:7	Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.	
Job 1:21	The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.	
Job 19:25	For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.	
Psalms 27:14	Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.	
Hebrews 11:10	For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.	
I John 2:15a	Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.	
Psalms 73:26a	My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart.	
Genesis 15:1b	I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.	
Genesis 16:13	Thou God seest me.	

## SOME TRUE AND FALSE STATEMENTS

1. God always was.
2. God divided the light from the darkness.
3. Firmament means water.
4. God called the dry land "earth."
5. Man is king on the earth, under God.
6. Adam was lonely because he had no wife.
7. The first woman's name was Sarah.
8. Adam and Eve might eat of the tree of life.
9. Adam and Eve might eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
10. On the day of rest, God tells us to do nothing.
11. Eve listened to Satan, and sinned.
12. The One whom God promised to save Adam and Eve was Jesus.
13. Cain and Abel both offered sacrifices to God.
14. God liked both sacrifices.
15. Abel offered a lamb to God.
16. Cain killed Abel.
17. Cain was sorry for his sin.
18. Enoch walked with God.
19. Enoch died.
20. The wicked men believed that God would send a flood.
21. Noah believed that God would send a flood.
22. God sent rain for 40 days and 40 nights.
23. Noah and his family were in the ark a year and ten days.
24. The world we live in will last forever.
25. The rainbow was a sign that God would never send a flood over the whole world again.
26. All of Noah's sons loved the Lord.
27. The people built Babel because they loved the Lord.
28. At Babel the Lord scattered the people over the whole earth.
29. Job was a God-fearing, righteous man.
30. He had thousands of animals and many children.
31. The Lord let him keep his children and animals.
32. The Lord made Job very sick.
33. Job sometimes complained to the Lord.
34. The Lord let Satan do all this evil to Job.
35. Job died in his sickness.
36. God made Job twice as rich as he was before.
37. God called Abram to leave his home in Ur.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAP WORK, LESSON 23

1. If they are able, have the pupils themselves label the following:
  - a. Great Sea (this is probably better at this age than "Mediterranean")
  - b. Jordan River
  - c. Dead Sea
  - d. Mamre (underneath the X)

With careful guidance, they should be able to do this.

2. Color the Great Sea and Dead Sea blue. Trace the Jordan River with blue crayon, too. Color the land of Canaan between the Jordan River and the Great Sea light green.

## INSTRUCTION FOR OUTLINE MAP, LESSON 37

The teacher will read (and explain, if necessary) the instructions.

1. There are two countries on this map, Canaan and Egypt.
2. Find Canaan by looking for the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.
3. Put a red X on the Jordan River and a blue X on the Dead Sea.
4. Write "Dothan" under the X on the map. Tell what happened there.
5. Look at the middle of your map, nearest to your left hand. The country with a river that looks as if it fans out is Egypt. Write the name "Egypt" over the fan of rivers.
6. Now make a road from Dothan to Egypt. Color it brown. This is the way Joseph traveled.
7. The teacher may use discretion in having the children color the rest of the map, e.g., the Great Sea blue, the desert area between the two countries tan, etc.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAP WORK, LESSON 46

1. This is the land of Egypt.
2. Trace the river and the little rivers that fan out from it in blue crayon.
3. Next to the river, print the word Nile.
4. Under the circle print the name of the city of Pithom.
5. Under the square print the name of the city of Raamses.
6. Write Goshen next to the dotted lines.
7. Color the Great Sea blue.
8. Color Egypt light green.



For Lesson 23

