






**Sample Packet
for
Created in Christ**

Created in Christ

by Pax Domini Press

Introduction

Created in Christ is a VBS program by Pax Domini Press on Christian identity. The structure of each lesson is (1) Creation, (2) Fall, (3) New Creation in Christ. The outline of the lessons is as follows:

Lesson	Image	Text	Theme
1		Genesis 1: 26-27, 2: 4-7	I am flesh and blood; God made me in my flesh and blood, but my body returns to the dust because of sin. So much did God treasure His creation that He became a man. Now, I will rise again from the dead. In my flesh I shall see God.
2		Genesis 2: 18-25.	I am male or female; I am in a family; God made me from a male and female and has placed me in a family. After the fall (Cain and Abel), families are broken. Christ has placed us in a new family, with Him as the eldest brother and His Father as our Father.
3		Genesis 1: 1-10, 2: 19	I am a communicator; God made us in His image, and even as He brought His creation into being through the Word, so does man participate in that creative process by naming the animals. Communication is a divine gift. After the fall, man abused this gift too at the tower of Babel. But on the day of Pentecost, when the Gospel was heard in all languages, God reversed the curse by creating the Church.
4		Genesis 1: 27-28	I am a ruler of the earth; God made us to have dominion over the earth and to subdue it. After the fall, the earth became cursed, and thorns and thistles it would produce. But Christ bore these curses, and now through the produce of the earth (grain and grape), He gives us a taste of the new creation in His body and blood.
5		Genesis 4	I am a caller on the name of the Lord; I am baptized; I am a saint; God made us to receive His gifts as we call upon His name. After the fall, Cain's way of worship ends in destruction, but Seth's worship of invoking the Lord's name leads to Christ and our being put in the Book of Life.

Why is this theme important?

Created in Christ is a powerfully-themed VBS which challenges the new “identity” religion sweeping across modern culture. According to “identity” religion, one’s Self is an autonomous thing not bound by any definitions from God, from family, or even one’s own body. Even language is something we should be freed from. By contrast, this VBS teaches that our identity is found as God has created us, in the flesh, in families, male or female. True, the world is fallen so our flesh, our families, and even our genders become broken, but Christ has redeemed the created order, and in the Church our true identity is restored.

The culture is catechizing our children whether we like or not. This program – as all Pax Domini Press programs – aims to fortify Christian children in the face of an increasingly antagonistic culture.

How do Pax Domini Programs work?

Pax Domini VBS programs come in electronic files, either on a CD or downloaded from our website at paxdominipress.com. Included in the files are the following:

1. Four levels of workbook material, 20 pages each
 - Level 1, ages 4-5
 - Level 2, ages 6-7
 - Level 3, ages 8-9
 - Level 4, ages 10-12
2. Teachers’ editions for each level, with extra material and more guidance for Level 1 material
3. Activity sheets for Level 1 activities and extra materials for other levels if need be
4. Chapel bulletins for each day based on the order of matins
5. Puppet show script for each day
6. Recreation ideas that fit the theme of the program
7. Craft instructions

Pax Domini programs are “do-it-yourself.” Everything is included for a congregation with a color copy machine to self-publish the program itself. Rights are given the congregation to produce as many copies as required for the program.

Pax Domini crafts are designed to be durable and made of organic materials, as is fitting our eternal and holy Lord. Materials like wood, glass, ceramic, mosaic pieces, cloth, and plaster are used. Most materials can easily be found at a craft supply store.

Crafts, workbooks, and T-shirts are available at paxdominipress.com for congregations who may not have access to the required supply stores.

Our prices are as follows;

Program	\$150
Workbooks	\$5.99/workbook
Crafts	\$9-\$15/craft
T-Shirts	\$14.50-\$17.50/T-shirt

How do I order?

Go to paxdominipress.com and browse our nine VBS programs, three Sunday School curricula, and other items.

Items can be ordered on a CD and shipped, or downloaded directly from the website.

There are several payment options, including credit card and paypal. Also, the buyer can select to be invoiced with no payment at time of purchase.

Craft

What is the craft?

The craft is a miniature baptismal font, in front of a cross with a dove representing the Holy spirit on it, and a banner saying "I am baptized." The meaning of the craft is that our identity is in Christ, as we are born again – made a new creation – in the waters of Holy Baptism. The Christian's identity is as one marked and redeemed by Christ the crucified.



How can a congregation make this craft?

This craft can be made by any congregation which has someone proficient with a table saw. The wooden cross is cut out, and the mold to make the font is cut out as well at precise angles. The rest of the craft can be made from materials purchased at any craft store.

The craft can also be ordered from paxdominipress.com for \$9.00. The font mold needs to be ordered separately from paxdominipress.com for \$8.00. Pending on how much time is available to pour molds, a congregation will want to purchase one mold per 10-20 children.



A L I V I N G B E I N G



Lesson 1

Genesis 1: 27

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

Level 1 Sample

Introduction

Look at the picture above. It shows hands forming a man with a dove. The hands are God's hands. God's hands form the man. The dove is the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit gives life to the man.

Now let's look at the Bible passage for the day. "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

God created you!
Whether you are a little boy or a little girl, God created you! Did you know He began creating you even before you were born? He began creating you in your mommy's belly!

How special to be made by God Himself. How special to be made in His image. No animal is made in God's image, but you are. Today we are going to learn how God made man.



I Am Flesh and Blood

Let us say together: "I am flesh and blood."

How did God make us? God made the very first man and the very first woman long, long ago. But before God made the first man and the first woman, He made all the other creatures.



In the beginning, there was nothing but darkness and a big, watery sludge of a mess! There were no birds or fishes, no animals, no sun, moon, or stars, no land or seas.

But then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. He divided the light from the darkness, and then He named the light "day" and the darkness He called "night."

Soon God made the land and seas. Then He put the sun, moon, and stars in the sky. After that He made the birds and fishes; He put the fishes in the seas and the birds He put in the sky. Finally, on the last day, He created all the animals that live on the land.

He created all these things in six days. But still He had not created man and woman. Man and woman were a very special creation. God made the male and female in His own image, unlike any of the other animals.

Here is how He made the man. A mist went up from the earth and watered all the ground. The ground was not dry, but moist.

The Lord used the dust of the ground, and He formed man. Then He breathed into the man's nostrils the breath of life. The man became a living being!





The Lord creates Adam in His image (Jesus)

I Am in God's Image

Now let us say together: "I am in God's image."

God made us from the dust of the earth and put His own breath of life into us. He made us to be just as Jesus was. Jesus is God's Son, and Jesus was flesh and blood also. Jesus was God's Son forever. We are created in Christ Jesus to be His sons and daughters just like Jesus.

I Am Dust...

Did you ever wonder what your body is made of? Did you know that it is made from the dust of the earth, just as the Bible says? You are made of dust, water, and the breath of God's Spirit.

When people die, God's Spirit no longer gives them life. And then they are buried and return to the dust from which they came.

How sad when someone dies! Why do people die? All people die because long ago, the first man and the first woman sinned against God. They disobeyed God. It was like they said, "We don't need you anymore, God!" So God said, "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

Let us say together: "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

...But in My Flesh I Shall See God

God does not like it when people die. God does not like to see the people He created buried in the ground. He wants to give them life again.

This is why God sent Jesus, His Son, to save us. Jesus died on the cross for all our sins, and then three days later He rose from the dead. Then forty days later He ascended back into heaven. Because He lives forever, we too shall live forever.



One day, Jesus will return from heaven. A trumpet will sound over all the land, and then Jesus will raise up all the dead. Those who believed in Him and are baptized will have renewed bodies. All there aches and pains will be gone. They will be able to see without glasses. They will never cry. The old will be young again. We will live forever and ever with Jesus!



AND GOD SAID



Lesson 3

Proverbs 15: 4

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life,
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Level 2 Sample

Introduction

Let us review what we have learned. Complete the sentence on the left with the word or phrase on the right:

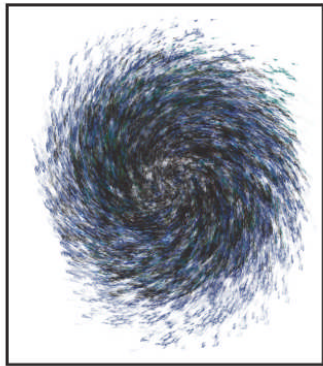
- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. I am made in God's... | the dust. |
| 2. God made me either... | mother and father. |
| 3. Because of sin, I will return to... | image. |
| 4. Because Jesus rose from the dead, I will... | heavenly Father. |
| 5. God made me through my... | male or female. |
| 6. When I am baptized, God becomes my... | rise from the dead. |

Today we will learn how special it is that we can talk. Animals cannot talk, but we can. God gave us the gift of talking. Today we will learn why talking is such a great gift.

I Am a Communicator

Read Genesis 1: 1-10, and Genesis 2: 19. On the following page, label each picture with the following letters:

- Everything was formless and void.
- God spoke, and light was created.
- God divided the light from the darkness.
- God named what He created.



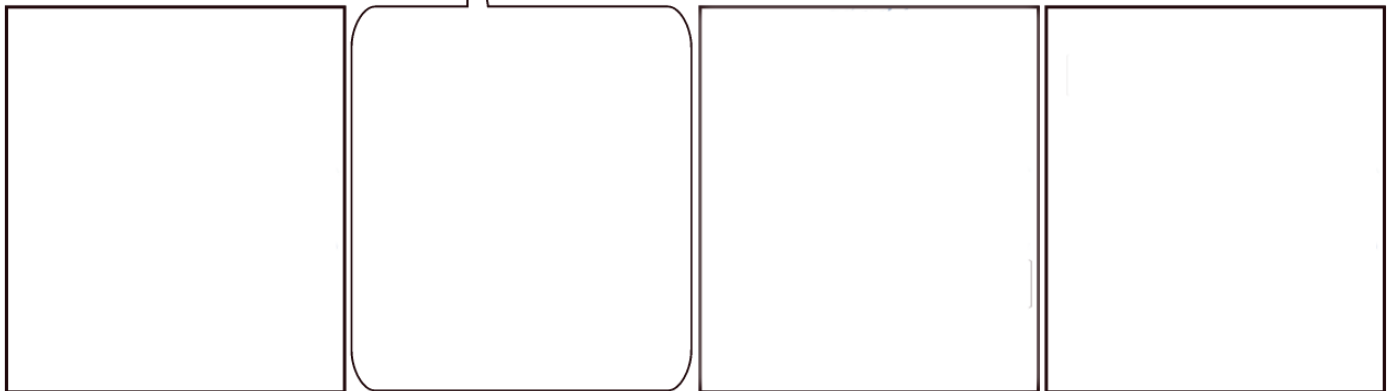
Let there be light.



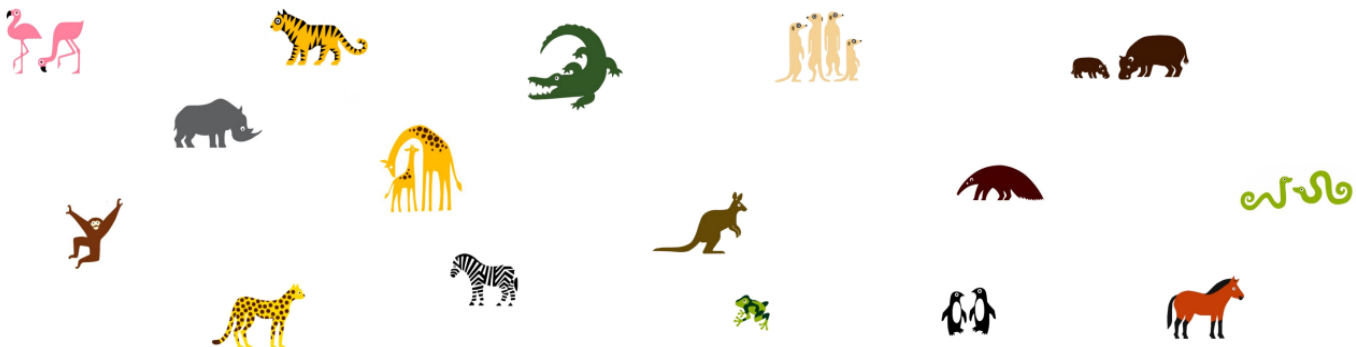
Now follow the instructions and draw a picture of what happened when God made the earth and seas:

- Frame 1: Draw a circle (the earth) with greens and blues all scribbled together in a mess.
- Frame 2: Write "Let the land appear."
- Frame 3: Draw a circle now with the land (green) separated from the seas (blue).
- Frame 4: Name the green "earth" and the blue "seas."

Then God said,



Now do exactly what Adam did, and label the animals:



Now lets play a game. One child will think of an unusual animal that was not labeled. The other children must try to guess which animal he is thinking. The children get **ONE CHANCE** to figure out what the first student is thinking.

What is the one way the other children could know what the first one was thinking?

How important words are! God spoke a word and the world was created. Then God named what He created. Adam also named the animals. Adam is made in God's image, so he does things that God did, like naming the animals as God named the light.

Imagine having a friend but never talking to him. Would he really be a friend? What if your mom never spoke to you? How sad that would be!

Words have the power to bring two people together. Two people can become friends just by talking.

Does God talk to us? Yes He does, because He loves us. He is our Father and friend.

Jesus is God's Word to us. Jesus is how God speaks to us. Jesus is how God communicates with us.



Write down some things that God "says" to us in the Person of Jesus:

In what book do we learn all about Jesus and what He speaks to us? _____

Could we learn about Jesus without words? _____

Where do we hear the preaching and teaching of the Word? _____



The Tower of Babel

Words are very important. God gave Adam and Eve the power to talk. But after Adam and Eve sinned, words could be used for evil. Words could be used against God.

One day long ago, people got together and said, “Let us make a name for ourselves! Let us build a great tower that reaches into heaven!” This was the Tower of Babel.

God did not want the people to think this way. He wanted them to trust in Him, not in themselves. So He went down and scrambled the languages.

Imagine one man saying to another, “Give me a hammer.” But the other man hears it as, “daj mi mlotek.” How hard would it be to do anything together!

So the people gave up building their Tower of Babel and were scattered over the earth. Those who spoke the same language stuck together and made their own nations.

The Curse Reversed

Jesus died on the cross, and three days He rose again from the dead. Forty days later, He ascended into heaven. Then, ten days later, He sent the Holy Spirit to create the Church. This day is called Pentecost.

On Pentecost, a great miracle happened. The apostles spoke about Jesus in many different languages! People from all over the world could understand the word of Jesus.

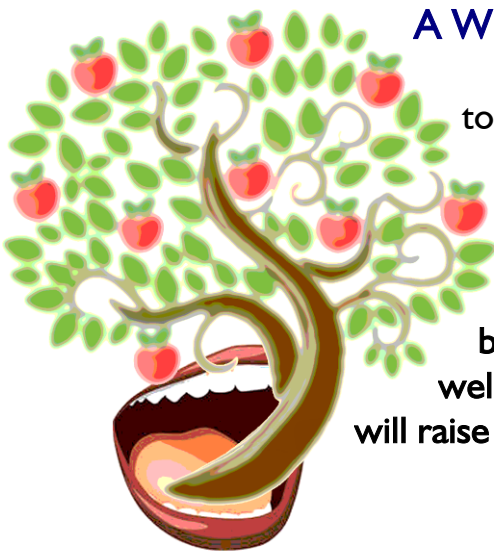
Today, the Church still speaks about Jesus all over the world. The Gospel is preached in thousands of languages. The Bible is also printed in thousands of languages.

The curse of Babel is ended! Now, people are not divided because of language. Now, people are brought together as one in the Church.

A Wholesome Tongue Is a Tree of Life

Let us look at our memory verse. It says, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

Practice using your mouth as a Tree of Life. Think of one kind thing to say to your classmates. The kind thing can be about the classmate, or if you don't know the classmate well, you can just say a kind word, like, “Isn't it great that Jesus will raise us from the dead one day?”



Fill the Earth...



...and Subdue It

Lesson 4

Genesis 1: 28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."

Level 3 Sample

Introduction

Summarize what we have learned so far by drawing a line from the image in the first column to the correct image in the second and third columns:

How God Made Us



I am flesh and blood; made in God's image



I am male or female; a member of a family



I speak to others; I am in community

How Sin Ruins Things



Families are broken



Communities are broken



My flesh returns to dust

How Jesus Fixes Things



Christ is my brother; God is my Father



Jesus raises me; in my flesh I shall see God



The Church speaks in one faith, one voice

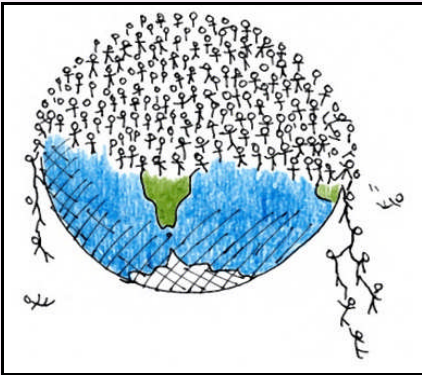
I Am a Ruler of the Earth

Read Genesis 1: 27-28. What relationship was man and woman to have with the earth?

God created man and woman, and then He blessed them. He told them to fill the earth and subdue it. To subdue means to rule. How does this happen?

Imagine a farmer. Without him doing anything, his farm field will grow weeds or trees that do nothing for man. Many people will starve if the farmer does nothing to the farm field.

Soon the farmer plows the earth and plants seeds. He takes control over the land with plow and harvester. He has subdued it, just as God commanded. Animals can't do this! Only man can subdue the earth. Just as God brought man out of the dust of the earth, so does man bring life out of the dust of the earth as he subdues it. This is another way we are made in God's image.



Once people feared that humans were having too many children. Even though God said "Fill the earth and subdue it," many people said, "No! Stop having children! There's not enough food and water for everyone!"

This was back in the 1970s. Since then the population of the earth has doubled. There must be a lot of starving people! Instead, fewer and fewer people are starving each year. Farmers have grown more than enough food for everyone.

How can this be?

Scientists have figured out ways to make the earth grow more food than before. They've figured out how to kill pests and stop flooding. Other people have figured out ways to make food cheaper.

This is what it means to "subdue the earth." It means to take care of the earth and make it produce life for the sake of people.



What is Your Calling?

Lots of people are needed to make the earth produce life for other people. Think of all the people needed to make your slice of pizza. A farmer grows the grain for the crust and the tomatoes for the sauce. He raises the cows to make cheese and pigs to butcher for sausage and pepperoni.

Engineers design machines to process these foods. A trucker delivers foods from one place to another. Workmen unload it.

Chefs make a recipe for tasty pizza. Artists design the label for the pizza box. Workers had to make the pizza. A delivery person had to bring it to your house.

Meanwhile, bankers protect the money the pizza store makes. On and on we could go. Teachers taught skills to each of these people. Pastors teach them that life is more than this world and give them hope in a world of sin and death.



What is your calling?

Have you ever thought that the math you are learning today might one day help feed the world? Have you ever thought that you might invent something that will help others? This is what it means to subdue the earth.

Violence between the Earth and Man

After Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord said to Adam, "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground."

So now, when man subdues the earth, the earth fights back with thorns and thistles! Now, it's as if man and the earth are at war.

Think of three ways the earth (and nature) beat up on man?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Think of three ways man and woman beat up on the earth?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Peace on Earth: Jesus Redeems the Earth

When Jesus was born, the angels sang, "Peace on earth goodwill toward men." Jesus came to bring peace between man and the earth.

Think of the death of Christ and answer the following questions:

How did Jesus bear the curse given to Adam?

When did Jesus sweat in a garden so bad that it was like blood dropping to the earth?

When did Jesus bear on Himself thorns?

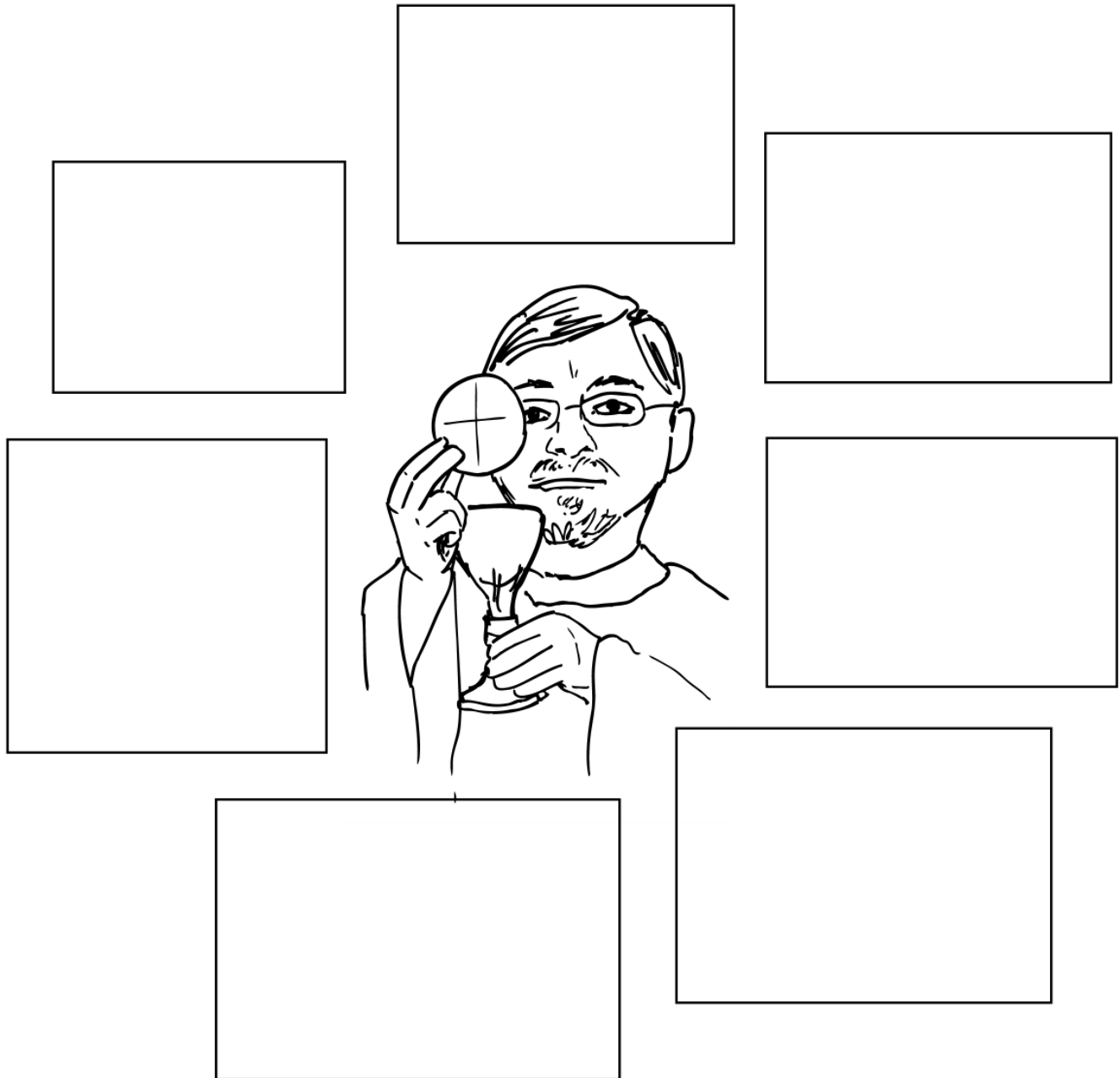
Jesus took upon Himself the curse of the earth so that there might be peace between man and the earth. Jesus died for our sins and gave out His body and blood to create peace between us and God. Jesus uses elements of the earth to give us His body and blood.

What does Jesus use to give us His body and blood?



Activity: The Earthly Elements of Peace

In the illustration below, draw pictures or write words describing some of the things that happen for Jesus to be able to give us His body and blood. (For instance, someone picks grapes in a vineyard, or trucks deliver grain to a baker, or a man goes to seminary to learn how to be a pastor.)



The New Creation

Sometimes communion is called a “foretaste of the feast to come.” That means we get a taste of how things will one day be. After Jesus returns, He will create a new heavens and a new earth. There will be no hunger, no war, no sadness, or no death. Then we will be at peace with the new world.





Lesson 5

Acts 2: 21

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

Level 4 Sample

Introduction



We are learning about our identity. God created us with our identities. We learn much about our identity by looking at how things were before the fall into sin.

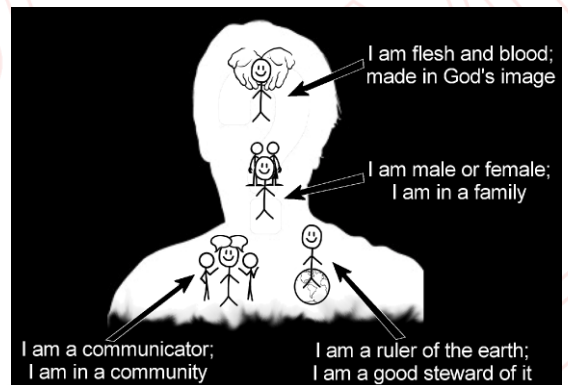
For instance, God made Adam and Eve in His own image. He made them in flesh and blood by shaping dust into the form of a human, and then breathing the spirit of life into him. We are flesh and blood, made in God's image.

God made Adam and Eve male and female. He also made us male or female. Male and female are the basis of a family, for a male and female get married and have children. This is a big part of our identity!

God gave Adam the charge to name the animals. We too have the power of speaking. Speaking allows us to communicate with others, and therefore build communities.

And God told Adam and Eve to fill the earth and subdue it. We too subdue the earth when we gain mastery over it in our jobs and callings.

This is how God made us, but sin has destroyed everything. Our bodies return to dust. Families break apart. Communities speak past each other. The earth fights back with thorns, thistles, hurricanes, earthquakes, and all sorts of other things when we try to subdue it, and we often abuse the earth too.



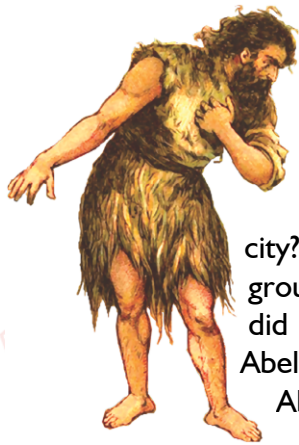
This is why God came to earth through Jesus Christ, His eternal Son. He came to recreate everything that we by our sins broke. He will raise us in the flesh one day. He puts us into a new family: His Father is our Father; He is our eldest brother. He uses the elements of the earth – grain and grape; bread and wine – as a means of peace, His body and blood given for our sins.

Today we learn one final part of our identity. We are callers on the name of the Lord.



I Am a Caller on the Name of the Lord

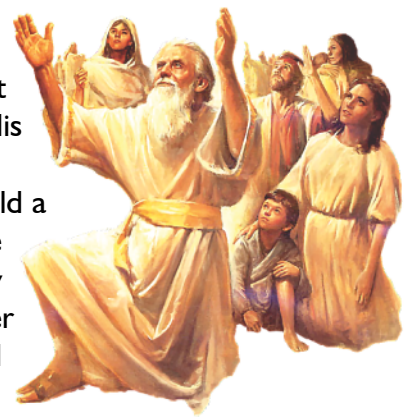
Let's listen to the story of two sons, Cain and Seth. Cain and Seth were the sons of Adam and Eve. Their story is the story of how to worship the Lord God. Cain shows us the wrong way to worship the Lord. Seth shows us the right way to worship the Lord.



Cain

Cain built a city, and his family did many great things. They invented music and metalwork. They learned how to raise livestock. But Cain never acknowledged the Lord or called upon His name in thanksgiving or praise.

Let's back up a bit. Why did Cain build a city? He built a city because God had cursed him from the ground. Cain couldn't farm so he had to build a city! Why did God curse him? Because Cain killed his first brother Abel. He killed him because he was jealous God liked Abel's sacrifice better than Cain's. So, we might say that Cain always had a problem worshiping the Lord.



Seth and his family

Cain did not call upon the name of the Lord in faith. We do not hear much about Cain's family after a few generations. His descendants all died in the flood. His name was forgotten. As the Psalm says, "In the generation following let their name be blotted out." Or as Jesus says, "Whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

Seth was different. Seth and his descendants called upon the name of the Lord. We don't hear about the great things Seth and his descendants did on earth. They didn't build great cities or invent great things. All they did was have children, and then die. But they called on the name of the Lord.

Seth's ancestral line survived the flood, because Noah was one of Seth's descendants. In fact, Seth's ancestral line went all the way down to Jesus Himself! The Bible lists every name between Seth and Jesus! We can read it in Luke 3. The Lord remembered the name of Seth and his descendants.

As Jesus says, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." And again, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."

To review, fill out the chart:

	Cain's Family	Seth's Family
What earthy success did these families have?		
How did they worship the Lord?		
What happened to their family name?		

Baptized into His Name: I Am a Saint

We have learned about the day of Pentecost. This was the day God reversed the curse of Babel. The apostles of Jesus preached the one Gospel in many different languages, so the Church is now a community of many nations, peoples, and tongues.

Today we learn what one of the apostles, St. Peter, preached on that day. He preached that on this special day, the day when the Holy Spirit was outpoured, it would be that everyone who called on the name of the Lord would be saved. They would be saved because Jesus is Lord and King, and He came to earth to die

for our sins, rise again, and now He is seated at God's right hand. One day He will return to judge the living and the dead. Those who reject His name will be lost forever.

After preaching these words, the people were cut to the heart and said, "What shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children."

How do we call on the Lord's name in baptism? What words are said in baptisms that are a calling on the name of the Lord? Write them out here:

We don't just get baptized and then stop calling on the Lord's name. No, this is something we do our whole lives. Once, St. Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth. Look how he began the letter: "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord."

Calling on the name of the Lord is a huge part of our identity. We are baptized in His name, and we call upon His name, and this means our salvation! It is how we are saints.

Here are some ways we call upon the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit during church. Match up the word or phrase in the left column with the hint in the right column.

Invocation

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis

Creed

Sanctus

Prayer of the Church

Benediction

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

I believe in God the Father...Son...and Holy Spirit.

We call upon the Lord's name in prayer.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you...

Holy, Holy, Holy

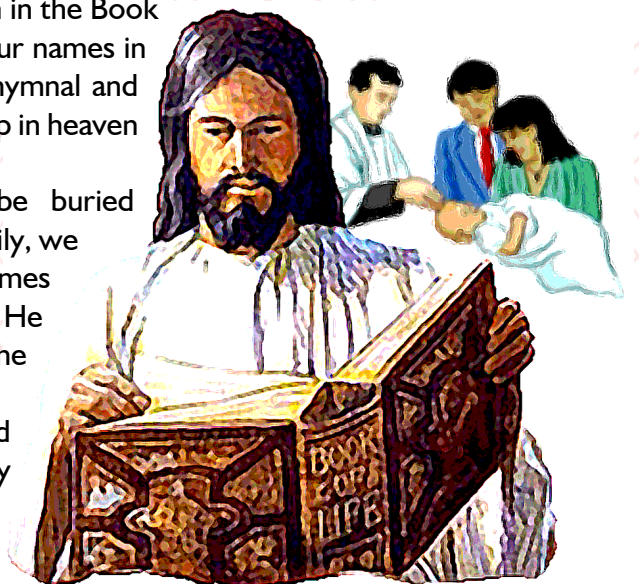
Glory be to God on high

Our Names in the Book of Life

When we are baptized, our names are written in the Book of Life. As we confess Jesus' name on earth, He confesses our names in heaven. Think about it! As we read the Creed from the hymnal and confess the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus is up in heaven reading our name in his own book!

When Jesus returns one day, we may be buried somewhere and long forgotten by this world. Like Seth's family, we will have died. But Jesus has not forgotten our names! Our names are written in His book; He cannot forget them! When He returns He will raise our bodies and those who are written in the Book of Life will live forever with their name.

Sadly, those who forget the Lord's name and who do not call upon it will not be in the Book of Life. They will be judged according to their evil deeds, and their names will be forgotten forever. Like Cain, perhaps they did great things in this world, but they will be lost forever.



Activity: Discussion on Identity

Discuss the following situations according to what we have learned about identity:



When Cathy Schlochngfield was a young girl, her parents knew she had a great voice. Cathy was baptized and believed in Jesus, so her parents encouraged her to sing in the church choir. She did this, but when she became an older teen, Cathy said, "I don't like doing what my parents make me do. I don't even like my family name. I want to go out and make a name for myself. I will rename myself Katy Bee, be a famous diva, make millions of dollars, and do my own thing. Singing at church never did anything for me. This is who I am! No one can tell me who I am!"

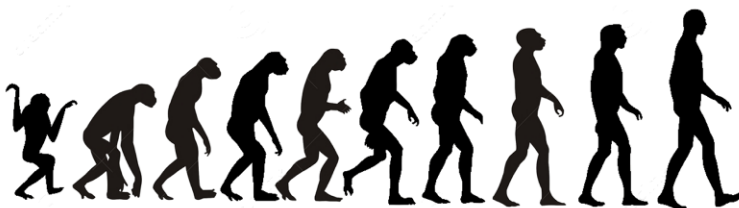
Charlie never liked his body. First, he believed he was really a girl, but in a boy's body, so he had surgery to make himself a girl. Second, he believed his spirit was trapped in his body, so he couldn't wait to die and be freed from his body. Third, he decided that his skin was his to do whatever he wanted with, so he put all sorts of tattoos, markings, and piercings over it. Finally, he told his friends that when he died, they should cremate him and flush his ashes down the toilet. "This flesh is just a shell. It's not really who I am."

Angie was confused and very sad. Her parents got divorced when she was 9, so she spent a lot of her time going back and forth between her parents. One parent went to church; the other one didn't. She didn't do very well in school, so she didn't know what she wanted to do for a job one day. She lived in a community with lots of crime, so she was afraid to go outside and play. She spent a lot of time inside playing video games on the computer. As she became older, she became very confused. She said, "I don't know who I am! Will someone tell me who I am and why I'm here?"



At school one day, Jerry heard his teacher say some strange things. She said, "We humans should not think we're so special. We're just animals. But we're worse than the other animals, because we build factories and mine the earth. We destroy our world! We are like a virus on the earth. Perhaps it would be good if one day we all became extinct. This is why it is good not to have children. There needs to be less people on the earth, so that we don't consume all the earth's resources." Jerry went home to his mom and said, "Is that what I am? Am I really a virus on this world?"

Jim and Miguel are having an argument. Jim says, "I believe we are what God made us to be. He has given us our bodies, made us male or female, put us in a family, and given us a name. Not only that, but He has baptized us and made us holy through Jesus Christ. So important are our bodies that Jesus became one of us, and one day He will raise us from the dead." Miguel says, "No, I believe God has nothing to do with who we are. We evolved from nothingness. Everything is random. It's just by chance that we are born in the families we have. It's just by chance that we're male or female. We create ourselves. Think of yourself as a blank canvas. You are not what others say you are. You make yourself to be whatever you want to be."



OR



???

Puppet Show Sample

Lesson One A Living Being

Set-up: Nickolai is up on the stage alone doing some strange Eastern meditation exercise as if in the lotus position. He believes he's having an out of body experience.

Nickolai: Ommmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmmmmmm.

[Jessie pops up on the stage.]

Jessie: Hey, Nickolai! Whatcha doing?

Nickolai [ignoring Jessie]: Ommmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmmmmmm. Ommmmmmmm.

Jessie [speaking more loudly]: Nickolai! What in heaven's name are you doing?! Wake up, you nuttball!

Nickolai: [speaking softly and peacefully, as if in a trance-like state]: Please, Jessie, I'm centering myself. I'm getting in touch with my inner chakra.

Jessie: Inner chakra??!!

Nickolai: Yes, O doubting one. I'm trying to free myself from my body and surf the cosmic waves of energy.

Jessie: You're trying to free yourself from your body??!! That's impossible, Nickolai. You ARE your body. How can you not be in your body?

Nickolai: Ahhhh, I'm doing it right now. Right now I'm over there in the back corner....now I'm over there by the students...now I'm right behind you, Jessie. Surfing the cosmic waves of energy gives me an enlightened perspective. Soon I shall ascend through the cosmic portal and leave you forever. My body will remain here as the shell that it is....ommmmmmmmmmm... ommmmmmmmmmmmmm

Jessie [shaking Nickolai out of his trance]: Allow me to slam that cosmic portal shut and bring you back to reality! Wake up, Nikolai, you furry freak!

Nickolai: You cannot wake me up, Jessie. I am not here in my body. I am not my body. My body here is just a shell of who I really am.

Jessie: Oh, really! So, if I do this... [Jessie goes over and bites Nickolai really hard.]

Nickolai [snapping out of meditation]: OW!! Jessie, why did you bite me! That really hurt! I think you left bite marks!

Jessie: Ohhhh, look who's worried about his body now! I thought you were free from your body. I thought you had left your body and was surfing the cosmic waves of energy. If you were not where

your body was, how could you feel me bite you?

Nickolai: Aw, Jessie, c'mon. I was having fun. You oughtta try surfing the cosmic waves of energy, sometime.

Jessie: Nickolai, you're a nut. There are no cosmic waves of energy. That's just your brain playing tricks on yourself...with a little help from the devil!

Nickolai: The devil?

Jessie: Yup! Did you know God made your body?

Nickoali: Even with all my handsome grey fluffy fur? Even with my fancy whiskers and perky, velvet ears? Even with my curly tail?

Jessie: That's right. God made it all. He designed you. And did you know God made you to be your body? It's not like you're something different from your body. You ARE your body. You can't escape your body any more than you can escape yourself!

Nickolai: So, no surfing the cosmic rays of energy outside of my body?

Jessie: Nope.

Nickolai: Jessie, how did God make me?

Jessie: He made dogs on the sixth day of creation, in the blink of an eye. He made us with all the other land animals, the giraffes and lions, the squirrels and chipmunks, even the spiders and ants.

Nickoali: Did He make cats the same day he made the devil?

Jessie: No, He didn't make the devil the devil. The devil is a fallen angel. And yes, He made cats the same day He made dogs. Sorry, Nickolai, us and the cats are the same. But do you know who God didn't make like any of the animals?

Nickolai: I think I remember this story. After God made the animals, He said he was going to make something in his own...in his own...what's that word again? Does anyone know?

[When someone says "image" the script continues.]

Nickolai: That's right! God made something in His own image that wasn't like the animals at all. I think it was dogs he made in his own image right? Didn't God make dogs in his own image?

Jessie: Noooooo! God didn't make dogs in His image.

Nickolai: Sure he did! Just think. What happens if you spell dog backwards! If you spell dog backwards, it spells G-O-D, GOD! See?! See?! God made us DOGS in His own image.

Jessie: No, Nicky, I think the boys and girls here are smarter than that. Let's ask them. Who did God make in His own image? Who did God create that is not like all the other animals?

[When someone says "humans" or "man," the script continues...]

Jessie: That's right, He made humans in His own image, both male and female. He made a man by forming him from the dust of the ground, and then He breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living being made in His own image.

Nickolai: So, God even made these boys and girls in their bodies? They can't ever leave their bodies behind and surf the cosmic waves of energy? He made all of them in His images, in flesh and blood?

Jessie: Yup!

Nickolai: But Jessie, I have a sad question. What happens when these bodies die? If God made people in bodies, well, bodies don't last forever. Bodies die!

Jessie: Hold on, there, Nickolai. There's one body we know of that died, but then rose again from the dead. This body cannot ever die now. Does anyone know who this body is? Who this person who rose from the dead is?

[When someone says "Jesus," the script continues...]

Jessie: That's right, Jesus also had a body. Jesus also died, but Jesus rose from the dead. And now those who believe in Him and are baptized will also rise from the dead, and their bodies will live forever!

Nickolai: Y'know, Jessie, I think I'd rather live in my furry body than leave my body and surf on the cosmic waves of energy. You know why?

Jessie: Why?

Nickolai: Because then I can do this!

[Nickolai proceeds to bite Jessie hard as she shrieks. Exeunt.]

Chapel Sample, and Program Theme Hymn

Friday Prayer

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Children: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.

from Psalm 105

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!

Children: Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

Pastor: Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice
who seek the LORD!

Children: Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

Pastor: Remember His marvelous works which He has done,
His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn *From Mist and Dust* [pg. 7]

Scripture Reading Genesis 4: 25-26

The Apostles' Creed [back page]

Message *Calling on the Name*

Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Benediction

From Mist and Dust God Formed our Frame

Tune: "He that believes and is baptized"
(for other tunes, see back of hymnal: 8787887)

Verse 1 (With Day One)

From mist and dust God
formed our frame,
His breath of life bestowing.
But now to dust we shall return,
In sin His life forgoing.
Now Christ has come in
our own flesh,
To end the curse –
our lives refresh.
In risen flesh we'll see Him.

Verse 2 (With Day Two)

God blessed the first man
and his wife:
"Be fruitful and bear children."
My father, mother me begot,
As God commands
I honor them.
Another fam'ly I do claim
Baptized into my Father's name,
With Jesus as my brother.

Verse 3 (With Day Three)

By God's own Word all
things were made.
By words man named
each creature.
By words we build up or destroy,
By words we hear the preacher.
The Word is God's beloved Son,
Who is with God the Father one,
His heart to us revealing.

Verse 4 (With Day Four)

God said to Adam and to Eve,
"Subdue the earth and tend it."
But thorns and thistles
curse the ground,
The earth will never submit!
Christ Jesus bore
the thorny curse,
The world's courses to reverse.
A new earth soon creating.

Verse 5 (With Day Five)

To call upon God's holy name,
Is holy invocation.
As in baptismal waters we,
Receive our Lord's salvation.
For as we here confess
His name,
Above in heav'n,
He does the same,
Our names inscribed forever.