

Lesson 9

God Creates All Things

Parent Notes

From the standpoint of Scripture, the truth about how the universe came to be is quite simple: God created all things out of nothing. From the standpoint of the society we live in, this doctrine is unknowable, if not laughable. So it is critical that young disciples—your children—not only know this doctrine from Scripture but also see how it contrasts to what the world widely believes in our day.

Don't be deceived that your young child is somehow shielded from the doctrines of this world. Evolutionary theory is assumed today in just about everything we encounter in our society. It is dogma in public education and assumed in our news media; it saturates our entertainments and informs our medicine. You and your children are being taught this—implicitly—every day. The best way to hold up the truth of the biblical doctrine of creation is to show its logic and beauty in how we speak and live and to show the failures of the alternative.

As you go over the questions and answers and Scriptures provided in the student notes, use them to prompt conversation about how our faith compares to the faith the world puts in its own doctrines. If presented in simple terms, any eight-year-old can begin to grasp this marvelous doctrine of creation as it compares to the very dark and complex doctrines of our present age.

What follows here is an attempt to put these issues in terms that are simple for you as an adult so that they can inform how you talk with your children.

- The world says that everything we see developed over time from simpler things. As simple things changed, they turned into other things. Everything came from simple matter and developed over time into more complicated matter. People call this “evolution,” a fancy word to say that things change over time and become progressively better.

- The obvious questions that follow are: What started all this change in the first place? Where did the most simple matter come from?
 - And the world's answers are: It's impossible to know. We just have to assume that matter is eternal—it was always there. But we can't say that God did it because we have no scientific evidence that he did.
- Evolutionary doctrine is a myth—it's a story that explains the unexplainable. It may be couched in scientific terms and come with scientific data, but in the end, it is unprovable using the tools of the very science that assumes it is fact.
- If we compare the evolution story to the creation story, we can benefit in our day-to-day lives, and we can avoid being hoodwinked by the false myths of our day.
 - Is the universe personal or impersonal?
 - The evolutionists say that the heavens and earth just happened. They are impersonal.
 - The Bible says that the heavens and earth are personal—a personal God made them.
 - Is the universe good or evil?
 - The evolutionists say that the physical universe is evil—it can harm you and eventually kill you. You must spend your life warding off the evil effects of nature and try to make evolution work in your favor.
 - The Bible says that God created a good universe. The evil effects of some natural events (tornados, viruses, etc.) and death are all the results of God judging the world for sin. Someday God will remove the evil effects of nature, and the heavens and earth will return to the state we see in the Garden of Eden.

- o How do we explain how things change over time?
 - The evolutionists say that matter plus time plus chance is what brings change, and science can trace the causes of this change all the way back to their origins in prehistory.
 - The Bible says that God personally superintends all change. He works through natural processes that he created (that we can understand through the tools of science). He works through human decisions that humans make—both good and evil, wise and foolish decisions. He works through miracles.

- o What is science? Is it good or bad?
 - As a method of understanding how God created the universe to work, science is a gift of God to mankind. Christians can with joy and confidence explore the good universe God made and develop tools to help sustain the earth according to God's goodness and to help humans live well in the earth according to God's will.
 - As a method of understanding how the universe began, science fails completely and should be rejected.
 - As a method of understanding how to live well on the earth, evolution promotes each person's selfish actions so he can avoid the evils of nature and get a good life.
 - The science of evolution cannot create a just moral law, nor can it inspire a sacrificial love for others. Only a personal God of justice and love/mercy can do that.