



What Is the Big Picture?

Over the next thirteen weeks, you will discover the big picture of the Bible from beginning to end. This course will help you understand how the Bible fits together and where you fit into God's plans. This is a tremendous opportunity for you to understand the Bible like never before. To help you along the way, this Student Book has been designed to emphasize the important points from each lesson and to help you use God's Word each day.



Time with God

As you work through your Time with God each week, keep a journal. A great way to think through passages and gain insights is to ask yourself simple questions:

- Who?** *(Example: Who wrote this passage and who was it written to?)*
- What?** *(Example: What is this passage about?)*
- When?** *(Example: When was this passage written?)*
- Where?** *(Example: Where was this passage written?)*
- Why?** *(Example: Why was this passage written?)*
- How?** *(Example: How should I use this passage?)*

As you answer these questions in a journal, you will begin to see what each passage means and how God wants you to use it.



How to Go to Heaven

God has promised you eternal life. You can know for sure you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven (1 John 5:13).

1. You must understand that you are a sinner and God won't let any sin into Heaven. God is perfect and will never allow evil to dwell in His presence. We must face reality—we are guilty sinners (Romans 3:23).
2. You can't earn eternal life. We are already guilty, and nothing we do can pay for our sin. Unless God miraculously saves us, we are destined for eternity in Hell. That is a terrifying fact. Thankfully, God has miraculously provided salvation for everyone—including you! (Ephesians 2:8, 9)
3. God sent His Son to earth to become a man and die to pay for our sins. Jesus Christ remained perfect because He remained the Son of God. When Jesus died on the cross, God the Father accepted His sacrifice to fully pay for our sins. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved that God had accepted Jesus' death. Jesus can now offer us eternal life (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:20).
4. Jesus did all the work to secure our salvation, but that doesn't make anyone automatically saved. We must accept His payment for our sins by placing our trust in His finished work on the cross. God will not accept anything else. When we place our trust in Jesus, God guarantees us eternal life (John 5:24).

If you aren't sure you are saved, place your trust in Jesus Christ right now, and you can know for certain you will spend eternity with Him!



CREATION

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:1—2:3

I. The _____ (*Genesis 1:1*)

God created ex nihilo, which means “out of _____.”

II. The _____ (*Genesis 1:2—2:3*)

The earth was originally _____, uninhabitable, and covered with _____.



Day One

God created _____.



Day Two

God _____ the waters.



Day Three

God made land and _____.



Day Four

God created the sun and the _____.



Day Five

God created sea creatures and _____.



Day Six

God created land animals, and He created _____ in His image.



Day Seven

God _____.

III. The _____ (*Genesis 1:31*)

God evaluated His creation _____ times.

God said His creation was _____ and _____ good.



Time with God

God has given us His Word to know Him personally. Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 1:1–5.

What did God do with the light?

How many times does the word light occur in Genesis 1?

THURSDAY

Read Genesis 1:14–19.

Why are the sun and the moon so important?

Take a moment to thank God for creating the sun and the moon.

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 1:6–8.

What did God do with the waters?

How did this prepare the earth for living creatures?

FRIDAY

Read Genesis 1:20–23.

What areas did God fill with living creatures on day five?

Throughout your day, praise God every time you see a bird.

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 1:9–13.

What did God do with the waters below?

Write down how God has blessed you by creating vegetation.

SATURDAY

Read Genesis 1:24—2:3.

What does it mean that God's creation was very good?

Find one person to tell what you've learned about God's creation.

Tough Questions Answered



How can the Bible be true if science contradicts it?



There is no contradiction between the Bible and **true science**. The word “science” comes from a Latin word meaning “knowledge.” As people engage in scientific study, they are gathering the best knowledge they have about the world around them. Unfortunately, people are not always right, and they don’t know everything. What people believe as **science is not always true**.

Scientific conclusions should be based on observable evidence, but we aren’t able to observe the past. When scientists claim that the earth is billions of years old, that it started with a big bang, or that evolution produced every living creature, they are not discussing observable scientific conclusions. **They are guessing** at how they think the world developed. But without anyone there to observe the beginning of the world, there is simply no way to know how it all happened.

Thankfully, there was Someone there when the earth began. He can tell us what happened. **God was there**, and He created the earth. **Only He knows** exactly how the earth came into existence. He tells us in Genesis that He created the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them in six days. There was no big bang; it didn’t happen billions of years ago; and no life exists as the result of evolution. The scientists are wrong about their conclusions.

Although the scientific community acts as though science contradicts the Bible, a growing number of scientists believe the Bible and show that the evidence we have supports the Bible’s record. Sadly, the scientific community is unwilling to accept anything that might contradict their beliefs. So, while man’s version of science is constantly having to change its story to fit their beliefs, **God’s Word never changes**. Science doesn’t contradict the Bible. The only true science begins with the Bible.

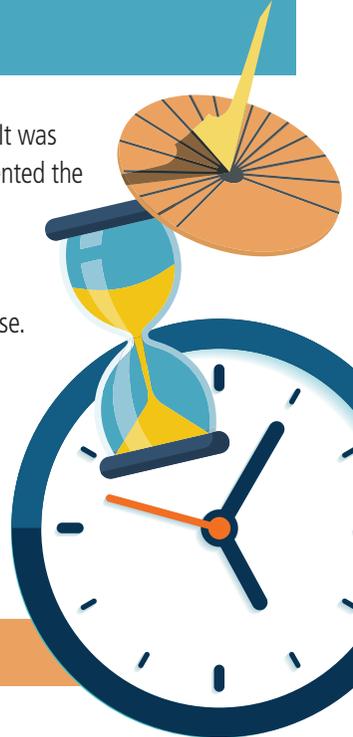
The anointed One would be the One Whom God dedicated to accomplish the major aspects of His plan.

Time to Be Creative



We take it for granted, but telling time was not always so easy. It was not until the early fourteenth century that European monks invented the first mechanical clock. Prior to this, people were very creative and used various contraptions to tell time, including sundials, hourglasses, and water wheels. When the mechanical clock was invented, however, keeping track of time became far more precise. So much of our lives today rely on these important devices.

If we are impressed by the major breakthroughs mankind has had throughout history, we should stand back and observe the world around us. God's creation is beyond anything we could ever imagine, and our every invention depends on His creative work to exist. God is the greatest inventor!



Memory Verse Activity



Memory Verse: Revelation 4:11

We might wonder why God created the heavens and the earth. Thankfully, the Bible gives us an answer. In Revelation 4:11, we are given a unique glimpse into God's throne room, where twenty-four elders fall before God and worship Him. It is in their worshipful words that we find out why God created.

1. Read Revelation 4:11. For what reason did God create all things?
2. Based on this verse, what three things does God receive praise for because He created? What do each of these mean about God?
3. How does God want you to use this verse in your life?

Measuring Growth



The lesson for this week taught that God's creation is extremely important. Through God's creation, we have a tangible demonstration of God's infinite love, power, and wisdom. He accomplished a feat that only He could do, and we get to enjoy the fruits of His labor. The only proper response is our unwavering loyalty toward and praise of Him.

Look for the following indicators that you understand the importance of God's creation:

1. You can explain why the creation is so important.
2. You can identify ways to apply this truth to your life now.
3. You have an increased awareness of and value for God and His Word.

Additional Memory Verses: Genesis 1:1, 31; Psalm 8:1; 19:1; 1 Corinthians 8:6.