

Out of Nothing

Purpose of the Lesson

The students will learn that solely by the power of His Word, God created the world and everything in it out of nothing in six literal days.

Hebrews 11:3

Genesis 1:1-2:3; John 1:1-3

Look around you. Everything came from something, or did it? That is what the science teacher says. That is what the evolutionist says. But what do you say? As you look around, you can trace practically everything back to its basic parts which make up what you see. Someone can explain the process and in some cases even demonstrate the process used in *creating* a particular thing.

But no one can adequately explain the creation of the world apart from God. He was the only witness to creation (Genesis 1:1). Regardless of what you believe or what your science teacher presents, how the universe came into existence is a matter of faith. We are going to look at what the Bible teaches about how God created the universe and compare what He says to what the unbelieving world says.

Creation – The act of bringing the world into existence from nothing.

Evolution – A theory stating that every type of animal and plant life have their origin in other pre-existing living organisms and that the distinguishable differences are due to modifications or mutations in successive generations.

Big Bang Theory – An evolutionary assumption that the origin of the universe came about by a catastrophic explosion.

Checklist

1. Blindfold
2. Old typewriter (or laptop computer and printer).
3. Prepare the board for the Jeopardy game.

General Lesson Format

Icebreaker

Divide into teams and give each team a can of shaving cream and several Popsicle sticks. Have each team “create” a man. Discuss differences in their man and God’s. (It is not alive. It has no soul. It is not made in God’s image. It does not even look like a man.)

Introduction

Object Lesson

Select a student volunteer who cannot type. Have the student try to type a Scripture verse while blindfolded. Let the student type during the lesson introduction.

Lecture

Creation or evolution? God or science? We’re here, so what’s the difference anyway? Have you ever thought that this whole discussion is about as relevant as spinach on pizza? The fact is what you believe about creation affects your whole belief system. After all, if God explained how we got here (and He did) and we cannot believe Him, how can we trust Him on other matters of faith?

If we chose not to believe God, we are left on a slippery slope. Scientists are convinced that time has miraculous powers.

Imagine a million tireless monkeys pounding away at record speed (twelve keys a second) on simplified typewriters with only capital letters. Then try to think of a rock so large that if the earth was its center, its surface would touch the nearest star. The star is so far away that light from it takes more than four years to get to the earth, traveling 186,000 miles every second. If a bird came once every million years and removed an amount equivalent to the finest grain of sand, four such rocks would be worn away before one monkey would be expected to type the words of Genesis 1:1. (Source Unknown)

Sounds incredible, doesn’t it? The fact is, whether a person believes in creation from the Bible or the origin of the universe from an evolutionary point of view, it is a matter of faith. Neither can be reproduced today to show how it was done. We are left with man’s theories or God’s witness.

Teacher’s Note: Return to the typist. If possible, project what has been written or have a couple students discover how many actual words were typed. Can they tell what Scripture verse was being typed?

Content

The Bible teaches that creation is not random like a monkey’s typing. God did not leave creation to chance; He personally exercised His will and power in creation. Let’s be sure to understand what the Bible teaches and how it differs from evolution.

Genesis begins, “In the beginning God.” If “in the beginning” it was something else, we have a problem. The trustworthiness of all Scripture becomes questionable. The reliability of your faith and Christ’s work are all in doubt. But, if the Bible is correct (and it is) that God was there in the beginning, we have a reliable witness. That witness is God Himself. Let’s give attention to this witness.

Teacher’s Note: Have students fill in their Student Lifelines as you teach.

1. God created the **world** and **everything** in it.

Genesis 1:1-2:3; John 1:1-3

As you read through the first two chapters in Genesis, you discover God and God alone was involved in creation. God created the world out of nothing into something. One moment there was darkness, the next moment it is light. One moment there was no vegetation, the next moment grass and trees appear. No preexisting materials were used in creation except for the creation of Adam and Eve.

Evolution requires something to exist already in order to evolve to a different state of existence. Some evolutionists say the world started from a *big bang*. But then where did the substance that exploded come from?

God alone created the world and everything in it. John gives testimony to this truth in the first three verses of his Gospel.

Teacher’s Note: Read or have a student read John 1:1-3. Emphasize the fact that *all things* were made, and without Him *nothing* was made that was made.

2. God created everything in **six** literal **days**.

Genesis 1:5-31

The requirements of evolution are billions and billions of years. Scripture makes it clear that God created everything in six literal days. Evolution replaces God with time.

We are left to believe in God who created time or a system whose god is time. That’s right! Without billions of years, the theory of evolution falls apart. George Wald, former professor of biology at Harvard University said;

Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two billion years. What we regard as possible on the basis of human experience is meaningless there. Given so much time, the ‘impossible’ becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One only has to wait; time itself performs the miracles. (*The Origin of Life* in the *Scientific American*, 1954. See Answers in Genesis website.)

Genesis 1:5 states that the evening and the morning were the first day. When *day* is referred to in Scripture preceded by a number it always references a literal 24 hour day (Exodus 16:29; Leviticus 23:8; Luke 17:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

3. God created by the **power** of His **Word**.

Hebrews 11:3

While the idea of evolution is based on random chance, the Bible teaches that God created everything supernaturally through the power of His Word. The psalmist said, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made" (Psalm 33:6). God literally spoke the heavens into existence. In the first chapter of Genesis the phrase "And God said, let..." is used eight times (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26). Each time a creation followed the words spoken by God. Creation was a miraculous, supernatural act by God.

4. Supporting Evidence

There is no convincing evidence for evolution. Yet there is much evidence to support the biblical account of creation.

a. **Eyewitness** account

Genesis 1:1

The words "In the beginning God" sums up creation. God was there in the beginning because He was there before the beginning. In evolution there is no eyewitness to the original *bang* or the subsequent process demanded by evolution.

b. Natural laws of physics

In support of the biblical account, we have two natural laws of physics which every scientist knows and can verify. These laws back the fact of creation (what God created perfect is deteriorating because of sin) rather than evolution (things are evolving from nothing into man).

1) The first law of thermodynamics

This law states, "Energy and matter cannot be created or destroyed, only interchanged or rearranged." This means that everything *had* to come from somewhere. It could not have appeared on its own.

2) The second law of thermodynamics

This law states, "The universe is continually and progressively running down." That means things are not getting better. Everything and everyone in the universe is in a progressive state of deterioration or decay.

c. Grand design by Grand Designer.

Psalm 19:1-6; Isaiah 40:22; Romans 1:20

The principle of intelligent design states, "For every design, there must be a designer." That means things do not just appear. Look at any object: a car, a watch, or a TV-set. The fact that it exists points to the fact that someone designed and built the object.

The world we live in is an awesome creation. It is full of majesty, wonder, and order. Such a creation demands an intelligent Designer. Just as one would not expect to look at a watch for the first time and believe that all those tiny pieces just fell together to make a watch, so one cannot look at the world and expect that it just exploded into existence. As a watch demands a watchmaker, so the world demands a Creator.

- d. Created and reproduced **after** its **kind**.
Once God created, everything was to reproduce after its kind. That is true of animals, plants, and people. What began at creation, reproducing after its kind, continues today. We witness this evidence every day.

No one would argue that fossils do not exist; millions have been collected. But what do we learn from them? Evolution depends on one life form moving to another, (from fish to reptiles, from reptiles to birds, from birds to animals, from animals to men), you would expect some evidence in the fossils found. There are no fossils showing life in mid-evolution. No “missing links!”

The Jeopardy Challenge

Teacher’s Note: This game will provide a review of the lesson, test the students on what they know, and will be fun. There are three questions in each of five categories. To add excitement, make a jeopardy board. You can play this like Jeopardy and provide the answer (this is the way it is written), or you can use it as a regular quiz. Divide the students into three teams. Have one person from each team attempt to be the first to answer the first question. For the following questions have another group of three until you run out of questions. (The material for some of the questions may not have been covered in the lesson. That will make it a greater challenge.)

Categories:

“That’s so not true” (False statements about evolution)

Creation Science (Scientific questions)

Universal Contractor (Work days)

Prehistoric Stuff (Miscellaneous)

As Time Goes By (Numbers in creation)

“That’s so not true” (False statements about evolution)

Answer: Fish to reptiles, to birds, to animals, to man

Question: What is evolution?

Answer: No. It’s only a theory.

Question: Is evolution a provable fact?

Answer: Big Bang

Question: What theory states that the origin of the universe came about by a catastrophic explosion?

Creation Science (Scientific questions)

Answer: Energy and matter cannot be created or destroyed, only interchanged or rearranged.

Question: What is the first law of thermodynamics?

Answer: For every design, there must be a designer.

Question: What is the principle of intelligent design?

Answer: The universe is continually and progressively running down.

Question: What is the second law of thermodynamics?

Universal Contractor (Work days)

Answer: Seas, land, and vegetation

Question: What did God create on the third day?

Answer: The light called day and the darkness called night

Question: What did God create on the first day?

Answer: Man and animals

Question: What did God create on the sixth day?

Prehistoric Stuff (Miscellaneous)

Answer: Belly button

Question: What did Adam and Eve not have?

Answer: Chicken

Question: What came first, the chicken or the egg?

Answer: In the beginning God

Question: What are the first four words of the Bible?

As Time Goes By (Numbers in creation)

Answer: Six literal days

Question: How long did it take God to create the world and everything in it?

Answer: The day God rested following creation

Question: What is the seventh day?

Answer: Twenty-four

Question: What is the number of hours in God's day of creation?

Conclusion

As you look at the wonders of creation, you will see they testify of the God Who designed the world we live in. The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).

Do not be intimidated by those who teach or believe in evolution. Since neither creation nor evolution can be reproduced, both are based on faith. Creation is based on faith in God and His Word (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3). Evolution is based on faith in man's ideas, in billions of years of time and in chance. The evidence we see in the world today strongly agrees with God's description of how our universe came about. This world is here because it was created by God. You can believe it.

Since God created you, the world, and everything in it, you are accountable to Him. Since men do not want to be accountable to God, they have invented the godless theory of evolution to explain the origin of the universe; a theory that has no convincing evidence.

Whom we choose to believe is the difference between life and death. Since God is the Creator, we can be confident that what He says about our sin and need of a Savior is true also. Because we know God told us the truth about creation, we can trust all that He has said to us in His Word.

Evolution is fundamentally incompatible with the Bible. God told us in His Word exactly how the world came into existence. Both creation and evolution are a matter of faith and trust. The question is, “What do you trust, God’s record or man’s ideas?” Faith starts in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God.” You either believe it or you do not. If you do not, you cannot rightly and confidently believe what the Bible says about sin, salvation, life and death, heaven and hell. Because God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it out of nothing you, as part of creation, are accountable to Him.

Lesson Options

Junior High Adaptation

Create (no pun intended) a wall mural. On it put a big scale like the scales of justice. On one side put all the evidence for creation; on the other put the evidence for evolution. Ask the students which side weighs more. The evidence for creation will obviously outweigh the evidence for evolution. This will be a good visual representation of the material taught in this lesson and will reinforce the fact that God created this universe.

Senior High Adaptation

Using the lesson content, provide two to four students with the material they would need to debate creation and evolution. Additional information for debate can be found under Large Group Adaptation.

Small Group Adaptation

If the weather is favorable, consider teaching the lesson outside. After you are done teaching, walk around and look for evidence of intelligent design and things reproducing after their kind. Examples: Intelligent Design – the blossom of a flower and all of its intricate parts. Reproducing – a seedling of a tree.

Large Group Adaptation

Buzz Groups

Round Robin type of lesson. Divide into three groups. Assign three leaders to take the information in the lesson on one of the laws or the principle and help the students discuss and understand them in light of the following verses and questions. When signaled, students move to another leader to discuss the next law or principle. Each buzz group should give a brief report to the entire group when finished.

Read Genesis 1:1-2; 1:31-2:1 and Hebrews 11:3.

What impact does this law or principle have on creation?

What impact does this law or principle have on evolution?

Give examples present-day examples of where these laws or principles can be seen or are not seen.

Reference Materials

“Creations New Design” *Moody Monthly*, May 1995

John C. Whitcomb and Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Flood* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1961), 518

Ken Ham, *Six Days or Millions of Years*, Answers in Genesis, 12 pages

Weston W. Fields, *Unformed and Unfilled* (Nutley, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1976), 245

www.answersingenesis.org

Discipleship Groups

Discussion Starters

1. What have you learned about creation or evolution in your science class?
2. What is it that impresses you the most about what the Bible teaches about creation?
3. If you were to be challenged on what the Bible says about creation, what would you say?

Right Now!

You are left with a choice: creation or evolution. What you choose to believe does not change the truth of the Bible. The truth is, God is your Creator, and you are accountable to Him in all that you do. For many, God is more than a Creator because they have established a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Have you?

Try this week...

One-On-Witnessing (ICS-11) Talk with someone about their beliefs on creation. Find out what they believe and share what you have learned.

Answer for life

How were the worlds created? Hebrews 11:3

By His Word God created this world out of nothing.

