



Rain or Shine Bible Time

# TEEN/ADULT

Teacher Guide



# COURSE OVERVIEW

*Theme Verse: 1 Timothy 1:17*

	<b>Day 1</b> Creation	<b>Day 2</b> Corruption and Catastrophe	<b>Day 3</b> Confusion	<b>Day 4</b> Christ and the Cross	<b>Day 5</b> Consummation
<b>Title</b>	<b>All</b> Is Good	<b>All</b> Sin	<b>All</b> in Confusion	Savior for <b>All</b> Who Believe	<b>All</b> Is Good Again
<b>Bible Passages</b>	Genesis 1	Genesis 3, Genesis 6–9	Genesis 11	Various Scriptures	Revelation 21–22
<b>Lesson Focus</b>	We cruise to our first C of history— <b>Creation</b> —and head back to the beginning of the universe.	Next come <b>Corruption</b> and <b>Catastrophe</b> as sin enters the world and affects everyone.	The fourth C— <b>Confusion</b> —checks out the world-altering events that began at the tower of Babel.	<b>Christ</b> and the <b>Cross</b> are the next stops. The gospel is shared today.	The last C— <b>Consummation</b> —shows that God wins and all goes back to very good again.
<b>Apologetics Content</b>	Examining how it all began—man’s ideas or God’s Word?	Examining the reality of a global flood	Examining where the people groups came from	Examining the need for a Savior	Examining how it turns out in the end
<b>Memory Verses</b>	Genesis 1:1	Psalms 14:3	Genesis 11:9	John 1:12	Revelation 21:4
<b>Colors</b>	Green	Dark and Blue	Gray	White and Red	Yellow
<b>Animal Pals</b>	Eden the Green Parrot	Tox the Blue Poison Dart Frog	Scatter the Silverback Gorilla	Rose the Pink River Dolphin	Bliss the Bird-Wing Butterfly
<b>Tree-mendous Crafts</b>	Face Planter My Bug Jar	Straw Serpent Rainy Day Rain Gauge	Tricky Triangle Game Toothpick Tower	Christmas Ornament Easter Diorama	7 C’s Bracelet or Necklace Beautiful Butterfly
<b>Tree-mendous Science</b>	Order and Disorder Stack the Layers	Fallen Foliage Catastrophic Eruption	Skin-Deep Tower Test	Don’t Eat Me Ring Around a Tree	Cycling in the Jungle Good Again
<b>Rainforest Recreation</b>	Jungle Obstacle Course Sea & Sky Tag	Rainy Relays Tox Tag	Confusing Competitions Babel Bricks	Capture the Gifts Cross Kickball	Seven C’s Splash Coconut Launch
<b>Canopy Café Snacks</b>	Dirt Dessert Forest Fruit	Serpent Snack Tree Treat	Shades of Pudding Parfaits Wacky Mixed-Up Trail Mix	Gospel Goodies Nativity Nibbles	7 C’s Boat Colorful Bites
<b>Cool Contests</b>	Guess the Beetle Bugs	Team Spirit Day	yaD sdrawkcaB	7 C’s Scavenger Hunt	Mission Money Mania



# Contents



## Limited license to copy:

A limited license is available to make copies of this book. You may make copies of portions of the book if (1) you are the purchaser; (2) the copies are used exclusively for non-commercial purposes within your church or organization (an entire denomination is not considered a “church” or “organization” under this license); and (3) you follow the instructions provided in the book.

### Teen/Adult Guide

Copyright © 2023 Answers in Genesis. All rights reserved. Limited license to copy.

Project Coordinator: Stacia McKeever

Writer: Dr. Dana Sneed

Interior Layout: Diane King

Editors: Dr. Georgia Purdom, Roger Patterson, and Sarah Zornes

Cover Design: Jon Seest

Illustrations: Paul Agner

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Text edition 2016.

For more information, write:

Answers in Genesis, PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048

Printed in China.



Handy Helps . . . . .	3
It's a Jungle Out There! . . . . .	3
Your Role . . . . .	4
Frequently Asked Questions . . . . .	4
Terms to Know . . . . .	4
Tips for Teachers . . . . .	5
Rain or Shine Bible Time . . . . .	5
Memory Verse Songs . . . . .	5
<b>DAY 1: Creation . . . . .</b>	<b>6</b>
Devotion 1: God Is the Good Creator . . . . .	7
Introduce It! . . . . .	8
Teach It! . . . . .	8
Apply It! . . . . .	10
Watch It! . . . . .	11
Remember It! . . . . .	12
Fill It! . . . . .	12
<b>DAY 2: Corruption &amp; Catastrophe . . . . .</b>	<b>13</b>
Devotion 2: God Is Our Righteous Judge . . . . .	14
Introduce It! . . . . .	15
Teach It! . . . . .	15
Apply It! . . . . .	18
Watch It! . . . . .	18
Remember It! . . . . .	19
Fill It! . . . . .	19
<b>DAY 3: Confusion . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>
Devotion 3: God Is the Infinite Sustainer . . . . .	21
Introduce It! . . . . .	22
Teach It! . . . . .	22
Apply It! . . . . .	24
Watch It! . . . . .	24
Remember It! . . . . .	25
Fill It! . . . . .	25
<b>DAY 4: Christ &amp; the Cross . . . . .</b>	<b>26</b>
Devotion 4: God Is the Sovereign Savior . . . . .	27
Introduce It! . . . . .	28
Teach It! . . . . .	28
Apply It! . . . . .	30
Watch It! . . . . .	30
Remember It! . . . . .	31
Fill It! . . . . .	31
<b>DAY 5: Consummation . . . . .</b>	<b>32</b>
Devotion 5: God Is the Loving Redeemer . . . . .	33
Introduce It! . . . . .	34
Teach It! . . . . .	35
Apply It! . . . . .	36
Watch It! . . . . .	37
Remember It! . . . . .	37
Fill It! . . . . .	38

# HANDY HELPS

## It's a Jungle Out There!

*Listen!* Can you hear a howler monkey screeching and insects buzzing? *Look!* Do you see a sloth hanging from a tree and a jaguar crouching, ready to pounce? *Smell!* Is that the aroma of tropical flowers wafting through the air? *Touch!* Do you feel soft grass under your feet and gentle rain on your skin? *Taste!* Is that delicious milk from a coconut and exotic spices from the rainforest?

Join us in a world of wonder that will delight our senses while captivating our hearts and minds at *The Great Jungle Journey: An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation*. We will cruise through jungle rivers, making stops at seven ports of call along the way—each starting with a C. These represent seven key biblical events—the 7 C's of History.

**Day 1: Creation**—Our first C takes us back to the beginning of time and the creation of the universe when it was all good. Did the universe start with a big bang, or did God create it?

**Day 2: Corruption and Catastrophe**—Next, Adam sinned, which affected his descendants, who were so wicked that God sent a global flood as judgment for their sin.

**Day 3: Confusion**—The fourth C checks out the events that began at the tower of Babel. Can this be where all the people groups originated from?

**Day 4: Christ and the Cross**—At these stops, we realize once again that man is sinful and needs a Savior. Hallelujah, God provides one in his Son!

**Day 5: Consummation**—The last C shows the thrilling conclusion to history when all goes back to very good again, and—best news ever—God wins against sin and Satan.

Excitement and adventure await from the first minute of each day when kids meet in travel groups. The groups gather at the **Jungle Jam Assembly**, a high-energy beginning that includes wacky intros, lively songs, a Mission Moment, and prayer.

Then they're off to rotate through five fun sites:

**Rain or Shine Bible Time**, where God's Word is taught in creative, hands-on ways.

**Tree-mendous Science and Crafts**, where kids make jazzy jungle crafts and explore God's amazing world with science experiments.

**Canopy Café Snacks**, where travelers go bananas, munching on tropical treats and eats.

**Rainforest Recreation**, where kids rumble in the jungle with some wet and wild games.

**Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses**, where kids sing songs, learn their memory verses with fun

games, or go in-depth with the Mission Moment featuring Children's Hunger Fund.

Finally, everyone heads back to the **Jungle Jam Assembly** for the closing, where there's more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama. This follows a jungle river cruise that plans to make stops at different ports of call but faces a catastrophe that affects the plan, resulting in lots of unexpected rainforest adventures.

Prepare to swing into the fun as we head out on our jungle river cruise. See you in the rainforest!

### Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be softhearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator, and Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, we don't want to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun.

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it. May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!



## Your Role

Your role as the teacher is outlined in the following pages. This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives.

The best fit for this job is someone who enjoys teaching teens and adults and does the following:

- Plans and prepares the daily lessons for VBS.
- Enthusiastically engages in delivery of the lessons during VBS week.
- Prays over all aspects of this job.

## Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *The Great Jungle Journey* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit [AnswersVBS.com/junglefaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/junglefaq).

## Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here is a list of some of the most common terms you should know.

**Travel Groups/Travelers:** Groups of children (individual classes) named after jungle animals, such as Bengal Tigers, Butterflies, Toucans, or Howler Monkeys.

**Group Guides:** Group leaders who lead the travelers from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.

**Rain or Shine Bible Time:** Bible and apologetics lesson time in the jungle.

**River Guides:** Teachers of the Rain or Shine Bible Time.

**Tree-mendous Science and Crafts:** Rotation site where crafts are made and science experiments are explored.

**Canopy Café Snacks:** Indoor or outdoor location where snacks are served.

**Rainforest Recreation:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.

**Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses:** Rotation sites where kids can spend additional time learning songs, memory verses, and missions.

**Memory Verse:** Daily Bible verse to learn.

**Animal Pals:** Our friendly animal mascots that remind us of the main themes of each day.

**Toddlers:** 2-4-year-olds.

**Pre-Primaries:** 4-6-year-olds or children ages 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.

**Primaries:** 6-9-year-olds or children who have completed grades 1-3.

**Juniors:** 9-12-year-olds or children who have completed grades 4-6.

For multi-age K-6 travel groups, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

## Tips for Teachers

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).
2. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening his Word and sharing it daily with the students. Walk worthy!
3. Read through all your lesson plans in advance. Begin to pray and plan now, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
4. In this guide:
  - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
  - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
5. It's helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
6. Attend the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
7. Call the students by name. Name tags help with this.
8. Make sure to keep eye contact as you share the lessons, helping each student sense your warmth and caring.
9. Students will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as he wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
10. Use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
11. Show love. All students, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day, and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and a handshake.
12. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the students under your care.
13. Notice the good. Students want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
14. Students generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses.
15. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

## Rain or Shine Bible Time

Students will be learning a lot from God's Word when they're at the Bible Lesson Time. You can download the videos and any visuals mentioned in this guide from [AnswersVBS.com](http://AnswersVBS.com).

This session is approximately 100 minutes long, depending on what you choose to include, and is divided into these sections:

**Introduce It!** (5 minutes): Each day, the students will be greeted with something interesting that captures their attention and begins the teaching of the day's lesson.

**Teach It!** (30–35 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time by a teacher.

**Apply It!** (60 or more minutes): This is the practical application time and includes a small group time and a video with discussion.

**Remember It!** (5 minutes): This is the memory verse review time.

**Fill It!** (15 minutes): Choose from the following to fill your time—snack (15 minutes), game (15 minutes), experiment (15 minutes).

## Memory Verse Songs

We have partnered with Seeds Family Worship (contemporary, ESV) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV) to create songs for each of the memory verses. They feature the full verses. Singing scripture is an excellent way for students to learn their Bible verses easily. You can use the songs (either video or audio) during the memory verse time in each lesson. The Music Leader Download, which contains

audio and videos, comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (AnswersVBS.com). Student CDs in packs of 10 are available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (12-1-061 or 12-1-062).





DAY 1

# CREATION

## BIBLE PASSAGE

All Is Good  
Genesis 1

## APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Examining how it all began—man's ideas or God's Word?

## COLOR

Green

## LESSON FOCUS

We cruise to our first C of history—**Creation**—and head back to the beginning of the universe.

## ANIMAL PAL

Eden the Green Parrot

## Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!  
Take Off on Your Journey
- Teach It!  
God's Word vs. Man's Ideas
- Apply It!  
Small Group Discussion
- Watch It!  
*Biblical Cosmology*
- Remember It!  
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- Fill It!  
Your choice

## Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 1 and 2 several times.
- Read this lesson thoroughly and prepare the materials.
- For more information on the big bang, visit [AnswersVBS.com/junglefaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/junglefaq).
- Pray.

# Devotion 1: God Is the Good Creator

*The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9*

For a few moments, imagine yourself strolling through a section of the garden of Eden. This beautiful abundance of flora and fauna was just declared by the Creator to be “very good.” The creation was a manifestation of the goodness of the Creator. In your mind’s eye, how does this original paradise reflect the goodness of God?

Do the flowers fill the air with glorious fragrances? Do the serpents hanging from the trees fill you with delight at their bright colors and silky smooth skin? Do you gently stroke the thick fur of the large bear to your right? Do you gasp in awe at the towering sauropod as he lumbers past?

Contrast this with the view that Carl Sagan held about God and his creation:

“If God is omnipotent and omniscient, why didn’t he start the universe out in the first place so it would come out the way he wants? Why is he constantly repairing and complaining? No, there’s one thing the Bible makes clear: The biblical God is a sloppy manufacturer. He’s not good at design, he’s not good at execution. He’d be out of business if there was any competition” (Carl Sagan, *Contact* [New York: Pocket Books, Simon & Schuster, 1985]).

In Sagan’s Eden, the flowers God created prick you with thorns when you bend over to inhale their fragrance. The serpent slithering past your feet inspires a fearful shriek. The lion creeping up behind the lamb suddenly takes a bite out of it. And the dinosaurs are nowhere to be seen because they died out millions of years ago.

What important factor did Carl Sagan fail to take into account? *He believed that the world we live in today is the world God originally created. He didn’t understand that we now live in a fallen world—a world that has been corrupted with sin. His view has been colored by the belief that the world is millions of years old and that the fossil record—filled with evidence of death, disease, suffering, and thorns—is a record of the way things have been for the past several million years.*

Carl Sagan isn’t alone in viewing the Creator this way. Media mogul Ted Turner and even Charles Darwin himself

are just a few of the many who can’t comprehend the goodness of God because of what they see today.

Although all of creation shouts, “There is a God!” (Romans 1:20), it has been marred with our sin.

Read Psalm 33:5. In what ways do you see the love of God still reflected in his creation?

In what ways do you see the effects of our sin?

Think about how you represent the all-good Creator to those in your care. For example, are the “design features” you share with your children reflective of a good God or a fallen creation?

As you present today’s C, do so in a way that emphasizes the goodness of God. His original creation was complete and “very good.” It was full of life, peace, and joy. He provided light for us to see by (day 1), air for us to breathe (day 2), vegetation for us to eat (day 3), majestic arrays of stars to study before bed (day 4), abundant fauna for us to enjoy (days 5–6), and a creation for us to care for. He created for his glory.

Read Psalm 107:1, 15, and 119:68, as well as this Puritan prayer about the infinite goodness of the Creator.

King of glory, divine majesty,

Every perfection adorns thy nature and sustains  
thy throne;

The heavens and earth are thine,

The world is thine and its fullness.

Thy power created the universe from nothing;

Thy wisdom has managed all its multiple concerns,

Presiding over nations, families, individuals.

Thy goodness is boundless;

All creatures wait on thee;

Are supplied by thee;

Are satisfied in thee.

How precious are the thoughts of thy mercy and grace!

How excellent thy lovingkindness that draws

men to thee!

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*  
(Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 216.



## Introduce It! (5 min)

### Take Off on Your Journey

Welcome! I hope you are excited to join me on our jungle journey this week as we cruise through history. Our cruise has a total of seven stops, where we will learn about each of the 7 C's of History. These cover major world events that explain the reality that we live in.

Before we get to our first stop, let me ask you a question. If on our cruise we encounter an indigenous group that we are interested in knowing more about, what sources do you think we should consult? *Take answers.*

There are many ways that we can learn about the culture of these indigenous people: read written material, observe present practices, or ask a local tour guide. But the best source for learning about the group is the indigenous people themselves. If the tour guide tells us that the people fish as their primary means of food, but the people themselves tell us that they mostly eat fruit grown in the forest, which should we trust? Obviously, we should trust the one who actually collects the food.

We must consider the validity of our source. This is especially important when considering something in the past. Can we observe something that happened in the past? *No.*

We can make guesses about what we think happened based on what we observe in the present. Or we can ask someone who was there and witnessed the past event. Which one do you think is more reliable? *The testimony of the one who witnessed the event.*

With this concept in mind, let's begin our journey!

## Teach It! (20–25 min)

Download presentation images and videos from [AnswersVBS.com](https://www.answersvbs.com)

### God's Word vs. Man's Ideas

Our first stop is Creation—the beginning of everything. *Show the 7 C'S—CREATION SLIDE.*

There are two main ideas about how things happened at the beginning. One idea comes from man, as people have made guesses about the past based on their own understanding about the present. The other idea was given to us by God.

Let's start with God's Word and read the account of creation that he gave us. As we read, we are going to record the order of events and compare them with man's idea later. I'm going to divide you into groups and give you a short passage to read. Take a minute to read it in your group and determine what God created on that day. Be prepared to give a summary of your day and one of you will come up and add your events to the list on the board.

Divide your class into small groups and assign each one of the following passages. Alternatively, you can walk through the passages together as a class.

1. Read Genesis 1:1–5. On day one, God created the earth and light (day)/dark (night).
2. Read Genesis 1:6–8. On day two, God created the expanse, or the heavens.
3. Read Genesis 1:9–13. On day three, God made dry land appear and created plants.
4. Read Genesis 1:14–19. On day four, God created the sun (greater light to rule the day), moon (lesser light to rule the night), planets, and stars, and he placed them in the expanse. Note: the word we translate as “stars” also includes the planets.
5. Read Genesis 1:20–23. On day five, God created swimming creatures and flying creatures.
6. Read Genesis 1:24–27. On day six, God created land animals and the first two people, Adam and Eve.

- Bibles
- Whiteboard or poster board and markers
- Tape or mounting putty
- 7C's—Creation slide
- Evidences slide

You should now have a list of what was created in order: earth; light/day; expanse; land; plants; sun, moon, stars, other planets; swimming creatures; flying creatures; land animals; man. It may be helpful to include a dividing line between days.

Look again at Genesis 1:1. Who was present at the beginning of creation? God. Nothing else had been created. Only God was present to witness this miracle of creation.

Notice Genesis 1:2. What did the earth look like at the beginning? It was all water.

Genesis 2:1–2 tells us that God finished his work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh. And we can calculate from the genealogies in the Bible that this beginning occurred only about 6,000 years ago. This is the account of creation revealed to us by the Creator himself.

But some people have a different idea about how things began. They think that the universe is billions of years old and everything started from a single speck of mass and energy called a singularity. Because this story is called the “big bang,” some people think the singularity exploded and scattered matter randomly all over the universe. But that isn’t exactly what the story says. As the story goes, the tiny singularity suddenly and rapidly expanded, spreading out the energy and space (no matter existed yet). Don’t bother asking where the singularity came from or what caused the expansion. No one really has an answer for that. To the left of your creation list, begin a “Big Bang Order” list. Write “space” at the top of the list.

Next, over vast periods of time as the universe spread out, the energy began to cool down and some of it turned into matter. Specifically, it became helium and hydrogen gas. These gases then collapsed to form stars. Add “stars” to your list.

Some stars created heavier elements in their cores and then exploded, distributing elements into space. These elements began to stick together, forming earth and other planets. Add “molten earth” to your list. The earth formed as a molten ball that hardened as it cooled off. Add “dry land” to your list. Then, as meteorites impacted the surface, the earth’s crust developed irregular topography and rainfall gradually filled in some of the low spots to form seas. Add “seas” to your list.

Once water existed on the surface, life could form, evolving from the nonliving materials on the earth. The short story here is that life emerged as single-cell organisms and gradually, over time, evolved into all living creatures. We’re going to generalize for the sake of time, but the basic evolutionary time line claims the following order: land, plants, fish, reptiles, mammals, birds, and eventually humans. Add these to the list. It may be a helpful visual to draw lines between the columns to match the items. The crossing lines will illustrate how the order cannot be reconciled between the two ideas.

I trust that you can see how different these ideas are. The Bible says the earth was created before the sun, but the evolutionary story places the sun before the earth. The Bible says that birds were created the day before the land creatures, but the evolutionary story says that birds came after reptiles and mammals. What other discrepancies can you find? Take answers. Examples included in the table below.

Evolutionary View	Biblical View	Biblical Reference
Sun formed before the earth.	The earth was formed before the sun.	Genesis 1:1, 16
Stars formed before the earth.	The stars were not formed until day 4.	Genesis 1:14–15
Dry land was present before oceans.	The dry land appeared on day 3.	Genesis 1:9–10
Trees evolved long after simpler plants.	All plants were created on day 3.	Genesis 1:11–13



Evolutionary View	Biblical View	Biblical Reference
Reptiles evolved before birds.	Birds were created on day 5, and reptiles (creeping things) were created on day 6.	Genesis 1:20–25
Reptiles evolved before mammals.	Both were created as land animals on day 6.	Genesis 1:24–25
Humans evolved long after mammals.	Both were created on day 6.	Genesis 1:24–27

Not only is the order all wrong, but there are also contradictory details. What form was the earth in when God created it on day one? *It was covered with water.*

What does the evolutionary story say the earth began as? *A molten ball.*

Can these both be true? *No.*

So obviously, these two ideas are not compatible. They cannot both be true. You may have heard someone say that maybe God could have used the big bang or evolution. This is clearly not the case. So if we have these two opposing ideas, how do we know which one to believe? Think back to our scenario about the indigenous people. We concluded that the most valid source was the one who was the eyewitness. In this case, it isn't a question of creation vs. the big bang as much as it is a question between God's Word and man's ideas. God, who cannot lie or make mistakes and is all-powerful and all-knowing, is the only eyewitness of creation, and he has given us a detailed account of how he created all things in six days. On the other hand, the big bang is a story made up by people who did not observe the act of creation, do make mistakes, and must keep changing their story to try to account for new problems.

The question is, ultimately, are you going to trust God's Word or man's ideas?

Read [John 17:17](#). Jesus was speaking of the Word of God. The Bible is true because it is the very Word of the holy one who cannot lie. We can trust that the Bible is true.

There are also many scientific findings that confirm what the Bible teaches. [Show the EVIDENCES SLIDE](#). Here are just a few to consider when you hear about the age of the earth.

- Salt in the oceans: Salt has been accumulating in the ocean since the beginning of time. But scientists have found that there is not nearly enough salt in the oceans for the earth to be billions of years old. On the other hand, the amount can be explained by an earth that's more like 6,000 years old.
- Cave formations: Some tour guides explain that it takes many hundreds or thousands of years for stalactites and stalagmites to form. But we have discovered modern artifacts, like a plastic bottle, that have been covered in minerals in a short amount of time.
- Mud on the sea floor: Billions of years of erosion would have filled the ocean with mud long ago. But there's not nearly enough mud in the ocean for an earth that's billions of years old. The amount is much more in line with an earth that's just a few thousand years old.
- Continents wearing away: Every year, the wind and waves erode a little bit more of the continents. If they were billions of years old, the continents should be almost flat.
- There are many more examples that confirm that God's Word is true. If you want to read more about this, check out the Answers section of the Answers in Genesis website.

### Apply It! (10 min)

Perhaps the most significant disagreement between biblical creation and the big bang is found in a small repeated phrase in Genesis 1. Did anyone notice it as you were reading? Nearly every day, after God finished creating, he saw that it was good (Genesis 1:4, 9, 12,

18, 21, 25). And once he had completed everything, at the end of the sixth day, God said it was very good (Genesis 1:31). Because God is good, everything he does is good and his creation was a reflection of his goodness and orderliness.

God created everything to be very good, with no death or suffering. It was a paradise. In contrast, the evolutionary idea requires chaos and death from the beginning. This is a theological problem. As we will see as we continue our journey, death entered the universe as a penalty for sin. This is foundational to the gospel message. Because we have sinned, we deserve death and separation from the holy God. But Jesus came into the world to live a perfect life, to die the death we deserve, and to rise again, defeating sin and death. He also promised to restore all things to the perfect “very good” paradise that God created in the beginning—a beginning that cannot include death.

As a class or in small groups, discuss the following questions:

What’s the problem with trying to fit man’s ideas about millions of years into God’s Word?

How does compromising on the truthfulness of Genesis 1 undermine the rest of Scripture?

If you encountered someone who believes in the big bang story of origin or tries to combine it with the Bible, how would you respond?

What questions do you still have regarding the account of creation? For answers to questions about creation, evolution, and the Bible, visit [AnswersinGenesis.org](http://AnswersinGenesis.org).

## Watch It!

Download videos from [AnswersVBS.com](http://AnswersVBS.com).

### **Biblical Cosmology** (Dr. Faulkner–45 min)

1. **What is the difference between cosmology and cosmogony?** Cosmology is the study of the structure of the universe. Cosmogony is the study of the history and origin of the universe.
2. **What is the problem with trying to wed the Bible with modern cosmology?** The problem is that the attempt to wed the two typically starts with the cosmology and tries to change the Word of God to make it fit. This is backward. God’s Word is the true, perfect, inspired eye-witness testimony of the Creator.
3. **Why is it problematic to have a scientific model that can be continually adapted to handle problems that arise?** A good scientific model is one that can be falsified, and once shown to be incorrect, it is discarded. To have a model that can be continually changed is bad science, because it does not ultimately explain anything. Eventually, it becomes too cumbersome and unwieldy to be maintained.
4. **Why is the big bang model incompatible with the order of creation in the Bible?** The big bang model places light and stars before the earth, but the Genesis account describes the creation of the earth prior to light and light prior to the stars.
5. **Why is it not best to interpret *rāqîa* according to the object it is often applied to?** When a verb is made into a noun, the emphasis is meant to be on the action itself rather than the object or characteristics of the object that receives the action.
6. **What does the “expanse of heaven” most likely refer to?** The expanse is where the astronomical bodies are, though it may also include the reference to the atmosphere (since there is no distinct line between atmosphere and outer space).
7. **What biblical evidence exists against the canopy model?** The best biblical evidence is that God placed the astronomical bodies in the expanse on day two. Additionally, Psalm 148:4 refers to the waters above the heavens as if it still exists.
8. **Why would it make sense from a biblical perspective for the earth to be near the center of the universe?** God’s creation narrative seems to center around the earth, and even the astronomical bodies were given for the purpose and benefit of those on earth. If humans are the

- Media player
- [Biblical Cosmology video](#)

crown of creation, specially made in the image of God, then it would make sense for God to have designed the rest of creation around this home he made for his treasured people.

## **Remember It!**

As time allows, review the memory verse (Genesis 1:1) by playing the song from the Music Leader Download, or play a game such as the following: Write the verse on a whiteboard and have the students say it. Allow one person at a time to erase one word, reciting the verse after each erasure. See if they can say the entire verse after every word has been erased.

## **Fill It!**

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time.

### **Game**

Check the Game Guide for suggestions. Choose an appropriate game for your situation.

### **Snack**

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the Snack Guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

### **Experiment**

The experiments given in the Science and Crafts Guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, check the guide for more information.