

Light: Creation (Gen 1:1-5, 14-19)

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day. (Gen 1:1-5, CSB)

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. Evening came and then morning: the fourth day. (Gen 1:14-19, CSB)

What lights our daytime? What lights our nights?

If the sun and moon were created on the fourth day, what did the light on the first day look like? Take a guess!

2. In question 1, the word "light" is used literally to mean to illuminate and make something visible and easy to see. But the Bible also uses the word "light" in a different way such as a figure of speech; light is used with a different meaning than light on the first or fourth day of Creation. Take a look at some examples. Can you figure out how light is used in the Bible passage? Underline the words that are about the light in the passage:

This passage is a reference to the Bible:

Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path. (Ps 119:105, CSB)

Simeon is told by the Holy Spirit that the baby Jesus is the Messiah:

Now, Master,
you can dismiss your servant in peace,
as you promised.
For my eyes have seen your salvation.
You have prepared it
in the presence of all peoples—
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and glory to your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32, CSB)

Jesus talks about Himself:

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12, CSB)

The apostle Paul encourages Christians on how to live:

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light—for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth— (Eph 5:8-9, CSB)

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class3-5/print/God.Creation.Light.3-5.pdf>

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Teacher Notes

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day. (Gen 1:1-5, CSB)

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What lights our daytime? What lights our nights? Give time for sharing.

If the sun and moon were created on the fourth day, what did the light on the first day look like?

Encourage the student to read with their thinking cap on. Encourage them to hypothesize and give time for sharing. But always test your hypothesis with the evidence!

Encourage the student to look for clues, which you can help them with by reviewing the first day: "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths." The earth is formed but it's dark and everything else around it is dark. When something is hard to understand, you can often find the answer in the Bible; but, it might take some careful reading.

There are a couple passages that can help you understand what this means:

I was there when he established the heavens,
when he laid out the horizon on the surface of the ocean (Prov 8:27, CSB)

He laid out the horizon on the surface of the waters
at the boundary between light and darkness. (Job 26:10, CSB)

Ask the student if he sees something here, and show the photo from space.

When you think about these verses, this photo from space might help you visualize what it might have looked like. This is where you can point out earth and space and also point out: "God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.'"

Another important thing to know about God's creation of light, is that "God saw that the light was good." Did you notice that? How is light good? Give time for sharing.

In several places, the Bible tells us that God is the light! This is what makes light morally good. Here are some examples:

"No longer will you need the sun or moon to give you light, for **the Lord your God will be your everlasting light**, and he will be your glory." (Isa 60:19, TLB)

"This is the message God has given us to pass on to you: that **God is Light and in him is no darkness at all.**" (1 John 1:5, TLB)

"And **there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will be their light**; and they shall reign forever and ever." (Rev 22:5, TLB)

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This question places an emphasis on how God intended the creation of light in His plan for mankind. It is an introduction to figures of speech and imagery. In later lessons, common devices like metaphors, similes, and personifications will be pointed out and explained.

It might help if some selected passages were written on a large board or butcher paper so that the whole class sees it together. When you underscore some words, the students can copy the same on their lesson sheet.

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Here’s what’s so personally important to us about light: the light of God confers moral goodness!

Photo from space

