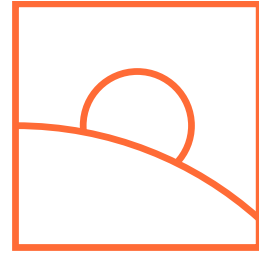


Question 5

What else did God create?



Answer

God created all things, and all his creation was very good.

Big Idea

God created everything—through his Son, in the power of the Spirit, and for his glory.

Aim

To help the children have confidence in God as Creator and to understand God's purposes in creation.

Bible Passage

Genesis 1:1–31

Memory Verse

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Gen. 1:31)

Virtue

Joy





Notes

Leader's Notes

Some children will never have considered where the world came from or who made it; others will be fully committed to the belief that God created the world. One thing that the children will certainly encounter at some stage during their lives is the belief that the world came into existence by chance and that there is no intelligent design behind the world. This catechism question will enable the children to think more deeply about the doctrine of creation out of nothing. It will help them to understand that the world came into being through purposeful creation. This lesson aims to bring the children a little deeper into the Genesis account and to show them the presence of the triune God at the dawn of creation. Hopefully the children will find joy in understanding more of God's creative purpose in his world and will more clearly recognize that the world was made for God's glory and delight.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- The question of evolution will be in the children's minds.
- Conceptually it's hard for children (or anyone for that matter) to understand how God could create something out of nothing.
- The introduction of the Trinity in lesson 3 is foundational to helping students understand that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all involved in creation.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Triune God, thank you for your beautiful creation. May I find joy in it each day. Thank you that you are not distant now from your creation but intimately involved during every second of every day. Please

help the children who hear this lesson to be thrilled with a deeper engagement with your creation story. May it increase in them confidence in you. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Three plastic cups
- Two ping-pong balls
- Small prizes
- Q5 Animals in Creation Quiz (RB), one for each child
- A pen or pencil for each child



- Q5 Cake recipe
- A bowl
- A wooden spoon
- An apron or chef's hat
- Q5 Days of Creation Illustrations (RB)
- Legos
- Q5 Joy Grid (RB), one for each child

10 Catechism Recap

Set up three plastic cups on a table and give each team a ping-pong ball.

Divide the children into two or more teams. Ask each team to pick a number between one and four. The team must then try to collectively remember the catechism question and answer for the number they

chose. If the team can do it, they get a chance to throw the ping-pong ball into a cup to claim a prize. Write on the bottom of the cups what the prizes are. Repeat with as many teams as you have. Remind the children of any of the catechism questions not covered.

5 Introduction to Question 5

Have the children stand in a circle, and starting with the letter *A* ask them to name things alphabetically that God has made in creation. The first child says something beginning with *A*, the second *B*, and so on. Go through the alphabet as many times as possible. If the children can't think of something, they sit down and pass to the next person until only one child is left standing.

Ask the children what listing some of the amazing things that God has made makes them feel. Are they amazed at the variety of God's creation?

Introduce Question 5: "What else did God create?" Explain to the children that this question will be all about God's marvelous creation.

10 Activity



Print out a copy of the Animals in Creation Quiz (RB).

Give children the creation quiz and ask them to complete it in a set amount of time. Let the children read aloud their answers

(or guesses), then tell them the correct answers (found on the Solutions page of the Resource Book). The aim of the quiz should be to induce awe, wonder, and joy as they think about God's amazing creation.



Notes

**Teaching Outline**

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Invite a child to the front of the classroom and give him a mixing bowl, a wooden spoon, a copy of Q5 Cake Recipe (RB), and a chef's hat or apron. Invite him to bake a cake for everyone. Encourage him to get started by reading the recipe out to the class. When he asks for the ingredients, explain to him that he needs to create this cake from nothing!

Explain to the children that it is impossible to make something out of nothing. Ask them to describe the process of creating something, such as a cake or a house.

Highlight that in our experience everything that is created is made out of something; there are raw materials that are used for each and every creation. But when we come to the creation of the world, it is entirely different!! Tell the children that the way the world came into being is totally inconsistent with our experience and in some ways, it's hard to understand. But we must remember that this is God doing the creation and not us: he is all-powerful and all-knowing (refer to lesson 2). Of course he can do things that we can't do.

Read Genesis 1:1–31. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

To involve the children in reading the passage for this lesson, ask different children to read out the creation account for each day.

As the verses are read, show pictures that correspond with the creation account from Q5 Days of Creation Illustrations (RB).

The first startling thing to help the children notice is that God created everything out of nothing; there was nothing that coexisted materially with God eternally. There was a time when the hills didn't exist, when the sand didn't exist, when the stars didn't exist. Creation comes out of God's will and imagination, and he creates everything for himself, with great meaning and purpose.

Remind the children that it's impossible for us to create something out of nothing, but of course everything is possible for God. Genesis records that by speaking, God brought the heavens and the earth into creation. Point out to the children the number of times the Genesis account says "and God said."

Ask the children if they think anyone besides God the Father was involved in the creation of the world. Encourage them to read verse 2 again. Help them to see in Genesis 1:2 that the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters after they were created. The Spirit of God brought life to all that God the Father created.

Show the children that both God the Father and the God the Spirit are involved in creation, but hint to them that there was someone else as well. Ask them to turn to John 1:1–3 to discover who that was.



Notes

Ask the children what they think these three verses are saying.

John reveals that Jesus was with God the Father when the world was created. John calls Jesus “the Word,” and it was through God’s spoken Word that everything was formed. So at the beginning of the world, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all involved in creating.

Ask the children how God described his creation.

God described all his creation as very good; each and every thing on earth was made by God. Everything that God created was intended to show his glory. There are lots of ways creation reveals something of the nature and character of God.

Ask the children if there are aspects of creation that bring them joy and cause them to praise God for the beauty of the world. Remind them that God is powerful,

creative, and beautiful, and he has an awesome imagination.

Creation is intended to bring God great glory and honor and praise. God delights in his creation, and we are invited to delight in it too. God has created a beautiful world for his children to inhabit.

Tell the children that since the creation of the world, God has been intimately involved in his world; he didn’t just set it up and then retreat back to heaven. God is constantly sustaining everything in his world.

Finish the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 5 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend to suit your own children and context.

Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)



Activity



Borrow or buy some Legos and divide the children into groups that correspond to the days of creation. Invite each group to build a representation of one of the days. Take a

photo of each day that the children create and print out a collage of the photos to use next week in review.



Discussion and Question Time

Some of the questions that might arise include:

? How was Jesus present at the creation of the world?

Jesus is eternal and all-powerful.

Jesus lived with God until he came to earth as a man, and now he is once more with God.



Notes

? What about evolution?

Explain to the children that some people believe we evolved by accident, but that there are millions of people—even top scientists—who believe that the world came into being when God purposefully spoke it into existence.

Also use this opportunity to help the children think about their own lives and how

this catechism question and answer affects them personally.

- How might they explain their belief in a Creator God to their friends?
- Does knowing God as Creator and Sustainer of the world bring them joy?
- Are they able to reflect on all the things they have and enjoy, which ultimately come from God?

10 Virtue Vision



Joy
Download and print the Q5 Joy Grid (RB), one per child. Give each child a pen or pencil.

Ask the children to think of something in particular that gives them joy as they reflect on creation. Once the children have had a moment to think of something, ask them to

write it down in one square of the grid. Then have them move around the room and find out what parts of creation bring joy to the other children. Tell them to fill in the grid as they exchange the information about what in creation brings them joy. The first student to fill in her grid wins.

10 Memory Activity

Invite the children to make up some actions for the memory verse or catechism answer in small groups. Allow each group to show their actions to the rest of the children. Finish

with all the groups joining together in saying the memory verse or catechism answer.

5 Closing Prayer Time

Encourage the children to thank God for the great joy they can find in his beautiful creation.