

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**Beginnings Genesis 1: 1—25***In the beginning God...* Genesis 1:1**Day 1: Read Genesis 1:1–25.**

1. The first chapter of Genesis records the creation of the universe in time and space. God is present at this point, but how long had he existed prior to creation and how far into the future will he continue to exist? (Ps. 90:2; Rev. 10:6)
2. Look again at verses 1 and 2. What raw materials did God use to create the heavens and the earth? (Is. 48:13)
3. Clearly God was present at creation, but who else was involved in the process? (1:2; Jn. 1:1–3; Col. 1:16)
4. Creation brought order and purpose out of chaos. If God was able to create a whole cosmos by the word of his mouth, what is he able to do in your life? (2 Cor. 5:17)

Days 2 & 3: Read Genesis 1:3–13.

5. Israel was surrounded by nations that believed creation resulted from the struggle between competing gods or forces; how does this differ from the Genesis account? (Is. 45:6-7)
6. How many times in chapter one does it say, “God spoke” and/or “God said”? In what ways does God continue to speak? (Heb. 1:1–3)
7. The NIV translates the condition of the earth before creation as “formless and empty”, but it could also be translated “uninhabitable and uninhabited”. On the first three days of creation, God makes three separations to make the cosmos livable. What are they? (1:4; 1:7; 1:9–10)
8. What does God do after each separation he makes in his creation? (1:5; 1:8; 1:10) What significance do you think this might have (consider the relationship you have with the things you name)? (Gen. 2:19, 20)

9. How is the significance of naming reflected in the life of a Christian? (Is. 43:1)

10. What further preparation for habitation does God make in verses 11 and 12?

Day 4: Read Genesis 1:14–24.

11. Israel’s neighbors worshipped the sun and moon. How does the Genesis account portray the sun and moon? What purpose did they serve? Why would their true origin be important for the Israelites to know and understand?

12. In the first three days of creation, God gives the world form and makes it habitable; in the next three he fills it. Fill in the chart below to show what God did each day.

Day	Separating the Realms Making the Earth habitable	Day	Filling the Created Realms Inhabiting the Earth
1	Light and Darkness	4	(1:16–17)
2	Sky and Sea	5	(1:20–22)
3	Land /Vegetation and Seas	6	(1:24–25)

Day 5: Read Genesis 1:1–25.

13. How does God feel about the things he has created? (1:10b; 12b; 18b; 25b) What does this say about his emotional connection to his creation?

14. Take a minute to consider the power God has to “thicreate (out of nothing!), and then give the ability to live, breathe and reproduce to all creatures. How does this strengthen your faith and trust in the Lord? (Ps. 124:8)

15. What is the surprise about creation week that we learn only in the New Testament? (Jn. 1:1–5; Col. 1:15–17)