

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 5: God, the Good Creator

Unit 5 Big Question and Answer:

Can You Tell What God Made?

God Made All Things Good!

PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 3,4

Unit 5 Bible Verse: Genesis 1:1,31, NIV 1984

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."
PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

God Created All Things Good in the Beginning

God created everything in the beginning. There was nothing but Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then He spoke, and it all came to be. He created everything in the world around us and everything in the great universe of stars and planets we see in the sky. He created all the creatures of heaven, too. He created it all through Jesus and for Jesus.

When God made everything, He called it very good. It was delightful to Him. It was pure and perfect. It was all exactly made according to His perfectly wise plan. There was nothing wrong or bad in God's creations when He created them. Nothing got sick or died. Nothing disobeyed Him. Everything did what He created them to do, and they did it joyfully. They did everything without wearing out or even making mistakes.

Everything God created points back to Him, their Creator. They are little pictures of something about Him. Look around you. What do God's creations tell you about Him?

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."

CASE STORY

Genesis 1, Job 38:7, Psalms 11:1-2; 33:6,9; Jeremiah 10:12; Colossians 4:1, Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 4:11

Our story is called:

The Case of the Working Words

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who had the working words? What did the working words do?
2. What was so unusual about the work they did?

Our story today takes place so long ago that I can't even tell you when it took place. For you see, it takes place at the very beginning of the world. Well actually...BEFORE the beginning of the world. Before there were places, before there were creatures, before there was time!

Were there days and nights? Nope. Were there people? Nope. Were there animals? Nope. Were there rocks? Nope. There was nothing that you think of when you think of the world. There was nothing but Nothingness....and God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Now Nothingness might sound very empty and sad to us, but it wasn't for God. God is always completely, overflowingly happy within Himself. So even when there was Nothingness, God was not bored. He was not lonely. He didn't NEED anything to do. He didn't NEED anyone else to enjoy Him or glorify Him. No. God needed nothing at all.

But even though God didn't NEED to do anything, there was something God very much WANTED to do. He wanted to create a great and wonderful world. And even though God didn't NEED anyone else, He very much WANTED to make someone else who could enjoy Him and glorify Him. And who was this very special someone...well, actually someONES? Why it was people, that's who! People like you and me! Yes, that's right! Way back there, before the beginning, God planned to fill the Nothingness with a world that would be Something Wonderful. And He planned to share it-- and Himself!-- with us. And so God began to create the heavens and the earth.

Now when you or I make something, we have to start with stuff. Wood, clay, glue, paper, yarn or something! But not God! God didn't need supplies to make His wonderful world. He had something far more powerful and perfect to create with. Do you have any idea what it was? It was His wisdom and His words. That's right! God made everything by the power of His words alone! And it came out just

right, because He did it with His perfect wisdom.

So God spoke the word and first heaven came to be. How beautiful it was! God made it the special place of His presence. It would always be bright with the light of His glory...a light brighter even than the sun! And He made thousands and thousands of magnificent, powerful, beautiful creatures to live there: cherubim and seraphim—some of them with three, huge sets of wings! They would be God's heavenly servants. They would joyfully sing His praises...so they did as God turned to create the rest of the world.

Heaven was glorious, but the earth was still formless, empty and dark. But God's Spirit was there and all that was about to change! God said, "Let there be light." (Genesis 1:1, NIV 1984). And as soon as He spoke, beautiful rays of light blazed out, pushing aside the darkness. God called the light 'day' and the darkness he called 'night.' God saw that the light was good. Pure and perfect. Exactly made for His good purposes. There was evening and morning: the first day of creation—the Something Wonderful God was making.

The second day came, and even more amazing changes with it. Now the world burst with light, but the earth was not much to look at. It was nothing but a shapeless heap of water. God spoke to the waters and said, "Let there be a great, open space that separates the waters into water above and water below."

The waters obeyed. Some water went up into clouds. The rest stayed upon on the earth. And in between, there was the beautiful, crisp open blueness, God called "sky". How beautiful the light sparkled in the sky! How softly shadows fell that evening as night came to God's new world at the end of Day Two!

On Day Three, God did even more wonderful things to the earth. "Waters, gather together. Let the dry land appear," God said. And at once, the earth shook as mighty mountains pushed their peaks above the water. Rolling hills, flatlands and deep valleys appeared, too. God called the dry ground 'land,' and the gathered waters He called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Pure and perfect. Exactly made for His good purposes.

Then the LORD said, "Land, be filled with all kinds of plants with seeds." Immediately the lifeless, brown soil of the earth burst forth with color. There were blooming flowers, bright, leafy bushes, and juicy, fruity trees. Beneath them,

a carpet of lush, green grasses sprouted up. Once more, the LORD looked at what He created and saw that it was good. Pure and perfect. Exactly made for His good purposes. Once more there was evening, and there was morning—the third day of Something Wonderful.

The first three days of our world had come and gone. God had truly made places that were Something Wonderful. But now it was time to fill these beautiful places with lots and lots of creatures.

First God filled the place He had made with light and darkness. "Lights, shine in the sky! One for the day, and another for the night," the LORD commanded. "The sun will be the powerful light that will give light to the earth during the day. The moon and the stars will be the gentle light of night. They will rise and set, over and over, marking time in days, seasons and years," He said. And so everything happened, just as God planned. The LORD looked at what He created and saw that it was good. Pure and perfect. Exactly made for His good purposes. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day of Something Wonderful.

Then God filled the places He had made in the sky and the seas. And God said, "Waters, be filled with lots of living creatures." Colorful coral, tiny minnows, playful dolphins, mighty whales filled the waters at His command.

"Birds, fly above the earth, across the sky," the LORD said, and there the air was alive with fluttering wings. Parrots started squawking and twittering, hummingbirds flitted to and fro, and stately eagles sailed on the wings of the wind.

God blessed them and said, "Have lots of babies so that the seas are filled with sea creatures and the air is filled with birds," the LORD commanded them all. The creatures all delighted to obey. Soon the air would be filled with the chirp and flutter of baby birds. Soon the seas would bubble with wriggling, little fish. God saw that it was good. Pure and perfect. Exactly made for His good purposes. Fish and birds settled down as the sun set that day. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day of Something Wonderful.

When the sun rose on Day Six, the skies filled again with the flapping of wings; and the seas, with the leaps and splashes of fish. What a busy place God's world was becoming! Yet there was one place that was silent and still. Can you guess which one? It was the earth—the dry land.

But it wouldn't stay that way for long!

God's powerful words went to work again: "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock (cows, horses, sheep and such), creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." No longer was earth a quiet place! Countless wild animals, farm animals, reptiles, and bugs crept and climbed, leapt and dug. And God saw that it was good.

Oh, what a world God had created! How beautiful! How big! Who could even count how many creatures God had made! It was indeed Something Wonderful!

Now, at last, it was time to create the people God planned to share His creations with. "Let us make people in our image, in our own likeness," God said. So He made the first man and woman. And unlike any of the other creatures, God made them with a spirit inside their heart to know and love Him. They could talk to God and enjoy His closeness. They could look out upon all God's creations and praise Him for them. And everything they saw—from the glittering stars to the bouncy bugs, from the mighty mountains to the growling animals—was a reminder of the great God who made them all. They could see that the new world was truly Something Wonderful; and, that it was that way only because SOMEONE even more wonderful was behind it all: God, Himself!

"Have lots of children!" God told the man and the woman. "Fill up the earth with people! Explore it and make it all your home! Rule over all the creatures! Enjoy the fruit of the trees!" God was giving it all to them to enjoy, and they were happy to do just that!

God saw all that He had made, and it was not just good. It was very good! The Nothingness had been turned into an amazing world, bursting with beauty, color and life. Pure and perfect. Exactly made for His good purposes. Completely ready for God's story of faithfulness, love and mercy to begin. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day of Something Wonderful.

And so God created the heavens and earth in all its greatness.

Our Bible Truth is:
God Created All Things Good in the Beginning

Our Bible Verse is: Nehemiah 9:6

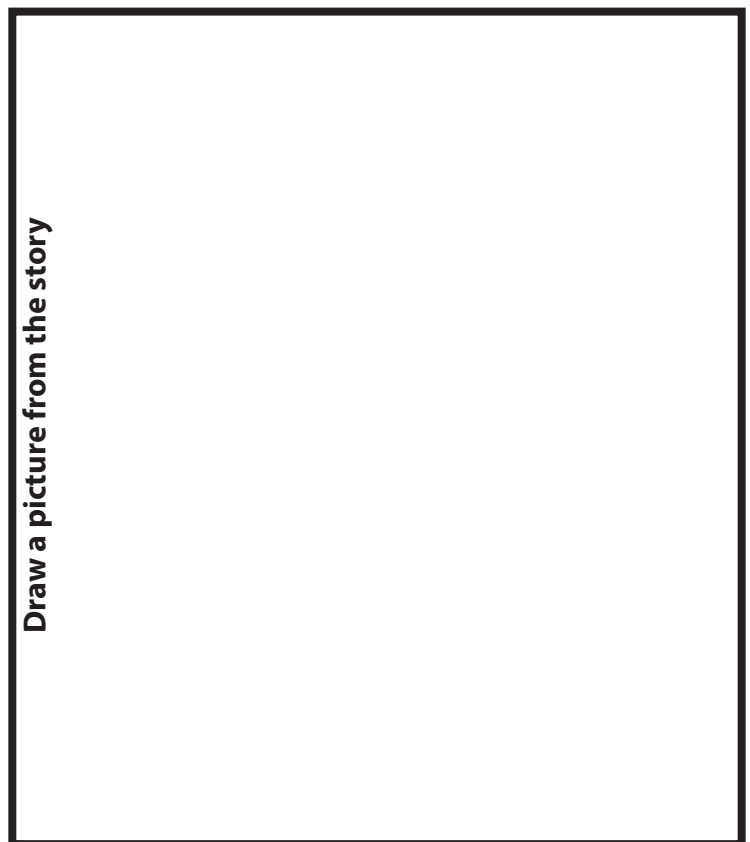
"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."

It isn't amazing to think that as God made all of creation, He had you and me in mind? He changed Nothingness into Something Wonderful as an amazing display of His glory. And He placed people like you and me in the very middle of it to share with us these reflections of His glorious Self.

Today when you look up to the sky, or out upon grassy hills, or to pet a favorite fluffy animal, God wants us to remember they are His creations. Try to see the good things about Himself God wants to share with you as you enjoy them.

But the sad thing is that many times we enjoy the wonderful things God made, yet we don't think about Him. That's because we are sinners who have hearts that think so much about themselves and what they want, but not God and serving Him. Is there any hope for sinners? Yes, there is! For all who say sorry to God for their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God offers forgiveness for their sins. He will fill them with His Holy Spirit and create in them a new heart to know and love Him—and that's the best kind of creating there is!

Let's praise our great Creator of all things. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to love and delight in Him more through enjoying all His creations.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:

God created everything on earth, but not everything in the universe. That was already there.
 Answer: False. God created everything in the beginning, even the universe.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who had the working words? What did the working words do?

Answer: The LORD. They created everything in heaven and earth.

b. What was so unusual about the work they did?

Answer: God's word was so powerful that He could create everything out of nothing...and every bit of it was very good!

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the _____. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their _____ host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and _____ that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."

Answers: LORD; starry; all.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

O, Worship the King

PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 7

Verse 3

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air,
 it shines in the light,
 It streams from the hill,
 It descends to the plain,
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Words: Robert Grant Music: Attr. Johan Michael Haydn

This hymn reminds us that all of creation reflects God's goodness to us. We see His goodness in the bountiful way He cares for us. When we look at the light streaming down from heaven to give us warmth and light; when we see the dew and the rain that feeds thirsty plants so we will have food to eat; in the beautiful hills God gives us to look at; in the flat plains that make good ground to grow crops. Seeing His goodness in His creation makes His people want to worship and praise Him.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being the great, amazing Creator who created everything in this world with just Your word... and made it all very good!

C We confess that we disobey You in our hearts, in our words, in our thoughts, in the things we do. We do not live the perfect way You created as to live. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God for making so many good things for us to enjoy and see what You is like. Thank You for making us.

S God, help us see what You are like as we enjoy the wonderful things You created. Help us to be more thankful for Your good creations. Help us to joyfully obey You as our Creator. Work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

You Alone Are the LORD

PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 8

You alone are the LORD.
 You made the heavens, the highest heavens
 and all their starry host, and all their starry host.
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You,
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You.
 You, alone are the LORD.
 You made the earth and all that is in it,
 the seas and all that is in it, the seas and all that is in it.
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You.
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You.

Words: Nehemiah 9:6, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

The Bible tells us that there is nothing that God did not make in the heavens or the earth in the beginning. He made all things and He gave life to it all. He is the one that keeps everything going. No wonder the angels--the host of heaven-- worship Him. Who is like the LORD! And this is why we should worship Him, our Creator, too.