

LESSON 1

Egermeier's Story:

Page 11 - How the World Was Made

Page 12 - The First Home

Memory Verse: John 1:3a "All things came into being by Him..." NASB

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–3:24

Teaching Resources:

Old Testament Overview Section 2 Creation, Adam and Eve
Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 37-38

Object Lesson: The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). For this object lesson, you will need a glass of water.

How many of you have ever seen the ocean? Do you know that nearly three-fourths of the surface of the world is water? Have you ever wondered who keeps all that water in place? God does (Colossians 1:17). Look at this glass of water. It doesn't seem very heavy, does it? How many of you think you could hold this glass of water in your hand with your arm stretched straight out from your side for one minute? Yes, I imagine most of you could do that. How many of you could hold the glass for one hour in that position? How about one day? Even a little glass of water would become extremely heavy to you after even one hour. But think of it, God holds all the oceans in their places all the time. That takes real power, doesn't it?

There's something that takes even more power on God's part. It is the work of salvation. For a holy God to take sinners like you and me to heaven required the death of His Son; but now that the price has been paid, God is able to save all who believe in Jesus. That's the gospel, the good news that Christ died for your sins. And that gospel, the Bible says, "is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16)." When you believe on Jesus as your Savior from sin, God promises to take you to heaven; and the carrying out of that promise depends on His power. Don't you think you can trust the One who holds all the oceans and all the worlds in place in this universe? This God loved you enough to send His Son. Won't you receive Him today so that you can know the power of God unto salvation?

Doctrinal Emphasis: The Creator

Key Theme: *God is Creator. This displays His omnipotence, omniscience, eternal nature, and His self-existence.*

Omnipotence—God is all-powerful. He is able to do anything that is consistent with His nature. The word “Almighty” is used only of God in Scripture. God made Himself known to Abraham as “God Almighty” in Genesis 17:1, to Moses in Exodus 6:3, to believers in II Corinthians 6:18, and to John in Revelation 1:8 and 19:6. Omnipotence does have limitations, both natural and self-imposed. Natural limitations are those limits on omnipotence that would be contrary to God’s nature. For instance, God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) nor can He be tempted to sin (James 1:13). Self-imposed limitations are those things that God chooses not to do because they are not part of His plan. He chose only Israel, not all the nations. He chose Jacob, not Esau. He chose not to spare His own Son.

The awesome power of God is revealed in His creation, and His power to create all that there is stands as proof that He is able to do what He promises to do.

Omniscience—God knows everything. He knows all things actual, possible, and probable. God is never surprised nor does He ever discover anything. He knows everything perfectly well and equally. He knows all of His works eternally (Acts 15:18). An example of the extent of His knowledge is found in Psalm 147:4, which states that He knows the number and the names of the stars. Jesus Christ explains an example of God’s knowing all things possible when He states in Matthew 11:21 what might have happened in Tyre and Sidon.

Consider that God knows everything about us. In Psalm 139:16, we find that He knows everything about us even before we are born. This should provide security in our position before God as believers in Christ. No one can tell on us. God already knows all about us and has forgiven all of our sins. Yet we should be sobered by this thought, also. In Hebrews 4:13, we are reminded that we must all stand before an all-knowing God.

Eternal Nature—God exists endlessly. He was never brought into existence, but rather always has been. Although we probably can only glimpse the meaning of eternity, we are told that God is “from everlasting to everlasting” in Psalm 90:2. In Genesis 21:33, God is called “the Everlasting God,” *El Olam*. The Hebrew words mean God (*El*) of the ages (*Olam*). *Olam* is used for both the ancient and the future.

God is able to see the past and the future as clearly as the present. Undoubtedly He can see the succession of events to which our knowledge is restricted, but He is in no way bound by that succession. Because God has never ceased to exist, nor will He ever cease to exist, we should find comfort in His ability to control and sustain and to keep His promises.

Self-Existence—God depends only upon Himself. He has no needs. Although we are dependent upon God's creation for our existence and sustenance, God needs nothing of His creation to sustain Himself. When He created all that there is, both physical and spiritual, He needed nothing to use in His creative act. He needed neither time nor materials. Hebrews 11:3 states this.