

In the Beginning 10 – Lesson Activities

LESSON ACTIVITIES

- ✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

The Downward Progression of Depravity

If we believe that there is a God who created all things and is Lord over his creation then we should recognize our need to know him better and do things his way. Wanting to go God's way and submitting to his authority puts a person on a good path that leads to blessing. On the other hand, when people look at creation and deny that there is a God it puts them on a downward path that leads to destruction, both personally and for society.

Paul in Romans 1:18-32 describes the progression of depravity that occurs when men fail to acknowledge God as seen through creation.

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

1. **What is always the first step into folly or depravity?** (vs. 18) Suppression of the truth, denying the majesty and sovereignty of God, no fear of God.

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2. What happens to a person after taking the first step? (vs. 21) His mind becomes darkened and he can't see or understand as clearly the way of God.
3. Why are men without excuse when they deny God? (vs. 20) God's qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, are clearly seen in his creation.
4. If the truth is made clear to people, why do they reject it? They don't want to be under God's authority. They want to go their own way rather than God's way. They don't want to be held accountable by God for their actions. They are indoctrinated to dismiss it. They start with the wrong presuppositions.
5. What is the ultimate outcome of rejecting the truth? Total depravity, destruction of society. Once God's authority is denied anything goes; it is then up to man to decide for himself what is right and wrong. Suppressing the basic truth of the design of creation and the existence of a creator then you are capable of believing any futile thought (hollow and deceptive idea) and will go to any irrational length to justify it.
6. Study the progression of what happens to men when they suppress the truth.

	Man's Evil Action	Consequence of Action
1	v. 18, 21 Suppresses the truth, doesn't glorify or give thanks to God. (Doesn't pursue God or his understanding.)	v. 21 Thinking becomes futile and hearts are darkened. (Can't see or understand the truth.)
2	v. 22, 23, 25 Claims to be wise, exchanges the glory of God for idols, exchanges the truth for a lie, worships and serves created things. (Love of the world takes hold.)	v. 22, 24, 26 Become fools, God gives them over to their sinful desires, sexual immorality. (Follows fallen nature rather than what God says is right.)
3	v.26, 27 Exchanges natural relations for unnatural. Commits indecent acts (homosexuality, further perversion takes place.)	v. 27 Receives in body the due penalty of their sin (Physical disease, which is the result of a lifestyle, sets in.)
4	v.28 Retains no knowledge of God (People don't know of God and his word. God is removed from the public discourse.)	v.28 Given over to a depraved mind, full of every kind of evil. (Do what shouldn't be done.)

Discussion: Where are we as a society in terms of this downward progression of depravity? What is the evidence we are there? Why are we there? What can be done to reverse the downward progression?

✓ **Investigation Activity** – The Phases of the Moon

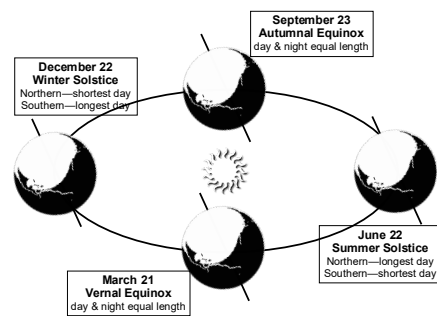
As you do this activity, put a lamp with a bare light bulb in the middle of the room to represent the sun and use an orange (or tennis ball) for the earth and a walnut (or a ping pong ball) for the moon.

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1. First, God made the light to separate day from night. When the sun shines on part of the earth it is day and on the other side of the earth that faces away from the sun it is night. Demonstrate this with the orange. Put a mark on the orange to see where it is in relation to the sun as it turns around.
2. The time it takes for the earth to make one rotation on its axis makes a day of 24 hours. Rotate the orange to demonstrate.
3. The time it takes for the earth to make a circle around the sun (orbit) is 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days or one year. Walk around lamp with the orange. 365 days or one year divided into twelve months makes up the solar calendar, which we follow.

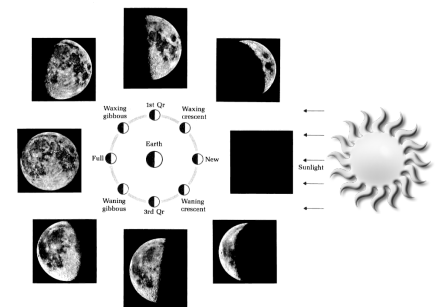
4. The orbit of the earth around the sun creates the seasons that relate to the growing patterns of plants (spring – planting, summer – growth, fall – harvest, winter – rest).

Stick a skewer through the orange and hold the orange at the angle of the earth's axis (23.5 degrees). Use the light bulb as the sun and walk in a circle (orbit) around it, always keeping the tilt of the skewer and the orange the same and facing the same direction as you move around the sun. (Fix on a place on the wall to assure that you don't change the orientation of the tilt or the direction you are facing. At some point you will be walking backwards.) As you walk



around the sun think about which pole is closest to the sun, what season it would be in the northern and southern hemispheres and what the temperature would be in each hemisphere and why. The more sunlight that hits the earth the warmer it gets. The area around the equator (tropics) is hotter because the rays of the sun hit it more directly than they do the northern or southern hemispheres.

5. The length of time it takes for the moon to make a circle (orbit) around the earth is 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ days. Demonstrate movement of moon around the earth. Demonstrate the phases, using the light bulb as the sun and the orange and walnut as the earth and moon. Position the walnut at different points on its orbit around the earth and think about what phase the moon is in, what they can see of the moon at that phase and why.

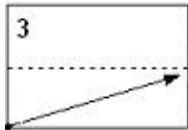
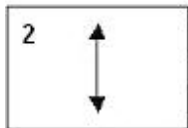
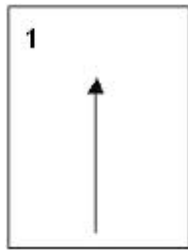


6. God also made the planets and stars. Since the beginning of time people have used the position of the stars in the sky to mark the changing seasons in the year and for navigation. To demonstrate how the position of the constellations relative to the earth would change as the earth orbits the sun. Position children at different spots in the room to represent constellations. Mark a position on the ceiling that is always over the North Pole of the earth to mark the North Star. Move the earth round the sun as it would in an orbit.

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✓ **Craft:** Cutting Five-Pointed Stars

As a reminder that God created everything in the heavens, learn how to cut a five-pointed star like Betsy Ross did when she made the American flag.



1. Take a 8.5" x 11" piece of paper and fold it in half.

2. Fold in half again to mark the quarter-way point. Unfold.

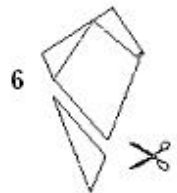
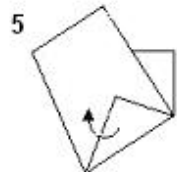
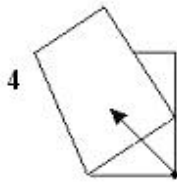
3. Bring the bottom left corner to the quarter-way mark at the right edge of the paper.

4. Fold the bottom right corner over-top the left edge.

5. Fold the bottom right over-top the left side one more time. You will get a pizza shape.

6. Cut a wedge out of the bottom of the pizza shape: cut from bottom right up towards top left.

7. Unfold the wedge and see a perfect five pointed star. If you cut a narrow wedge then you will get a star with skinny arms. If you cut a fat wedge, then you will get a stumpy star.



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✓ **Game** – Sun, Sun, Moon (Duck, Duck, Goose)

As a reminder that God created everything in the heavens, play “Duck, Duck, Goose” but use the words “Sun, Sun, Moon” instead.

✓ **Discovery Activity:** Light produces heat

Use a bare light bulb to demonstrate how light produces heat.

✓ **Song:** Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
When the blazing sun is gone,
When there's nothing he shines upon,
Then you show your little light,
Twinkle, twinkle, through the night.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
In the dark blue sky so deep
Through my curtains often peep
For you never close your eyes
Til the morning sun does rise

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are