



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #5 – The Separation of Waters Genesis 1:6-8

### PICTURES NEEDED

5-1 clouds in sky above ocean

### REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What existed before light? How did light come into existence? What did God see about the light?
- **The Big Question Review:** How is Jesus the Light? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** John 1:3-4  
Jesus enables us to live and see God.

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.  
<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

What did God create on the first day of creation? He brought space, matter and light energy into being.

How did he bring those things into being? He spoke them into existence by this omnipotent power.

On the second day of creation, God gave form to his creation. Genesis 1:6-8 says, *“And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.”<sup>6</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.<sup>8</sup> God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.*

What did God give form to on the second day? (picture 5-1) God separated the water that he had created into two parts, one below the expanse and the other above the expanse. He gathered the water below together to form the earth and left a canopy of water above in the sky.

God gave form to the planet Earth. God had a plan for earth and that is why he made it. He created it as a place where he would put life. You could say that out of all God has created Earth is his favorite. It is the focus of his creation and he loves it and everything on it.

What is significant about water being the first substance God gathered together? Water is a substance absolutely essential for the life. Between the waters, God made an expanse. In the expanse formed the atmosphere around the earth containing the air, which is also essential for life.

Why is air essential for life? Air supplies the oxygen our bodies need to live. Every cell of our bodies needs oxygen every second of every day. Without oxygen, we die in a matter of minutes. The air is made up of tiny molecules of oxygen and other invisible gases. These gases stay in atmosphere air around the earth because of the pull of gravity.

What is water needed for? No living thing can function without water and all living things are made up mostly of water. Your own body is about two-thirds water. (Have children put a hand on their bodies to indicate what would be two-thirds.) Every part of your body needs water every moment of every day to function.

What would happen to our body systems without water? Without water your blood couldn't flow, your brain couldn't process information, and you wouldn't be able to digest food. Nothing in your body would work. Every system in your body would shut down and you would die.

How long could you live without water? You wouldn't be able to live more than a week without water, whereas you could survive a couple months without food.

What happens to you when your body lacks water? When our bodies lack water, a feeling of thirst is triggered. Drinking water satisfies thirst so we don't get dehydrated and die. Hydrate comes from the Greek word for water. De means without.

Just as our physical bodies need water to survive so our spirit needs God. We should be like the Psalmist who said in Psalm 63:1, *O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

What do you think it means to thirst after God? If we thirst after God, we recognize that a relationship with him is necessary for spiritual life. We see that we die spiritually without him, just as we die physically without water. We have to drink of God's presence and fill our lives with him to satisfy spiritual thirst and gain spiritual life.

In John 4:9-14 Jesus had an important conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well whom he had asked to give him a drink of water.

<sup>9</sup> *The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

<sup>10</sup> *Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

<sup>11</sup> *"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"* <sup>12</sup> *Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"*

<sup>13</sup> *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again," <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

What does it mean that Jesus is the living water? Jesus is the one who satisfies our souls and gives us what we need for spiritual life, if we are not continually filled with him, we die spiritually. Remember, we are to thirst for God as our bodies thirst for water.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did God do to the waters on the second day of creation? Why is water important? What formed the earth's atmosphere? What did it contain? What did Jesus call himself in terms of water? What does that mean?
- **Thought Questions:** Why was the earth the first thing God gave form to? Why is the earth God's favorite part of creation? How has God shown how much he loves the earth?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he created the earth and all that is in it for his enjoyment and pleasure. Thank him for his great love and faithfulness to the earth and all it contains. Pray that you would thirst after God, want to live your life in a way that delights him, and would make him glad that he created man.
- **The Big Question: For what should we thirst?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.

- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 63:1

We are to thirst for God like our bodies thirst for water.

*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

Questions: What does it mean that a person's soul thirsts for God? Why will a person's soul never be satisfied apart from God? What are ways we seek God to satisfy our soul? Why do we get thirsty? What would happen to you if you never got thirsty? How do you keep from getting thirsty?

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: On the second day, God separated the waters and gave form to the earth.

1. God made an expanse (space) between the waters that formed the earth's atmosphere.
2. The water above the expanse formed the sky.
3. The water below the expanse formed the earth.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Word Scramble

Instructions: Unscramble each of the clue words describing something water is used for. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Irrigation, transportation, recreation, manufacturing, power, cleaning, bathing, washing

Phrase: Without water there would be no life on earth.

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

Earth is referred to as the blue planet because of all the water on it. Water is the most common substance on earth and covers seventy percent of its surface. The amount of water on earth always remains the same. It is recycled over and over and never used up. It just moves from place to place.

Earth is the only place in the universe where water is known to exist in three states. What are the three states water exists in? Liquid (water), solid (ice) and gas (water vapor).

Water also has characteristics that make it different from all other substances. No other substance exists in liquid form in the temperature range found on earth. Also, as liquid water turns into a solid (ice) it acts differently from other substances going from a liquid to a solid state.

What causes a liquid to turn into a solid? Normally as heat is removed from a substance, it gets colder as the movement of the molecules in it slows down and the molecules draw closer together. As the molecules draw closer together, the substance becomes denser. This means that there is less space between molecules in a solid. This makes the solid form of a substance heavier than the same volume (amount) of the liquid form. Because the solid form of a substance is denser (heavier) than the liquid form, the solid form will sink to the bottom of the liquid.

What is the solid form of water? Ice is the solid form of water. If water acted in the same way as other substances, it would mean that ice would be denser (heavier) than water. If that were true, what would happen when you put an ice cube into a glass of water? If ice were denser than water, it would sink to the bottom of the glass.

What actually happens when you put ice into a glass of water? (Demonstrate this.) Liquid water is denser than solid water (ice) because water doesn't act in the same manner as other substances when it gets cold. As with other substances water molecules draw closer together when heat is removed until water reaches a temperature of 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius). Water then does something very different as it continues to lose heat and get colder; it begins to expand until it forms ice at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. This makes ice less dense than water so ice floats in water. All other substances continue to contract, as they get colder and become more dense.

We need to think about why God designed water to act in a different manner than other substances. Remember liquid water is necessary for life and is the only substance which exists in a liquid form at the temperature range needed for life.

What would happen to a lake in winter if water acted like every other substance when it loses heat? If ice were denser than water, in the winter as water froze on the top of a lake it would sink to the bottom. The bottom of the lake would begin to fill up with ice. More and more ice would accumulate until the whole lake was frozen solid.

Why would a completely frozen lake be a problem? If a lake completely froze in the winter then all the life in it would die. The lake wouldn't even thaw out in warm weather because the heat of the sun wouldn't be able to penetrate through to the bottom.

What actually happens to a lake in the winter? As heat escapes from the water into the air, the water in the lake gets colder. The colder water on top becomes denser than the water below it and so it sinks to the bottom. When the lake temperature reaches 39.2 degrees the water on the surface of the lake will continue to lose heat and get colder but it will begin to expand instead of sink. Since it is less dense, it will stay on top of the water that is underneath it. When the water on top freezes at 32 degrees, a sheet of ice will form over the surface of the lake. Only the top layer of water will freeze, protecting the life that lives in the warmer (39.2 degree) water below.

Demonstration: You can demonstrate how this works by completing the activity.

Preparation:

Add blue food coloring to a small amount of water in two small paper cups.

Put one cup in the freezer and leave until completely frozen.

Put the other cup in the refrigerator to chill.

Activity:

1) Fill a clear glass about 2/3 full with very warm water. Using an eyedropper drip drops of the chilled blue water into the warm water. Observe what happens.

2) Remove the frozen water from the paper cup. Put it into the warm water. Observe what happens.

Questions: What is unique about water? Why is God's design for water good? What can be learned about God from examining the properties of water?

## JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

- Digging Deeper: What happens when we thirst for God?

Reading 1: Psalm 63:1-8 We long for God with all of our soul.

What is the soul? How does a soul thirst for God? What is the body? How does a body long for God? What does it mean that God's love is better than life? What is the outcome of thirsting for God?

Reading 2: Psalm 42:1-5 In the midst of struggle we continue to seek God.

How does a deer pant for water? In what kind of situation was the writer of this Psalm? Did that change his view of God? What did it cause him to do? Why?

Reading 3: John 4:1-14 Jesus satisfies us with living water.

Why was the woman surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink? What did Jesus say he would give her if she asked? What is living water? How does living water satisfy thirst?

Reading 4: John 7:25-44 Living water flows from us if we drink from Christ.

What did Jesus say about where he came from? What did he say those who are thirsty should do? What would happen to them? What did that mean? How did the people respond to what he said?

Reading 5: Revelation 21:1-8 If we drink from Christ, we gain Christ.

What will the new Jerusalem be like? Who will have a place in the new heaven? Who won't have a place in the new heaven?

## Reading 6: Matthew 10:37-42 Understanding water attraction

### Instructions:

- 1) Use a medicine dropper to put several small drops of water on a piece of wax paper.
- 2) Wet a tooth pick with water. Move the toothpick next to a drop of water but don't touch it. Observe what happens.

### Explanation:

Water molecules have a strong attraction to one another. When the toothpick draws near to the drop of water, the water drop is attracted to the water on the toothpick, which causes it to move toward the toothpick.

### Reflection:

What causes us to be attracted to God? What causes God to be attracted to us?  
What happens if we draw close to God?