



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #9 – Each Plant After Its Own Kind Genesis 1:11

### PICTURES NEEDED

- 8-1 Smallest unit to seed chart
- 9-1 Different types of plants
- 9-2 Different types of corn
- 9-3 Apple tree

### 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 is the smallest unit of matter? What do atoms form when they join together? What is the smallest unit of life? What are cells made up of? What do cells divide into and become? How are they able to do that?
- **The Big Question Review:** What comes from God's wisdom?  
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Proverbs 8:22-23  
God's creation comes out of God's wisdom.

*22" The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.*

## 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.

People who don't see the hand of God in creation believe in a theory called evolution. What is evolution? Evolution is the belief that all the majesty and complex design of the world and living things came into existence without a creator God through small changes over billions and billions of years. Any time you read about earth being billions of years old in a science textbook you know that the author believes in the theory of evolution.

People who hold to the theory of evolution don't believe that the majesty, complexity and order in the world are evidence of intelligent design by a creator God. Instead, they say that everything in the material world came about through chance (random processes). They think it is "scientific" to explain the existence of life without God. They will even go so far as to say that anyone who believes in creation is stupid and doesn't believe in science.

How would you respond to someone who says, "You don't believe in science because you believe in God and creation."? We believe in science and God and creation, just like the great scientist Isaac Newton who discovered and explained the law of gravity that God set into place at creation. Newton believed we could study the world and learn from it because God created it and it therefore has order and design.

What is science? Science is the study of how things in the material world function. We can use the scientific method to learn about and gain greater understanding of the order and design of the world around us, the things God created. If things aren't ordered, they can't be studied and understood. The question we want to ponder is what does the use of the scientific method to study the natural world point to, creation by God (intelligent design) or evolution through time and chance (random processes)?

To illustrate the difference between random processes (change through time and chance) and intelligent design (creation by God) we can evaluate a simple task.

Demonstration: (You will need to use five dice to illustrate this concept.) If I have five dice and I want to put them in a straight line in order from 1-5 what do I have to do? To order the dice from 1-5 in a straight line I follow certain simple steps. First I pick up one die, find the side with the one dot, turn it up and set it down, which is a simple process. I next pick up another die, find the two and set it down next to the first die. I keep doing the same for the other dice, each time finding the next number. In doing this I have used my mind and my actions to establish order.

In a simple way, this illustrates the idea of intelligent design. I had a plan in my mind to establish an order with the dice and I was able to do what was necessary to carry out my plan. How long did it take for me to do this? Because I was created with a mind which can picture and plan order, know my numbers, have hands to carry out my task, and had the dice to work with it took me hardly any time.

On the other hand, if I want to make the same order and design by just throwing the dice (in other words chance), how long will it take? The probability that I can get all the dice in one neat row from 1-5 with each one touching the next die by random throwing of the dice is impossible. It just won't happen, even though the task is a very simple one. If I kept throwing and throwing the dice I might at some point end up with the numbers 1-5, but it is unlikely that the numbers will be in order and virtually impossible that they will form a nice, neat row touching at the edges.

What does real life show about what order and design come from? By observation and experimentation we recognize that order and design in all areas of life come about by a plan and determined action from an intelligent source; they just don't come about by random acts no matter how much time there is. In spite of this reality, evolutionists still believe that given enough time the impossible (like randomly throwing the dice and getting order) becomes possible.

Why do people believe so fervently in the theory of evolution? Evolutionists have blind faith in a faulty theory because they believe an explanation for everything has to be found in the material world, the world we can experience with our physical senses. They reject the idea of a creator God, who exists in both the physical and also the spiritual, unseen realm. They refuse to see the order and complexity in the world as evidence of intelligent design and a creator God. They hold to it because they want to deny the existence of God and their accountability to him.

How would evolutionists say that plants came into being? In terms of the variety of plants on earth evolutionists would say that a single cell somehow came into being and then evolved into all the wonderful variety of plants and animals on earth through small random changes over billions of years.

What does the Bible say about the origin of plants? Genesis 1:11 says: Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

What does it mean that God created plants according to their various kinds? (picture 9-1) There are different kinds of plants, each following a certain design. We recognize what something is from its unique design. One kind of plant always comes from the same kind.

Does that mean that a type of plant never changes? Though there are small changes within a kind over time as adaptations are made to changes in the environment, there is no evidence that one kind of plant or animal has ever changed into a different kind. In other words no transition or changing forms that are partly one thing and partly another have ever been found to exist.

How many varieties of corn are there? (picture 9-2) There are lots of different varieties of corn that have developed or have been developed, but corn is still corn. When you look at Indian corn, you know it is corn because it has characteristics of corn.

(picture 9-3) The same is true for apples or any other kind of fruit. We think of apples as being red because most of them are. However, when you look at a Granny Smith apple you know it is an apple even though it is green because it has the characteristics of an apple.

What is true for real fruit is also true for spiritual fruit. The type of fruit we produce, whether it is good or bad, shows what type of person we are.

Matthew 12:33-37 says, *Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.* <sup>34</sup> *You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.* <sup>35</sup> *The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.* <sup>36</sup> *But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.* <sup>37</sup> *For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

What does that verse mean? The actions and character of a person show what the person is really like. If we believe in Jesus and his truth and his Spirit lives in us then we will produce good fruit that brings honor to God. If, however, we reject Jesus and the truth and go our own way and do our own thing then the fruit of our lives will be bad and dishonor God.

Why will our words acquit or condemn us? Who we truly are comes out in what we say. Our words show what is real about us.

You can't go your own way separate from God and have a good result in the end. You can't reject God without it affecting your life in a negative way. We, like the plants, produce fruit after our own kind.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What do evolutionists believe about the created world? What are random processes? What is intelligent design? What do random processes lead to? Why? What does intelligent design lead to? Why?
- **Thought Questions:** Why do people choose to believe evolution over creation? Why do people choose to believe creation over evolution? How would believing evolution affect your life? Why? How would believing in creation or intelligent design affect your life? Why?
- **Prayer:** Thank God for the beauty and order of the world he designed. Pray that your eyes would be opened so that you could see his awesome work more clearly. Thank him that he has a good plan for his creation and that as you follow his plan things go well for you.
- **The Big Question: What does the fruit of a tree reveal?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Matthew 12:33** Fruit shows whether a tree is good or bad.

*Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.*

Questions: What does it mean that a tree is recognized by its fruit? What is the fruit a person produces? What would bad fruit look like? What would good fruit look like? If you want to produce good fruit, what do you have to do? What does it mean that out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks?

## 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: Creation shows evidence of being the result of intelligent design, not random processes.

1. Evolutionists try to explain the existence of all things through chance changes over billions of years.
2. The Bible says that God created lots of different types of plant that grow into and reproduce the same kind of plant.
3. You can recognize a plant by the fruit it produces and its other unique characteristics: seeds, leaves, flowers, roots, etc.

- ★ **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:** Hidden message

Instructions: Unscramble the names of different types of trees to decipher the hidden message.

Trees: Oak, pine, olive, poplar, palm, cedar, eucalyptus, pepper, apple, orange

Message: God designed plants to produce their own kind.

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

### Scientific classification

Carolus Linnaeus was a Swedish botanist and dedicated Christian who lived in the 1700s. He believed that living things could be classified according to the kinds talked about in Genesis. He studied plants carefully and developed the first widely used scientific classification system for living things. Linnaeus based his classification system on physical resemblances between organisms and gave two Latin names to all species (kinds). Much of the modern classification system is similar to what Linnaeus developed.

We can get an idea of how Linnaeus did this by developing our own classification system. What are parts almost all plants have? Most plants have leaves, roots, and stems. They also produce fruit or seed pods.

Even though most plants have all these parts, each plant has different characteristics. We are going to think about each part of a plant and the differences we see between plants for each part. By doing this, we are making a type of classification system as Linnaeus did.

Why are we able to classify plants? We are able to classify plants because God designed each plant in a very particular way. It may have elements or parts that are similar to other

plants but each plant is unique and will produce its own kind.

What characteristics can leaves be categorized by? What are different types of fruit or seed pods? What are different types of roots? What are different types of stems or trunks?

Examples are given below that the students may come up with.

LEAVES	FRUIT/SEED	ROOT	STEM
Shape	Cone (pine)	Fibrous (grass)	Woody (trees, bushes)
Size	Fleshy (apple)	Tap Root (carrot)	Herbaceous (grass)
Edges	Pod (bean)	Tuberous (potato)	Subterranean (underground)
Pattern/Color	Nut (walnut)		Vine (grapes)
# of Leaflets	Seed head (dandelion, wheat)		Spreading (strawberries)

## 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 does fruit reveal?

Reading 1: Matthew 12:33-37 A tree is recognized by its fruit.

What does it mean that a tree is recognized by its fruit? What does a good man produce? Why? What does a bad man produce? Why? What do verses 36-37 mean?

Reading 2: Matthew 7:15-23 A bad tree bears bad fruit.

What is a false prophet? How do you recognize a false prophet? What does that mean? What is evidence of good fruit?

Reading 3: John 15:1-8 Bearing fruit is evidence of connection to the vine.

What does God do to the branch that doesn't bear fruit? What does that mean he does? How does a branch bear fruit? What does it mean that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches? Why is that important to remember?

Reading 4: Galatians 5:16-26 Living by the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit

What does it mean to live by the Spirit? What are the acts of the sinful nature? What is the fruit of the Spirit? How do we produce the fruit of the Spirit?

Reading 5: Proverbs 1:22-33 People who reject God produce bad fruit.

What happens to the person who doesn't listen to God? What happens to the person who listens to God?

Reading 6: 1 Peter 1:22-25 Flower Examination

Read about how a flower produces a seed in an encyclopedia or on the internet. Pict a flower, take it apart, identify and examine its parts, and reflect on its design.