

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

## Sunday Morning

Study 3

*C is for Creator*

# C is for Creator

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** Using Genesis 1 and Psalm 139, show that God is not only the Creator of all plants, animals, and things, but that He also specially created you and me.

## Key Verses

Genesis 1—Main Teaching Passage

Psalm 139:1-18

Luke 12:7

**Memory Verse** Matthew 19:26 (January Memory Verse)

"And looking at them Jesus said to them, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

## Hook

Ask the students what their favorite animal is. If you would like, draw a picture of some of them on the board. Ask the students to name a kind of flower; perhaps draw one. Ask the students to name somebody that they love; draw them (stick figures are fine).

Show the students that all these things have been made by God. He made not just the flowers and plants, but also the animals and even the students themselves.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

In Genesis 1, we read that everything in our world was made by God. He created the heavens (the sky, outer space) and the earth and all that is in them. On the first day of creation, God made light and separated it from the darkness to form night and day. The second day, He separated the sky above from the sea below. The third day is when God separated the land from the sea, and He covered the land with all kinds of trees, flowers, and other plants.

On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars to light up the sky. The fifth day, He filled the sky with birds and the water with fish and other sea creatures. On the sixth day, God made the land animals and the bugs. Last of all, He made the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, and commanded them to fill and rule over the earth. Humans were His final and most special creation, created in God's own image. When He saw the man He had made, God said he was "very good." In six days, God created everything in the universe.

Psalms 139 tells us that God is involved not just in the creation of the universe back in Genesis 1, but of you and me and every other person who's ever been born. In verses 1-6, we see that He knows every little detail about us because He is our Creator. Verses 13-16 tell us that before we were even born, He knew us, and He lovingly and wonderfully made us in our mothers' wombs. We are so special to God, and verses 17-18 tell us that He thinks many precious thoughts about us, so many that they can't be counted.

# LOOK

God made everything, and He made it good. When He looked at the sun and the moon and the stars, He said they were good. Same for plants and animals. When God looked at man, however, He noted that man was VERY good.

The key point to convey to the students is that they are made by God and that God did not make any mistakes when He made them. The students in your class room are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). God made them purposefully, He made them deliberately, and He made them exactly the way He wanted them. God knows everything about the students. He knows every step, every breath, every smile. He even knows the number of hairs on our head (Luke 12:7). This shows us that God didn't make us and then forgot about us. He cares very much about every aspect of our lives. God loves us so much that He thinks about us all the time. Psalm 139:18 says that if we were to count the thoughts that God thinks towards us, they would be as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore.

The interpretation and exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK (Continued)

Knowing that we were created by God means that we have a responsibility to Him. The things that we do, say, and think matter very much to God. Because He made us, we belong to Him and need to do the things He says. God tells us to obey our parents, love one another, and forgive others. As His creation, we should obey our Creator and use the bodies He's given us to do the things He tells us to do.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

Ask the students: How can we obey God with the bodies He made for us?

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for His creation. Ask the Lord to show us how to live for Him.

**Parent Question:** What things has God made?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Psalm 139 by C.H. Spurgeon

### B. THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF CREATION.

2. ([Gen 1:1](#)) A simple factual statement regarding God work as creator.

#### **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

a. **God created:** This summary statement will be detailed in the following verses, but the Bible simply and straightforwardly declares the world did not create itself or come about by chance. It was created by God, who, by definition, is eternal and has always been.

i. "It is no accident that *God* is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible, for this word dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point of the page: it is used some thirty-five times in as many verses of the story." (Kidner)

ii. If you believe [Genesis 1:1](#), you really have no problem believing the rest of the Bible.

f. **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth:** This tells us that God used no pre-existing material to create the earth. The ancient Hebrew word *bara* (**created**) is specific. It means *to create out of nothing*, showing that that God created the world out of nothing, not out of Himself. God is separate from His creation. Unlike Eastern and pantheistic perceptions of god, the Bible teaches the universe could perish yet He would remain.

6. ([Gen 1:2](#)) The state of the earth before God organized creation.

#### **The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

i. Leupold on **the Spirit of God was hovering:** "The verb...signifies a vibrant moving, a protective hovering... His was the preparatory work for leading over from the inorganic to the organic."

c. **The earth was without form, and void:** When God created the earth, He quite likely built an "old" earth, creating things in the midst of a time sequence, with age "built in."

i. For example, Adam was already of mature age when he was created; there was age "built in." Likewise, the trees in the Garden of Eden had rings in them, and there were undoubtedly canyons and sand beaches in Adam's world.

7. ([Gen 1:3-5](#)) The first day of creation: light is created and divided from the darkness.

#### **Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.**

a. **Let there be light:** The first step from chaos to order is to bring light. This is also the way God works in our life.

i. Paul speaks about the light brought to us by the gospel: *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* ([2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#))

b. **Then God said:** God did not have to fashion light with His hands. It was enough for God to merely speak the words, “*Light be!*” and there was light.

i. Because God created things by speaking them into existence, some have said we can operate on the same principle, speaking things into existence by faith.

ii. This is based on a wrong understanding of [Hebrews 11:3](#) (*by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God*), which is taken to say God Himself used faith in creating the world. Instead, it says it is by faith we understand God created the world.

iii. Also, some have a wrong understanding of [Mark 11:22](#) which is taken to literally mean “have God’s faith” as if we are to have the same faith God has. But the words *Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God”* cannot mean this, because faith, as [Hebrews 11:1](#) tells us, *is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*. What does God “hope” for? What does He not see? An omnipotent, omniscient Being certainly does not need faith. He is the *object* of faith.

c. **There was light:** Genesis tells us that light, day, and night each existed before the sun and the moon were created on the fourth day ([Genesis 1:14-19](#)). This shows us that light is more than a physical substance; it also has a supernatural aspect. In the new heavens and the new earth, there won’t be any sun or moon. God Himself will be the light ([Revelation 22:5](#)).

ii. The darkness God sent upon the Egyptians ([Exodus 10:21](#)) had a tangible quality to it, far beyond what we usually think of as being associated with darkness; it could be *felt*. This demonstrates a certain supernatural element, which can be related to light and darkness.

8. ([Gen 1:6-8](#)) The second day of creation: God makes an atmospheric division.

**Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**

a. **Let there be a firmament:** The idea of a **firmament** is of an *expanse* (NIV, NAS) or *space* (NLT). The waters of the land are separated from the water vapor in the sky.

b. **The waters which were above the firmament:** Here, the Bible recognizes the existence of water vapor in the sky. “The *waters above the firmament* thus probably constituted a vast blanket of water vapor above the troposphere and possibly above the stratosphere as well, in the high temperature region now known as the ionosphere, and extending far into space.” (Morris) Such a vapor blanket would greatly change the ecology of the earth, and Henry Morris suggests several effects of a vapor blanket.

i. It would serve as a global greenhouse, maintaining an essentially uniformly pleasant temperature all over the world.

ii. Without great temperature variations, there would be no significant winds, and the water-rain cycle could not form. There would be no rain as we know it today.

iii. There would be lush, tropical-like vegetation, all over the world, fed not by rain, but by a rich evaporation and condensation cycle, resulting in heavy dew or ground-fog.

iv. The vapor blanket would filter out ultraviolet radiation, cosmic rays, and other destructive energies bombarding the planet. These are known to be the cause of mutations, which decrease human longevity. Human and animal life spans would be greatly increased.

v. A vapor blanket would provide the necessary reservoir for a potential worldwide flood.

9. ([Gen 1:9-13](#)) The third day of creation: the land is divided from the sea; plants and all types of vegetation are created.

**Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was good*. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth*”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*. So the evening and the morning were the third day.***

a. **Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together:** The idea is that before this, the earth was covered with water. Now the waters are **gathered together into one place**, and dry land appears.

b. **Let the earth bring forth grass:** All this happened before the creation of the Sun (the fourth day of creation, [Genesis 1:14-19](#)). This means the plants must have had sufficient nourishment because of the light God had created before the sun and the moon.

ii. Many wonder how the sun, moon, and stars were created on the fourth day when light (including day and night) was created on the first day. Many have suggested the problem is solved by saying these heavenly bodies were created on the first day, but were not specifically visible, or not finally formed, until the fourth. But Revelation tells us of a coming day when we won't need the sun, moon, and stars any longer ([Revelation 21:23](#)). There's no reason why God couldn't have started creation in the same way He will end it.

b. **And it was so:** This is the beginning of life on planet earth, directly created by God, not slowly evolving over millions of years.

i. Some scientists now say life on earth began when immense meteorites carrying amino acids impacted earth at a time when the sun was cooler and the earth was a watery ball covered with ice up to 1,000 feet thick. The idea is that a meteor hits the ice, breaks through, and “seeds” the water underneath with the building blocks of life, which assemble into an “organic soup.” However the process was triggered, the scientists said life on earth began in “a geological instant.” But by an instant, they mean 10 million years or less. It takes more faith to believe this than to believe in Genesis.

ii. The fossil evidence also demonstrates life exploded into existence on earth, instead of slowly evolving.

c. **The earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed...and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself:** The plants were created not as seeds, but as full-grown plants each bearing seeds. They were thus created as mature plants, having the “appearance” of age. The chicken really did come before the egg.

d. **According to its kind:** This phrase appears ten times in Genesis [chapter 1](#). It means God allows variation within a **kind**, but something of one **kind** will never develop into something of another **kind**.

e. **And God saw that it was good:** God knows what is **good**. He is not some vague moral neutral. He knows

what is **good** and organizes His creation to result in something **good**.

i. God does not call the earth **good** until it has become habitable, a place where man can live.

10. ([Gen 1:14-19](#)) The fourth day of creation: the sun, moon, and stars.

**Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good*. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.**

a. **Let them be for signs and seasons:** God made the sun and the moon – these **lights in the firmament of the heavens** to be for **signs and seasons**. Since the beginning, man has used God’s provision of the sun, moon, and stars to mark and measure time and direction.

b. **God set them in the firmament of the heavens:** God knew exactly how far to set the sun from the earth. A few million miles more or less and life as we know it would be impossible.

i. The intricate balance of our ecosystem argues strongly for the existence of a Creator. We live in a very complex world.

ii. Ginzberg quotes a Jewish legend connecting the movement of the sun to the praise of God (as in [Psalms 113:3, 50:1, and 148:3](#)): “The progress of the sun in his circuit is an uninterrupted song of praise to God. And this song alone makes his motion possible. Therefore, when Joshua wanted to bid the sun stand still, he had to command him to be silent. His song of praise hushed, the sun stood still.”

c. **Let them be for signs and seasons:** When God set the **lights in the heavens** to be **for signs**, it probably includes what we commonly call the zodiac, but was called by the ancient Hebrews the *Mazzaroth* ([Job 38:31-32](#)).

ii. [Luke 1:70](#) and [Acts 3:21](#) speak of *holy prophets since the world began*. These *prophets* may be the stars themselves. [Psalm 147:4](#) and [Isaiah 40:26](#) tell us God has the stars all numbered and God has a *name* for them all. [Psalm 19:1-6](#) tells us the heavens contain a message from God.

11. ([Gen 1:20-23](#)) The fifth day of creation: birds and sea creatures are created.

**Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.**

a. **Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures:** We see the great variety of birds and sea creatures were created at the same time, not evolving slowly over millions of years. Even though plant life was created before animal life, animal life was not created out of plant life.

### C. THE SIXTH DAY OF CREATION: THE CREATION OF MAN.

1. ([Gen 1:24-25](#)) God makes land animals.

**Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind”; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*.**

a. **Let the earth bring forth the living creature:** On the fifth day of creation, God made birds and sea animals, but now God turns His creative attention towards land animals of various types.

b. **God made the beast of the earth according to its kind:** When we look at the infinite variety of the animal kingdom (both living and extinct), we must be impressed with God’s creative power, as well as His sense of humor. Any Being who makes the giraffe, the platypus, and the peacock is a God of joy and humor.

i. To a peahen, the most attractive peacocks are the ones with the biggest fans, but the big fan on the tail makes it difficult to escape a predator. Therefore, the peahen rewards the peacock with the least chance of survival. This is a great problem for the idea of “survival of the fittest.”

c. **According to its kind:** Again, this important phrase is emphasized. God allows tremendous variation within a **kind**, but one “kind” will never become another “kind.”

2. ([Gen 1:26](#)) God plans to make man in His image.

**Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”**

a. **Let Us make man in Our image:** The use of the plural (**Let Us...in Our image, according to Our likeness**) is consistent with the idea that there is One God in three Persons, what we know as the Trinity.

i. Leupold does a good job showing that the plurality of **let Us make** cannot be merely the plurality of royalty, nor can it be God speaking with and to the angels. It is an indicator of the Trinity, though not clearly spelled out.

b. **In Our image:** An understanding of who man is begins with knowing we are made in the image of God. Man is different from every other order of created being because He has a created consistency with God.

i. This means there is an unbridgeable gap between human life and animal life. Though we are biologically similar to certain animals, we are distinct in our moral, intellectual, and spiritual capabilities.

ii. This means there is also an unbridgeable gap between human life and angelic life. Nowhere are we told the angels are made in the **image** of God. Angels cannot have the same kind of relationship of love and fellowship with God we can have.

iii. This means the incarnation was truly possible. God (in the Second Person of the Trinity) could really become man, because although deity and humanity are not the same, they are compatible.

iv. This means human life has intrinsic value, quite apart from the “quality of life” experienced by any individual, because human life is made in the **image** of God.

c. **In Our image:** There are several specific things in man that show him to be made in the **image** of God.

- Man alone has a natural countenance looking upward
- Man alone has such a variety of facial expressions
- Man alone has a sense of shame expressing itself in a blush

· Man alone speaks

· Man alone possesses *personality, morality, and spirituality*

d. **In Our image:** There are at least three aspects to the idea that we are made in the **image** of God.

· It means humans possess *personality*: knowledge, feelings, and a will. This sets man apart from all animals and plants

· It means humans possess *morality*: we are able to make moral judgments and have a conscience

· It means humans possess *spirituality*: man is made for communion with God. It is on the level of spirit we communicate with God

e. **In Our image:** This does not mean that God has a physical or human body. God is a Spirit ([John 4:24](#)). Though God does not have a physical body, He designed man so man's physical body could do many of the things God does: see, hear, smell, touch, speak, think, plan, and so forth.

i. "It will hardly be safe to say that the body of man is patterned after God, because God, being an incorporeal spirit, cannot have what we term a material body. Yet the body of man must at least be regarded as the fittest receptacle for the man's spirit and so must bear at least an analogy that is so close that God and His angels choose to appear in human form when they appear to men." (Leupold)

f. **In Our image, according to Our likeness:** The terms for **image** and **likeness** are slightly different. **Image** has more to do with appearance, and **likeness** has more to do with an abstract similarity, but they both essentially mean the same thing here in this context.

g. **Let them have dominion:** Before God ever created man He decreed man would **have dominion over** the earth. Man's pre-eminence of the created order and his ability to affect his environment is no accident; it is part of God's plan for man and the earth.

i. In this sense, it is sin if man does not use this dominion responsibly, in the sense of a proper regard for stewardship on this earth.

3. ([Gen 1:27-31](#)) God's creation of man and initial commission to Adam.

**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

a. **So God created man in His own image:** God created man according to His plan as described in [Genesis 1:26](#). The concept of man being created **in the image of God** is repeated to give emphasis to the idea.

b. **Male and female He created them:** This should not be construed to mean Adam was originally some type of androgynous being, being both male and female. This passage of Genesis gives us an overview of God's creation of man, and [Genesis 2](#) will explain how exactly God created male and female.

i. In our day, many say there is no real difference between men and women. This makes sense if we are the result of mindless evolution, but not it is true that **male and female He created them**. To God, the differences between men and women are not accidents. Since He created them, the differences are good and meaningful.

ii. Men are not women, and women are not men. One of the saddest signs of our culture's depravity is the

amount and the degree of gender confusion today.

iii. It is vain to wonder if men or women are superior to the other. A man is absolutely superior at being a man. A woman is absolutely superior at being a woman. But when a man tries to be a woman or a woman tries to be a man, you have something inferior.

c. **Then God blessed them:** the first thing God did for man was to bless him. Without the goodness of God's blessing, human life would be not only unbearable, but also impossible.

d. **Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion:** God also gives man a job to do: fulfill God's intention of man's exercise of dominion over the earth. Inherent in this command is that man should **be fruitful and multiply** and **fill the earth**. Man cannot fulfill God's plan for him on the earth unless he populates it.

e. **To you it shall be for food:** God gave man dominion over the whole earth, but only vegetation is specifically mentioned as being **for food**. Seemingly, before the flood, the human race was vegetarian, but after the flood, man was given permission to eat the flesh of animals ([Genesis 9:3](#)).

f. **God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good:** God's final analysis of His work of creation is that it was **very good**. God was pleased with His creation, and so are we!

i. When God pronounced the creation **good**, He really meant it. At the time, it was entirely **good**; there was no death or decay on earth at all.