

Catechism Story 19

*The First Article of the Creed
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer*

BIBLE STORY: THE CREATION Genesis 1:1-31

Central Thoughts

- God created all things by His Word.
- God created all things because He is the God of love.
- God gives life by His Word.
- God graciously cares for His creation by His Word.
- Everything in creation is dependent upon God.
- God created us in His image to be fruitful and multiply and to have dominion over the creation.

Discussion Questions

Who existed before anything was created?

God.

Who is this God?

The Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

How much did God create?

All things; the heavens and the earth.

Why is everything in creation completely dependent upon God?

He made all things out of nothing and nothing would exist without God.

Why did God create the heavens and the earth?

He is the God of love (See 1 John 4:8). He created the heavens and the earth for us because He loves us and wanted to give us life with Him.

Where was the Holy Spirit when God the Father created all things?

Hovering over the surface of the water.

Where was the Son of God when God the Father created all things?

In the Word of God that the Father spoke (See John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15-17).

How did God create?

By His Word. He spoke and it was so. By His Word He gave the gift of life.

What did God also do by His Word?

He ordered His creation. He named the things of His creation. He exercised His dominion over His creation. He declared things good. (Notice these themes in all the days of creation).

In whose image or reflection was man made?

In the image of the Triune God of love.

In what form or gender was man made?

Male and female.

What did God tell man to do?

Be fruitful and multiply (have children), and have dominion over the creation.

Why was it important that man be made as male and female?

Only a man and a woman can have children.

Why did God tell man to have children and to have dominion over the creation?

Because man is made in the image of the God of love who creates life and who exercises a gracious dominion over His creation. Man was given to share in God's creation of life and in God's care of the creation.

How did God define a day?

Evening and morning made a single day.

For how many days did God create?

Six days.

What did God do on the seventh day?

He rested from all the work which He had done.

What do the six days of creation and the day of rest teach us about what we need?

We need a time for work and a time for rest.

Who are we dependent upon for our rest and refreshment?

We are dependent upon God. His Word gives us rest and refreshment from our work.

Meditation on the Bible Story

“Out of fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me” God made all things in heaven and in earth. Our bodies and souls, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, along with everything that we need to support us in this body and life, are all gifts of God the Father who made heaven and earth. By His holy and life-giving Word He made all things. By His holy and life-giving Word He orders everything in His creation in perfect harmony and declares it to be good. All of God’s creation is completely dependent upon Him. The beautiful design of God’s creation is a reflection of the beauty and goodness of God. He created all things in love, for our good and to serve us. We were made in the image of the Triune God of love to share in God’s gift of life by bringing children into this world and by graciously caring for the creation that He has given us. The pattern of evening and morning orders each day of our lives. It points forward to Jesus, who would die in the darkness of Good Friday and rise to new life in the light of Easter morning. The pattern of six days of work and a day of rest teach us that we are dependent upon our Lord and the rest that His Word gives us for the refreshment of our lives. The life that God wanted us to have with Him at creation is given to us by His Son in His death and resurrection.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, Your Word gives life and has created and sustains all things. We thank You for the sun, the moon, and the stars which give light to the earth and order our days and seasons. We give thanks to You for the expanse of the sky, for the water that sustains all of life, and for the dry land upon which we live. We give thanks to You for the plants and animals of Your creation. You have given all of this to us for our good and for our enjoyment. We give thanks to You that You have created us in Your image, male and female, to be fruitful and multiply, and to have dominion over the creation. We thank You for ordering our lives and giving us rest and refreshment through Your Word. But most of all, we thank You for redeeming us and all of creation from sin and death through the gift of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to trust in You as our Creator and to believe in Your Son for eternal life and salvation, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE CREED

(See Catechism or Congregation at Prayer for the Week)

Prayer on the First Article

Heavenly Father, You are God Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. We give thanks to You that you have made us and all creatures; that You have given us our bodies and souls, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, and that You still take care of them. You also give us clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all we have. You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support us in our body and life. You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do for us out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe that this is most certainly true, and to ever thank and praise, serve and obey You as long as we live. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



The Creation
Genesis 1:1-31