

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1–25

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

1. Read Genesis 1:1–25. The first chapter of Genesis records God’s creation of the universe. How long has God existed prior to creation, and how far into the future will he continue to exist? (Psalm 90:2; Revelation 10:6)

2. What raw materials does God use to create the heavens and the earth? (Hebrews 11:3)

3. How many times in Genesis chapter 1 do we read the words, “God spoke” and/or “God said”? In what ways does God continue to speak? (Hebrews 1:1–3)

4. If, by only speaking, God brings order and purpose out of chaos, what is God able to do in your life? (2 Corinthians 5:17) If you feel comfortable, share a specific example where you have seen God work this way in your own life recently.

5. The phrase “formless and empty” of verse 2 can also be translated “uninhabitable and uninhabited.” On the first three days of creation, God makes three separations to make the heavens and earth livable. In the next three days he fills what he has created. Complete the chart below to show God’s activities each day.

Day	Separating the Realms/ Making the Earth Habitable	Day	Filling the Created Realms/ Inhabiting the Earth
1	vs. 4	4	vss. 14–19
2	vs. 7	5	vss. 20–22
3	vss. 9–10	6	vss. 24–25

6. What does God do after each separation he makes in his creation? (vss. 5, 8, and 10) Think about the things you have named. What does naming things reveal about your relationship to them?

7. How is the significance of receiving a name reflected in the life of God's child? (Isaiah 43:1)

8. How does God feel about the things he has created? (1:10b; 12b; 18b; 25b) What does this tell us about his emotional connection to his creation?

9. Read John 1:1–5, Colossians 1:15–17 and Genesis 1:2. How do these verses more fully help your understanding of creation?

10. Look back through Genesis 1:1–25. What do these verses tell you about who God is and what he does in the world? How does this affect the way you view your life? The lives of others? The world?