

Jacob's Creek 2023: The Days of Creation Curriculum for children's program

Introduction

This year's theme is "Creation." For this year's children's program, we will simply be teaching our children about the 6 days of creation in Genesis chapter one. The Lord teaches us that the days of creation represent, "So many consecutive stages in a person's regeneration." (Arcana Coelestia 6) We encourage you to teach the children BOTH about the literal story of creation (what was literally created on each day), AND something age appropriate about the spiritual meaning of each day. To help you with this, we've provided you below with some of the basic images and correspondences for each day. There is a LOT of spiritual meaning in each of these days! It may be best to simply teach the literal story and then pick one or two points about the spiritual meaning that you think the children would find interesting and that they can actually appreciate.

The following notes have been provided as a general outline. Each day asks you to focus on a specific part of the creation story and provides some suggestions of what you could focus on. Please feel free to tailor the message and focus your attention as you see fit.

Please do not hesitate to contact our head Pastor (Rev. Matthew Genzlinger) if you have any doctrinal questions about any of the topics: 978 – 337 – 8952; matthewgenzlinger@gmail.com.

Recitation

This year we will have one recitation for the entire duration of the camp. The recitation will be said during each worship service. You are welcome to help the children memorize it during the children's program. It is Psalm 8, verses 1, 3-4, and 6-9.

O Jehovah, our Lord,
how magnificent is Thy name in all the earth,
who hast put Thy majesty upon the heavens.

When I see Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which Thou hast established;
what is man that Thou rememberest him?
And the son of man, that Thou visitest him?

Thou hast made him to rule over the works of Thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet:
the flock and the oxen, all of them,
and also the beasts of the field;
the bird of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
that which passes through the paths of the seas.

O Jehovah, our Lord,

how magnificent is Thy name in all the earth!

Friday, July 28th: Creation Day 1, 2 & 3

Today you are invited to focus on **Genesis 1:1-13**. This includes the “pre-creation” state and day 1, 2 and 3. One suggestion is to begin by simply reading this part of Genesis and asking what they heard. I would suggest that you help them understand each part of this reading. However, you can choose to really focus on one specific part or day. Below, I’ve provided you with the basic literal and spiritual meaning of this part of the story. This is just to get your creative juices flowing. There is a lot of material (including projects) online. Obviously, depending on the age you’re teaching, you may want to mainly focus on the literal meaning. However, even with small children, it’s good to introduce the idea of a deeper meaning to these days of creation! **I highly recommend reading Arcana Coelestia, paragraph numbers 16 through 29, to help you prepare.**

Pre-creation: Genesis 1:1-2 (See Arcana Coelestia 16 through 19)

- *Beginning* = First period when we are being regenerated, born anew or receiving life. The Lord created us all for heaven! In this world, He gradually prepares us for heaven.
- *Heaven & Earth* = Internal & External man before regeneration.
- *Void & empty* = An absence of good and truth before the Lord regenerates us.
- *Darkness* = Our initial ignorance and stupidity of all things belonging to faith in the Lord and spiritual/heavenly life.
- *Faces of the deep* = Cupidities and falsities of the unregenerate man. With no light from the Lord, we are dark, obscure and confused.
- *Spirit of God moved upon the faces of the waters* = The Lord’s mercy moving over our “remains.” (Knowledges of the true and good). The Lord still loves us and wants to help us become an angel!

Day 1: Genesis 1:3-5 (See Arcana Coelestia 20 through 23)

- *Let there be light* = We see that the Lord exists! We begin to know that what is good and true are something higher. They do NOT come from us! WE do not define what is good and true. Rather we must learn what is good and true from the LORD who is Good and Truth itself.
- *Darkness* = All things that we THOUGHT were good/true before the Lord regenerates us, but that are actually evil/false.
- *Distinguishing* = We BEGIN to distinguish between what is from the Lord (genuinely good and true) verses what is from us (what is actually evil and false). Note that this does not happen overnight! Throughout the “days of creation” we are gradually coming to see that all life and everything good and true come from the Lord alone.

Day 2: Genesis 1:6-8 (See Arcana Coelestia 24 through 26)

- *Expanse* = The internal man.
- *Distinguishing between the waters* = A distinction is made between the internal man and

the external man. We begin to know that there even is something called an “internal man.”

- *Waters above the expanse* = Knowledge of the internal man. This is everything good and true from the Lord alone.
- *Waters below the expanse* = Memory knowledge of the external man. Here we still think that WE are the source of things good and true. So the Lord is GRADUALLY leading us to recognize that EVERYTHING good and true comes from the Lord alone and not from us. This seems like a good lesson to focus on!

Day 3: Genesis 1:9-13 (See Arcana Coelestia 27 through 29)

- *Waters gathered together called seas* = Knowledges of good and truth being gathered together in our memory. How does this gathering together happen? Parents? Teachers? Church? Your own reading of the Word?
- *Dry land called earth* = External man.

Now we begin to produce something that is good. However, it is only compared to inanimate plants since we still don't fully acknowledge that all good and truth comes from the Lord alone. In other words, we still think it all comes from us! We do not yet have a genuine love and faith (sun, moon and stars).

- Tender herb = Something small and tender, yet useful.
- Herb yielding seed = Something more useful.
- Fruit tree bearing fruit whose seed is in itself = Something actually good that becomes fruitful.

Interesting note: This third state is referred to as a state of repentance.

Saturday, July 29th – Creation Day 4 & 5

Today you are invited to focus on **Genesis 1:14-23**. This includes day 4 and 5. One suggestion is to begin by simply reading this part of Genesis and asking what they heard. I would suggest that you help them understand each part of this reading. However, you can choose to really focus on one specific part or day. Below, I've provided you with the basic literal and spiritual meaning of this part of the story. This is just to get your creative juices flowing. There is a lot of material (including projects) online. Obviously, depending on the age you're teaching, you may want to mainly focus on the literal meaning. However, even with small children, it's good to introduce the idea of a deeper meaning to these days of creation! **I highly recommend reading Arcana Coelestia, paragraph numbers 30 through 43, to help you prepare.**

Day 4: Genesis 1:14-19 (See Arcana Coelestia 30 through 38)

- *Greater luminary (sun)* = Genuine love in the will.
- *Lesser luminary (moon)* = Genuine Faith derived from love in the understanding.
- *Stars* = Knowledges of good and truth.
- Note the important fact that animate things (birds, fish, animals) show up on day 5 & 6 AFTER the sun, moon and stars are created on day 4. This is because a genuine faith in the heart is represented by these animate things. A faith in mere knowledge and in the understanding alone is represented by the inanimate things of day 1, 2 and 3.
- Important note: Love and faith must make ONE!

Day 5: Genesis 1:20-23 (See Arcana Coelestia 39 through 43)

- NOTE WELL: The animate creatures of day 5 and 6 represent a person vivified by love (sun) and faith (moon) and who believes that the Lord works all the good he does and all the truth he speaks. We now truly realize that WE are not the source of good and truth! Day 5 represents this true vivification in the understanding while day 6 represents this true vivification in the will.
- Creeping things which the waters bring forth = Memory knowledges of the external man.
- Birds = Rational and intellectual things belonging to the internal man.
- Whales = The general principles of memory knowledges.
- Be fruitful and multiply... = Everything that has in itself life from the Lord fructifies (good) and multiplies (truth) itself immensely (especially in the next life)!

Sunday, July 30th – Creation Day 6 & 7

Today you are invited to focus on **Genesis 1:24-2:3**. This includes day 6 and 7. One suggestion is to begin by simply reading this part of Genesis and asking what they heard. I would suggest that you help them understand each part of this reading. However, you can choose to really focus on one specific part or day. Below, I've provided you with the basic literal and spiritual meaning of this part of the story. This is just to get your creative juices flowing. There is a lot of material (including projects) online. Obviously, depending on the age you're teaching, you may want to mainly focus on the literal meaning. However, even with small children, it's good to introduce the idea of a deeper meaning to these days of creation! **I highly recommend reading Arcana Coelestia, paragraph numbers 44 through 60 and 82 through 88, to help you prepare.**

Day 6: Genesis 1:24-31 (See Arcana Coelestia 44 through 60)

- Beasts = Affections.
- Wild animals of the earth = Lower things that are more connected with our bodies.
- Image and likeness of God = From faith and love we speak truth and do good.
- Male and female created He them = Marriage of good and truth or will and understanding. Also Conjugal Love between a husband and wife.
- Food = The spiritual and natural things that delight us.
- VERY good = Now the things of faith make one with those that are of love.

Day 7: Genesis 2:1-3 (See Arcana Coelestia 82 through 88)

- Heavens and earth finished = Internal and external have been made spiritual. Regeneration is "finished" when love and faith become ONE.
- All the army of them = Love, faith and knowledge.
- The celestial man is the 7th day and is a likeness of the Lord.
- 6 days of creation represent states of spiritual combat and temptation. On the 7th day the combats and temptations stop.
- We now have internal peace because we do not act according to our own desires, but according to the good pleasure of the Lord.
- "Another reason why the celestial man is the Sabbath or rest is that conflict ceases when he becomes celestial. Evil spirits withdraw and good spirits approach, as do celestial angels. When these are present evil spirits cannot possibly be present too, but flee far away. And because it was not the person himself who fought but the Lord alone on his behalf, it is said that 'the Lord rested'." (AC 87)