

Grade 3 – Lesson 1

Key Points

- Creation is a work of the Holy Trinity.
- The Holy Trinity is the one God in three Divine Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- God created humans in His image and likeness, which means we have the gift of reason and free will.
- The Bible tells the story of God’s plan of salvation.

Materials

- God Created the Heavens and the Earth (Active Learning I p.49-50)
- Trinity coloring page
- Blank paper
- [Optional] Please bring a laptop or tablet for YouTube
 - Wi-Fi: StAlbertsGuest
 - Password: AllisHoly

Catechist Prayer before the lesson:

“Lord, thank you for calling me to the ministry of catechesis. It is a great privilege and an awesome responsibility to echo your Word to others. Draw me closer to you, so that I may teach by word and example. Amen.”

Before class starts:

Let students who arrive early color the **God Created the Heavens and the Earth** handout until class is ready to start.

[10 min] **Invite – Opening Prayer** (p.53)

- Stand in a circle around the prayer table and lead the class in making the **Sign of the Cross** – Everyone should use their right hand, even if they are left-handed.
- Read the **Let Us Pray** section to the class on page 53 and have them pray the response in their books.
- Have the kids open their books to pages 320-321. Pray the **Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be**
- Invite the kids to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds to what God is saying as you read the **God’s Word** section on page 53. End with the **Sign of the Cross**.

[10 min] **Introductions**

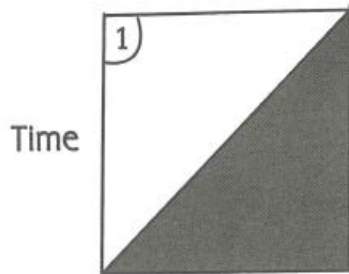
- **Introduce yourself.** Talk about your interests or hobbies. Talk about a particular saint or prayer that you like, or why you like coming to Church or FLAME classes.
- **Game - Find Someone Who...**
 - Tell the kids to go around the class and ask each other what their favorite color is (or other favorite things). The goal is to find out how many other kids have the same interests as they do. Every time they find someone who likes the same thing as them, they can keep a tally on a piece of scrap paper. Before they start, give examples of questions they can ask: What’s your favorite movie, dessert, superhero, etc. The kids can ask as many different questions as they like, and should be encouraged to talk to everyone else in the class at least once.

[25 min] **The Days of Creation** (p. 54-55)

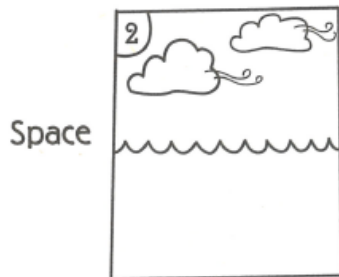
- Read the creation story on page 54.
- Hand out blank paper for the kids to draw the days of creation as you lead each step.
- God created the entire universe out of nothing. In the beginning, the world was formless and empty.
 - Draw six boxes on the whiteboard and write in the numbers for each day of creation (bottom to top). Make sure you leave space above the boxes and to the left side of the drawing (See the finished drawing below).

3	6
2	5
1	4

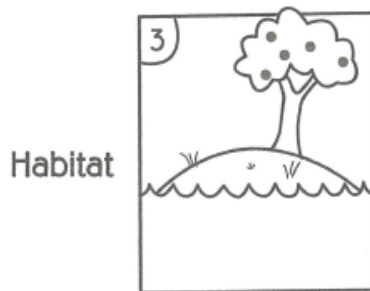
- During the first 3 days of creation, God gave form to the world.
 - On the first day, God made light and darkness. This was the creation of “Time”.



- On the second day, God made space, the sky, and the seas. This was the creation of “Space”.



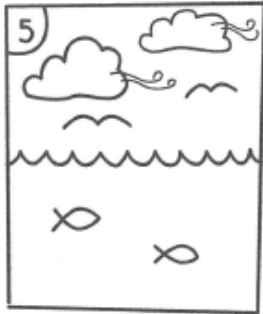
- On the third day, God created the dry land and the vegetation. This was the creation of habitats for God’s creatures.



- The first 3 days solved the problem of the world being “formless”. Then God used the next 3 days to fix the problem of the world being “empty”.
 - On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars. This filled the realm of “time” to keep track of days and seasons.



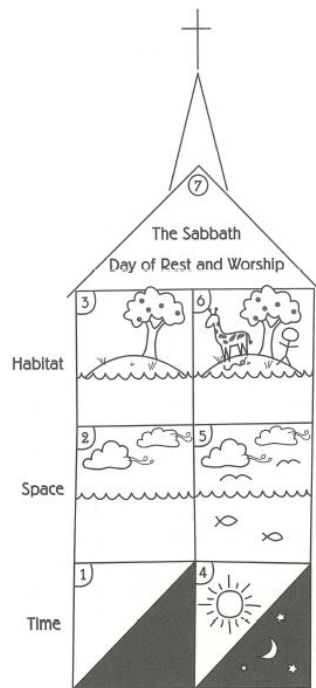
- On the fifth day, God created the birds and fish. This filled the realm of “space” with creatures of the air and sea.



- On the sixth day, God created animals and humans. They filled the habitats on the land that God prepared.



- On the seventh day, God rested. This is the Sabbath, which is the day for rest and worship. Add a roof to your drawing to make a temple.



- Read p. 55 about creation. Ask: **Who created God?** *No one. God always existed. God lives outside of time in eternity. He always was, is, and will be.*

[10 min] **Salvation History**

- God is three Persons in one: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call this the **Holy Trinity**. The Trinity worked as one to create the world out of nothing. Creation is a gift from God that shows His goodness.
- God created humans in his image and likeness, which means that unlike the animals, we can understand and make choices. Because we are made in the **image of God**, God created us to know, love and serve him. Humans have a special role in God's creation to take care of the earth and all its creatures.
- God made everything in the universe good, including all the angels in heaven. But Lucifer (Satan) disobeyed God and many angels followed him. They became evil spirits, who tempt all humans to sin.
- God gave Adam and Eve the choice to follow him (free will), but they chose to disobey when they were tempted by the devil. This is called **Original Sin**, because it was the first sin humans ever committed.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, death and suffering entered the world, and they were separated from God. But God had a plan to make things better again by sending his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and open the gates of heaven for us.

[5 min] **The Holy Trinity**

- Hand out the **Holy Trinity coloring page**.
- The Father is God, Jesus the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. But the Son is not the Father, the Father is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Son. The three Divine Persons are separate, but One.
- Ask: **What are some symbols for the Holy Spirit?** *Dove, wind, fire.*
- Read the following story to the class while they color the Trinity coloring page:
St. Augustine was walking by the seashore one day thinking and trying to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity when he saw a small boy running back and forth from the water to a spot on the seashore. The boy was using a sea shell to carry the water from the ocean and place it into a small hole in the sand.

St. Augustine approached him and asked, "My boy, what are doing?"

"I am trying to bring all the sea into this hole," the boy replied with a sweet smile.

"But that is impossible, my dear child, the hole cannot contain all that water" said Augustine.

The boy paused in his work, stood up, looked into the eyes of the Saint, and replied, "It is no more impossible than what you are trying to do – understand the immensity of the mystery of the Holy Trinity with your small intelligence."

The Saint was absorbed by such an intelligent response from that child, and turned his eyes from him for a short while. When he glanced down to ask him something else, the boy had vanished.

Some say that it was an Angel sent by God to teach Augustine a lesson on pride in learning. Others say it was the Christ Child Himself who appeared to the Saint to remind him of the limits of human understanding before the great mysteries of our Faith.

- Ask: **Why can't we completely understand the Trinity?**

[Optional] **YouTube: “What is the Trinity” by What’s in the Bible**

- Bring a laptop or tablet to show this 2-minute video on the Trinity:
 - <https://youtu.be/n-1AdUwbWLw>
 - Wi-Fi: StAlbertsGuest
 - Password: AllisHoly

[10 min] **Sending – Prayer of Praise** (p.60)

- Make the Sign of the Cross and teach the response: **“We thank you, God, for the gift of creation.”**
- Recite the prayer on page 60.
- Ask if the kids have anything they would like to pray for. **Pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.**
- Have the kids discuss the **Family+Faith** on page 61 with their parents at home.

God Created the Heavens and the Earth

Genesis 1:1-13

Name _____

First Day: Day and Night

In the beginning, everything was dark, and God said, "Let there be light." God called the light *day*.

Part of the time it was dark. God called the darkness *night*.

And God was pleased.



*Color day white.
Color night black.*



*Color sky light blue.
Color sea dark blue.*

Second Day: the Heavens and Sea

On the second day, God created the crystal clear waters of the oceans, lakes, and rivers.

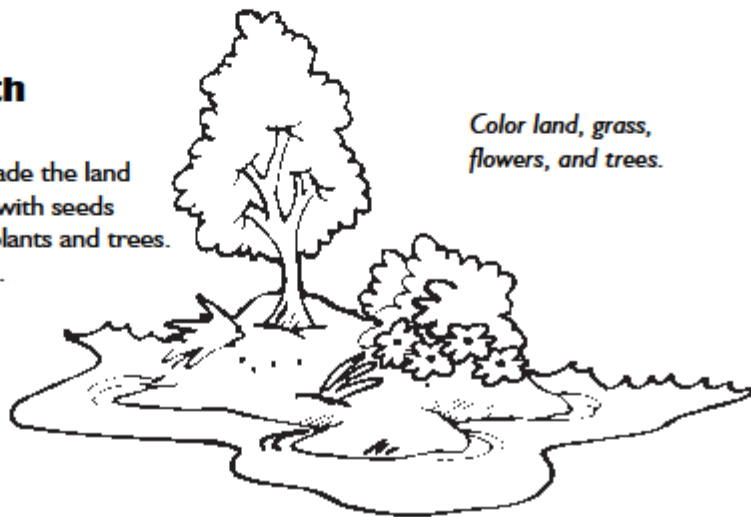
Then God made the bright blue sky. God called the sky *heaven* and the waters *sea*.

And God was pleased.

Third Day: Earth and Vegetation

On the third day, God made the land and covered the ground with seeds that grew into beautiful plants and trees. God called the land *earth*.

And God was pleased.



And Everything Within

Name _____

Genesis 1:14-31

Fourth Day: Heavenly Bodies

On the fourth day, God made the two great lights—the sun to guide the day, and the moon and stars to guide the night. And God was pleased.

Fifth Day: Birds and Fish

On the fifth day, God made the birds that filled the skies and the fish and other sea creatures to fill the seas, lakes, and rivers. And God was pleased.

Sixth Day: Animals and People

On the sixth day, God made all the animals to roam the forests, plains, and jungles. Then God made people. And God was pleased.

Color this page. Then draw a line from the pictures at the bottom of the page to the place where each belongs. Or, cut out the figures at the bottom and paste each one where it belongs.

