

General Church Education



# The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:1-10,15-17; 3:1-13, 17-24

## Lesson 6

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

## THE GARDEN OF EDEN

GENESIS 2:1-10, 15-17; GENESIS 3:1-13, 17-24

The story that follows the seven days of creation is also from the ancient portion of the Word. Once again this allegory contains an internal meaning that tells about the spiritual life of every person.

We read about the creation of a wonderful garden with the tree of life in the center and we read again about the creation of Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden, and Adam naming the animals. These events refer to the blessed condition of the first people who were part of the Most Ancient Church. They received these blessings because they trusted and obeyed the Lord.

The allegory continues with the account of how Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord. They were seduced by the serpent into eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They replaced the Lord's Word as the center of their lives with their own ideas, built on sensory experience of what was right and wrong. The resulting punishment put them outside the garden, where they had to toil to live.

### IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- To love the Lord is to obey Him.
- When we, as parents, teach obedience to children we lay the groundwork for them to obey the Lord when they are adults. Children benefit from knowing that good choices and bad choices bring consequences - either happy or unhappy.

### FROM THE WRITINGS

The worldly person says, "Unless I am taught about faith by means of sensory evidence I am not going to believe." This is eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The person who wishes to be wise says at heart that he must believe things the Lord has spoken in the Word, because they are truths. See *Arcana Coelestia* 128

The truths that a person learns and believes in his earliest years...are in particular these: There is God, and He is one; He created everything; He rewards those who do what is good and punishes those who do things that are bad; there is life after death, when the bad go to hell and the good go to heaven, and so there is a hell and a heaven; the life after death lasts for ever; and many other truths like these. If, when he starts to think for himself and to lead his own life, he endorses them, adding to them further truths of a more interior kind, and leads a life in conformity with them, all is well with him. See *Arcana Coelestia* 5135

# THE GARDEN OF EDEN

## IMPORTANT IDEAS

To love the Lord is to do what He says.

The Lord rewards good actions and punishes evil actions.

We have learned about how the Lord made the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. Our story today tells more about how the Lord created the first man and woman.

It also tells about the Garden of Eden that the Lord created as a home for them. We can imagine the beauty of the flowers and trees providing food for Adam and Eve. Our ideas about the peace and joy in this garden can give us a picture of the happiness of the earliest people on earth. The tree of life was in the middle of the garden because Adam and Eve loved the Lord more than anything else. He was the center of their life.

Adam tended this garden in return for being looked after by the Lord. He was allowed to eat the fruit from every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He was warned that he would surely die if he disobeyed the Lord and ate this fruit. This was the one rule.

Read *Genesis*  
2:1-10 and 2:15-17.

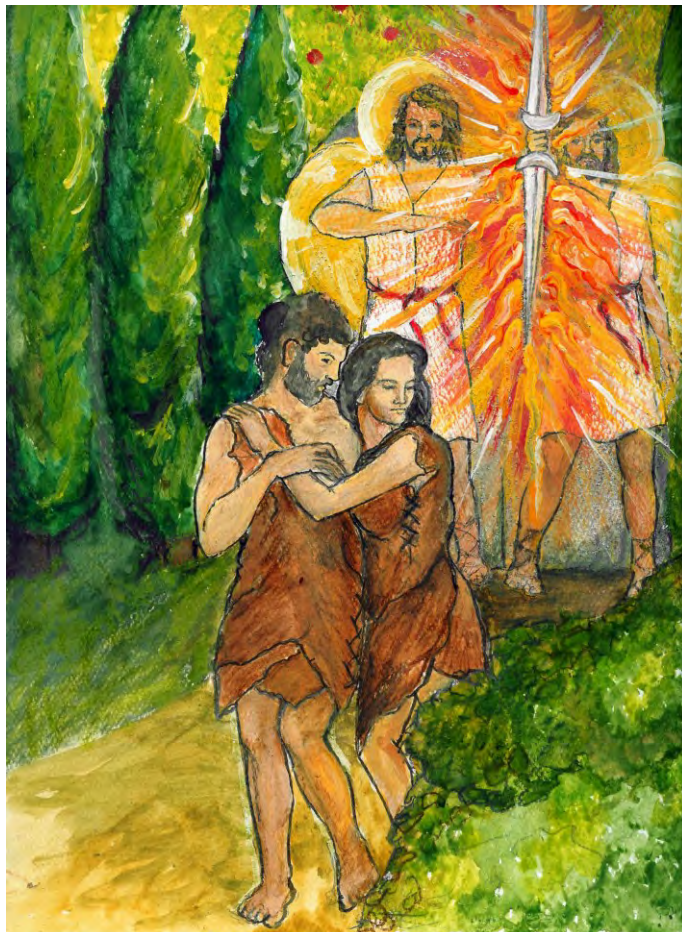
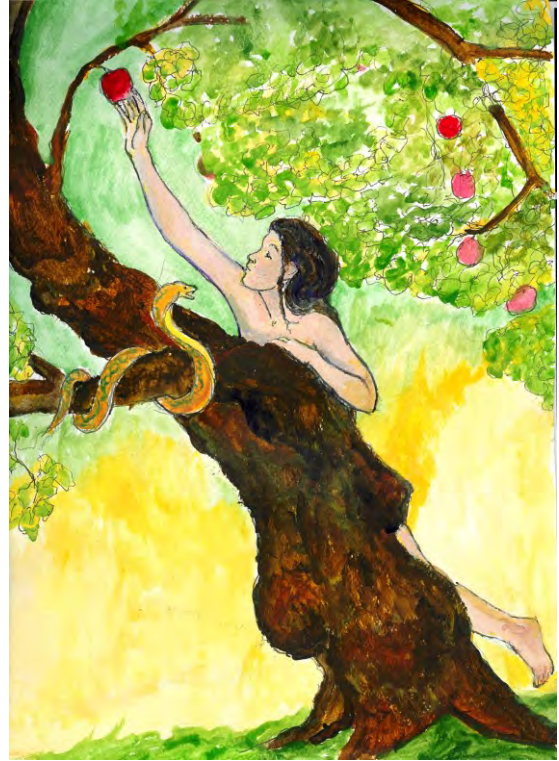
Do you remember that the Lord brought all of the animals and birds to Adam so that he could name them? Then the Lord created Eve to be the joy of Adam's life, to be his wife forever. Adam and Eve were

innocent. They loved the Lord and obeyed Him. They didn't think about themselves first.



The next part of our story is sad. Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent. The serpent told Eve that she didn't need to believe that what the Lord said was true. He convinced her that following her own ideas of what to do were more important than following the Lord's ideas. This led Eve and Adam to eat the fruit that had been forbidden. Not only did they eat the fruit, but they tried to hide from the Lord. Then they blamed each other, and even the snake, for their wrong deed.

Adam and Eve lost their innocent wish to follow the Lord with their whole heart. For them, the tree of life wasn't in the center of the garden anymore, because the Lord wasn't the center of their life. They could not stay



in the Garden of Eden. They had spoiled it. Because they had disobeyed the Lord, they had to suffer punishment. They had to leave the beautiful garden where they had been cared for by the Lord. They would now have to work for their food and shelter.

The Lord placed angels who were called cherubim to guard the entrance to the garden. The Lord also protected the entrance to the garden with a "flaming sword which turned every way."

Read *Genesis* 3:1-13 and 17-24.

## DISCUSSION

- The Lord loved Adam and He created a beautiful place for him to live. The trees were "pleasant for the sight and good for food." (Genesis 2:9) Can you think of some trees that are lovely to look at and have delicious fruits to eat? *(Answers may vary depending on where you live.)*
- There were two special trees that were named in our story. Can you remember the names of these trees? *(The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)*
- Can you remember which tree was in the center of the garden at the start of our story? *(The tree of life.)* This is because at the start of our story Adam and Eve didn't know anything about doing things that were against what the Lord told them. They were innocent. The Lord was the center of their lives.
- What was the one rule that the Lord gave Adam and Eve? *(Do not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.)*
- The serpent tempted Adam and Eve. He told them that they didn't have to pay attention to what the Lord said. It said that they knew better than the Lord. Was this good advice? What problems did Adam and Eve get into when they listened to the serpent and ate the fruit off the tree of knowledge of good and evil? *(Answers may include: They had to leave the Garden of Eden, they had to grow their own food, the Lord punished them.)*
- Which tree was in the center of the garden when the Lord sent Adam and Eve out? *(The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)*
- Can you explain why the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the center of the garden instead of the tree of life, after they disobeyed the Lord? *(Because the center of their life had become their own ideas of what was good. The Lord's commandments were no longer the most important thing in their life. The trees changed places to show this change of heart.)*



# THE GARDEN OF EDEN | Activities

## Recitation

- Learn the recitation.  
All that the Lord has spoken we will do and hear.  
Exodus 24:7

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



## Song

- I Pray Thee, Lord, to Guide My Ways  
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-i-pray-thee-lord-to-guide-my-ways/>

## Projects

- Creation Ribbon (start, or continue from previous lesson)
- Picture to color

## Additional Activities

- Pretend that you are in a "Garden". Place a marker in the center of the "Garden." Ask two people to pretend to be the two trees of the garden. Put the tree of life in the center. Then ask the tree of knowledge of good and evil to stand on the center without the tree of life moving. Can this be done?
- Look at one square yard of land. How many different things can you find there that the Lord created? You may want to check at different times of day. If you have a magnifying lens, use it to see little creatures you may have missed.

## Creation Ribbon

This project helps children learn the order of the days of creation as well as what the Lord created each day. Do illustrations for 3 or 4 days for lesson 5 and complete the project for lesson 6.

### Supplies needed

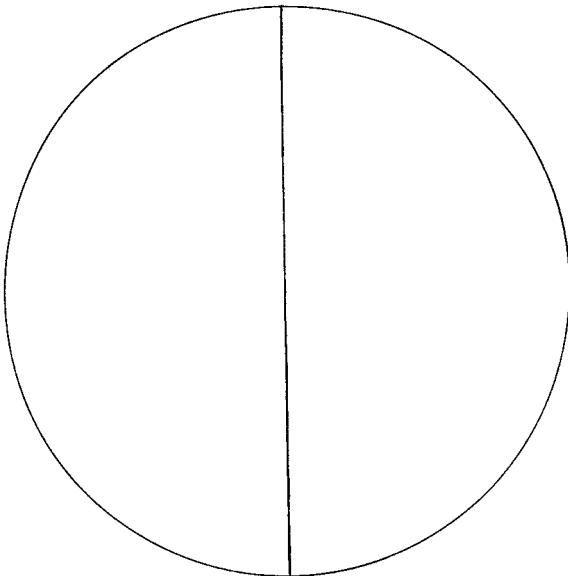
- 4 pieces of colored paper in a darker color such as purple, blue or green approx. 9"x12" (22.5cm x 30cm)\*
- 4 pieces white paper approx. 9"x12" (22.5cm x 30cm)\*
- 1 template with cutting circles for the white and colored paper
- 1 ribbon approximately 1½" wide x 39" long (3.5cm x 100cm)
- crayons, colored pencils or markers
- glue or tape
- scissors

*\*Note:* stiffer paper, such as construction paper is recommended for this project.

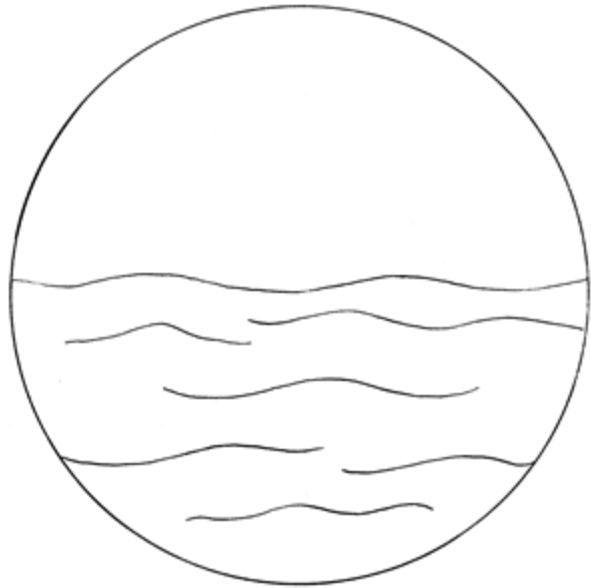
### Directions

1. Using the larger circle template, cut seven circles out of colored paper.
2. Using the smaller circle template, cut seven smaller circles out of white paper.
3. Look at the creation pictures on the printed pages. Think about each day of creation and draw your own picture of it on each of the white circles. Label each day with its name ("The First Day," etc.) or put the number of the day at the bottom of the picture (1, 2, 3, etc.).
4. Glue each white circle with a creation picture to a circle of colored paper to create a colorful border. Try to center each one carefully.
5. Put the days of creation in order and glue or tape them in sequence to the ribbon, starting with the first day at the top of the ribbon.
6. Display the finished ribbon.

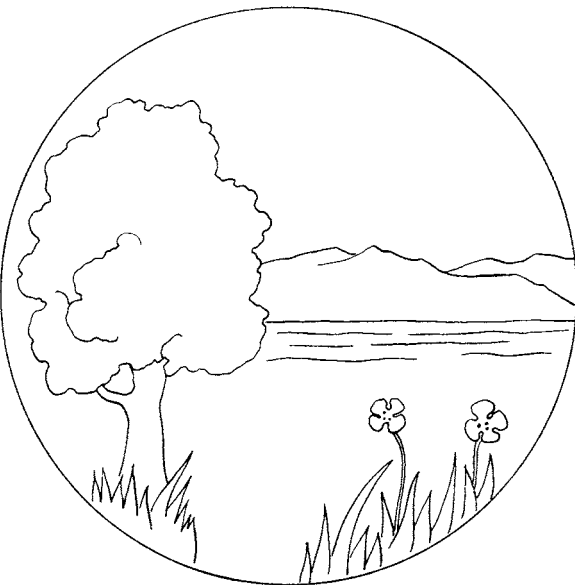




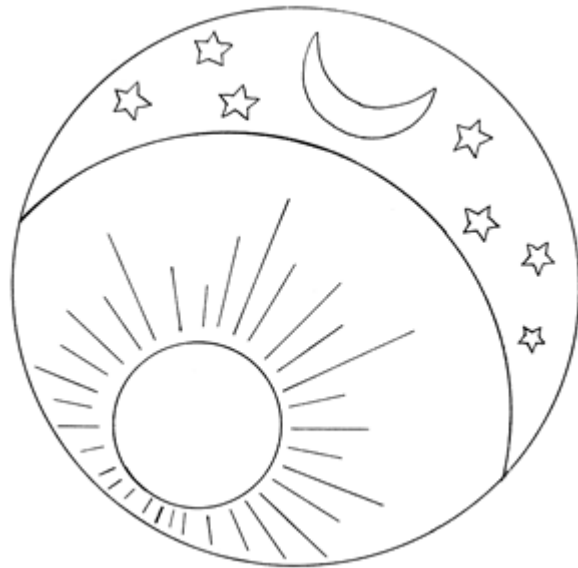
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light...and God divided the light from the darkness.



Then God said, "Let there be a firmament...and let it divide the waters from the waters"...and it was so.

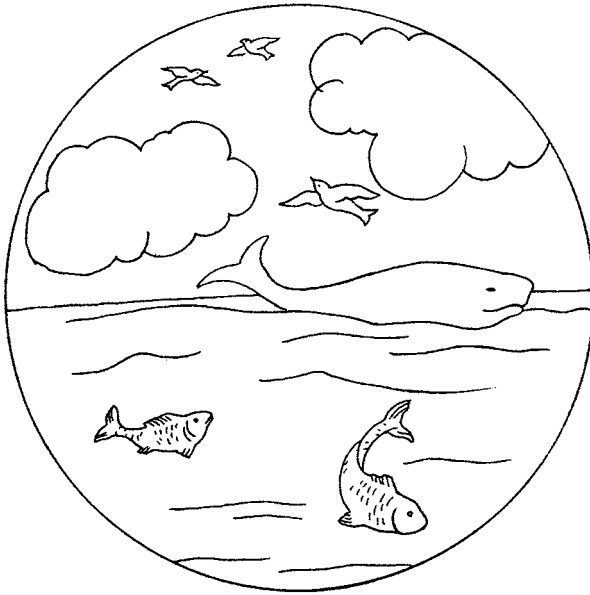


The God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together...and let the dry land appear...Let the earth bring forth grass, herbs, and fruit trees."



Then God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to divide the day from the night." And God made the sun, the moon, and the stars.

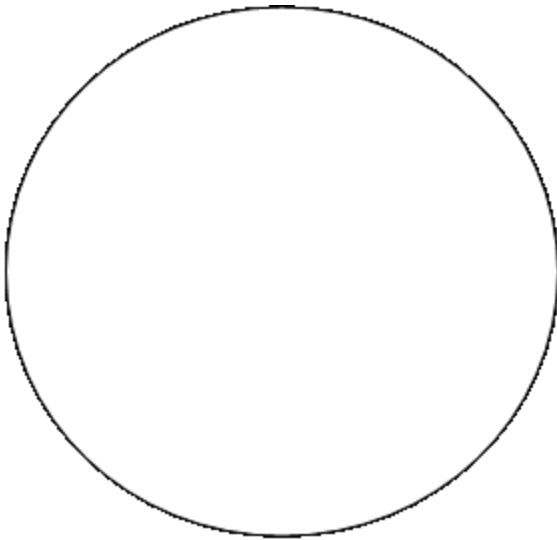




Then God created great whales and every living thing that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, and every winged bird.



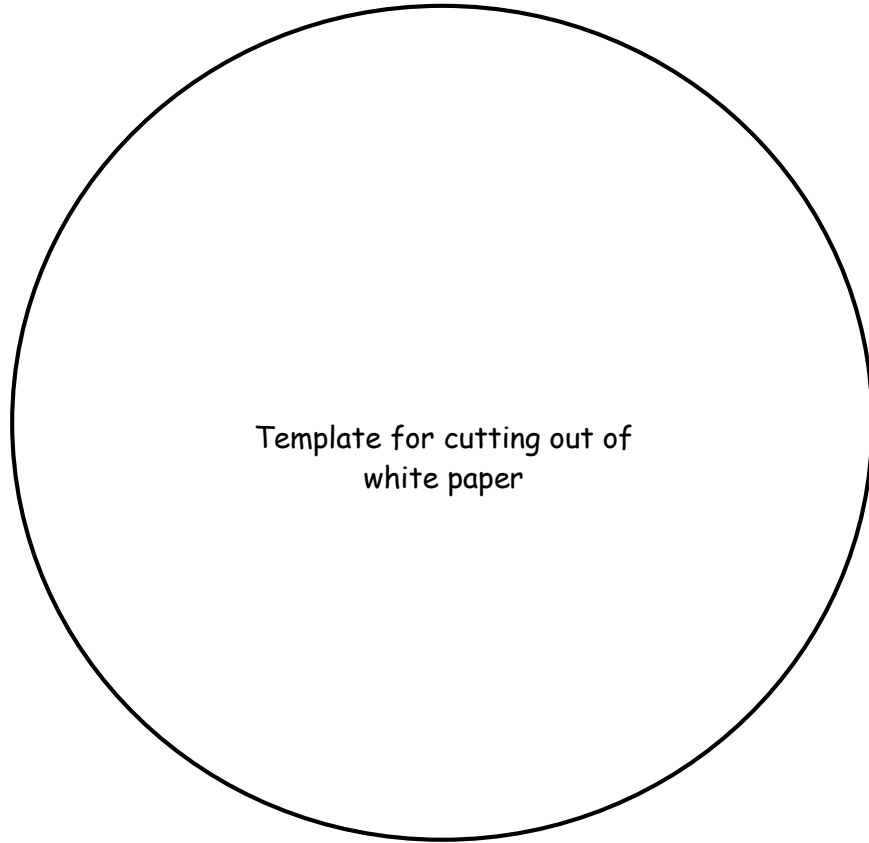
Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creatures.... Then God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him: male and female He created them.

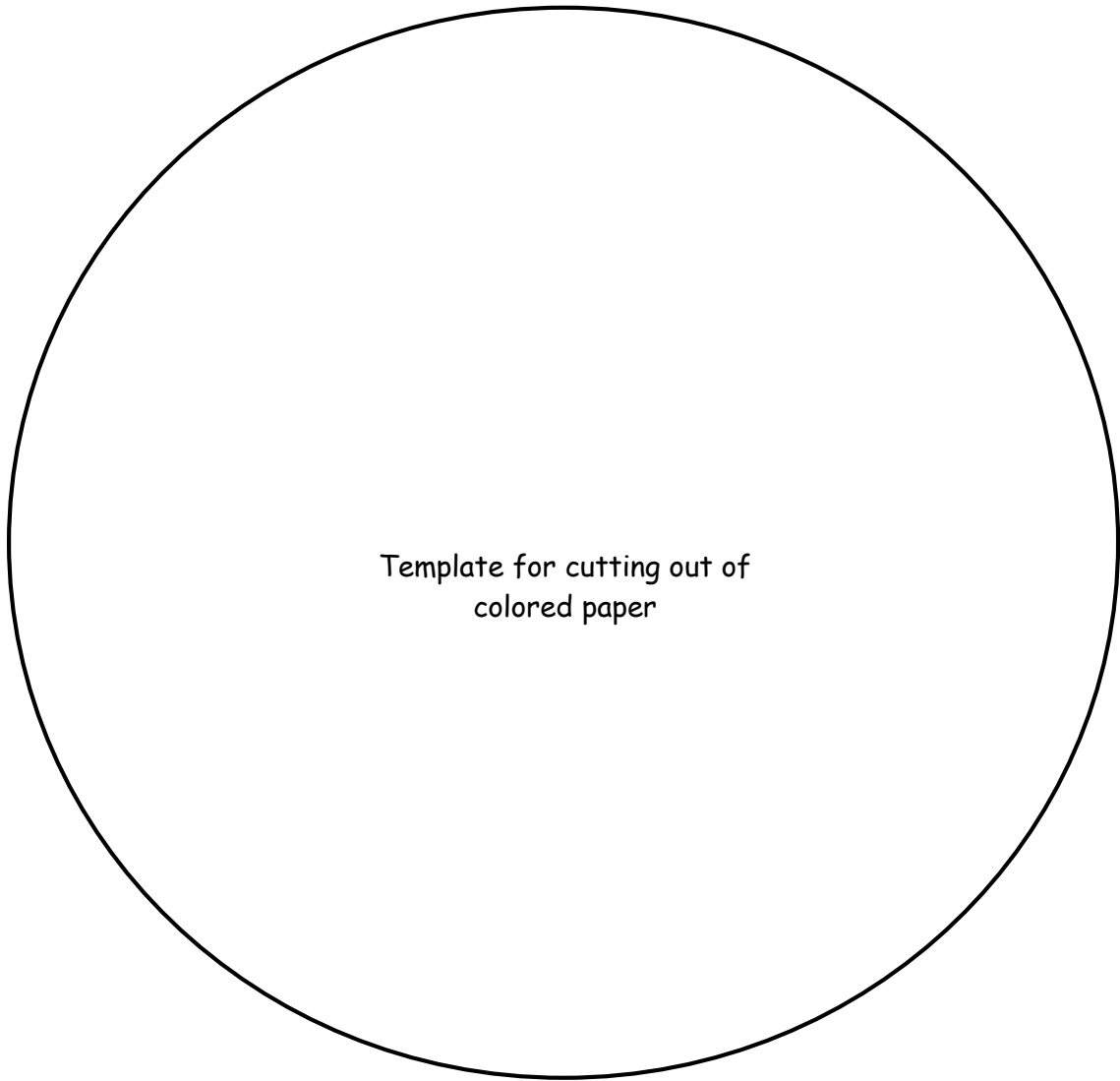


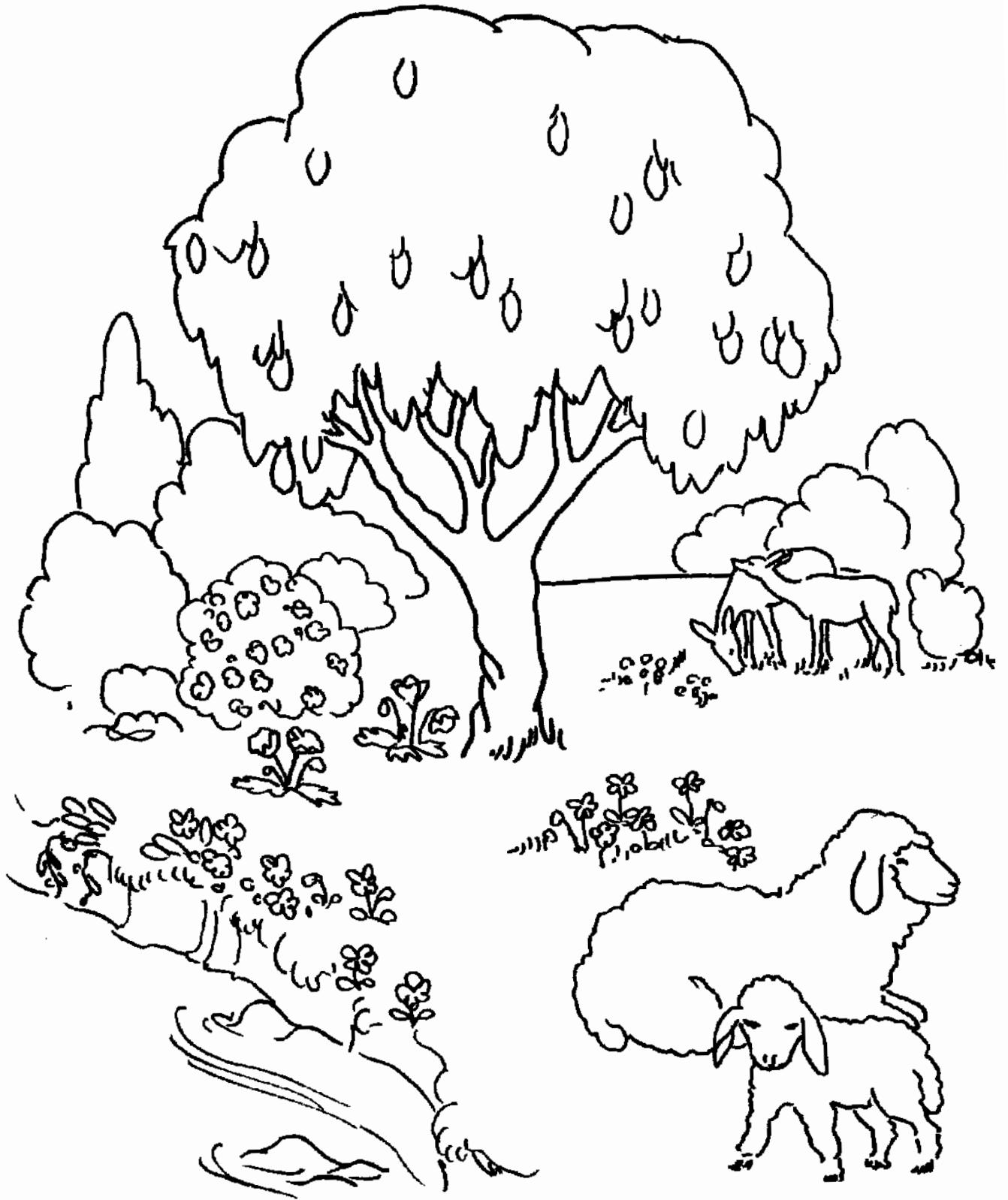
Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. God ended His work which He had done. And God rested on the seventh day and blessed it.

## *The Days of Creation*

### *Genesis 1*







# Recitation Award | Lesson 6

