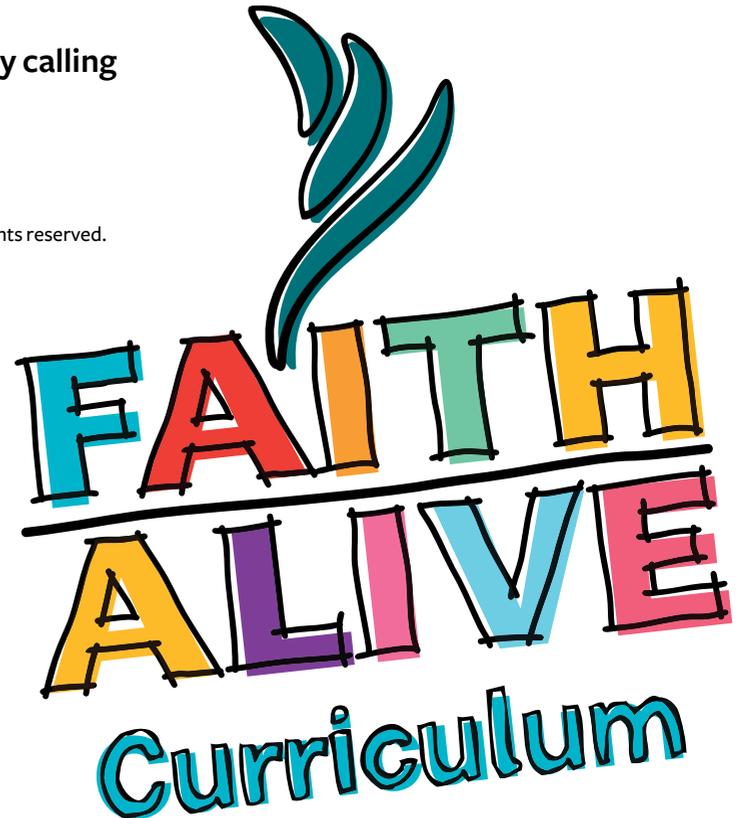


Sample

Full product can be ordered by calling
1-800-333-8300 or by visiting
FaithAliveResources.org.

Property of Faith Alive Christian Resources. All rights reserved.



Memory Challenge

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

—Psalm 19:1-4a, TNIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1, TNIV

Memory Challenge

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

—Psalm 19:1-4a, TNIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1, TNIV

Memory Challenge

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

—Psalm 19:1-4a, NRSV

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth . . .

—Genesis 1:1, NRSV

Memory Challenge

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

—Psalm 19:1-4a, NRSV

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth . . .

—Genesis 1:1, NRSV

Dear Family,

You and your young teen have undoubtedly heard a lot about creation in the past few years. All of us are bombarded with information about how the earth began. We hear it on television, in the newspapers, from textbooks, from teachers, from the church. We hear arguments that science and the Bible contradict each other, that these two should have nothing to do with each other; that scientific evidence should always be the deciding factor; that a literal interpretation of Genesis 1 should be the deciding factor. So can we accept evolution and still be Christian? What do we believe about all of this anyway?

During the next four weeks, that's what our group will be talking about. We'll look at how, rather than contradicting each other, the Bible and science complement each other—both are essential parts of God's revelation. Together we'll begin to define our beliefs about creation. And we'll learn how important it is to respect other views and to acknowledge that none of us have all the answers.

I hope you join in this conversation with your young teen—and stand in amazement together at the intricacy and wonder of our Father's world.

Sincerely,

Dear Family,

You and your young teen have undoubtedly heard a lot about creation in the past few years. All of us are bombarded with information about how the earth began. We hear it on television, in the newspapers, from textbooks, from teachers, from the church. We hear arguments that science and the Bible contradict each other, that these two should have nothing to do with each other; that scientific evidence should always be the deciding factor; that a literal interpretation of Genesis 1 should be the deciding factor. So can we accept evolution and still be Christian? What do we believe about all of this anyway?

During the next four weeks, that's what our group will be talking about. We'll look at how, rather than contradicting each other, the Bible and science complement each other—both are essential parts of God's revelation. Together we'll begin to define our beliefs about creation. And we'll learn how important it is to respect other views and to acknowledge that none of us have all the answers.

I hope you join in this conversation with your young teen—and stand in amazement together at the intricacy and wonder of our Father's world.

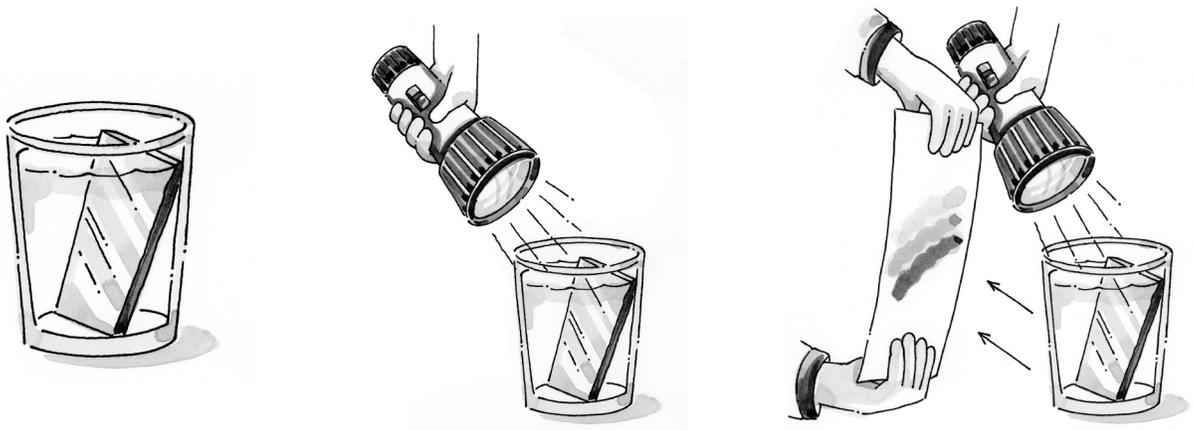
Sincerely,

Rainbows and Light: Science Experiment

Materials

glass of water
mirror
flashlight
piece of paper

1. Place the mirror in the glass of water at an angle. (Let it lean against the glass.)
2. Have one partner shine the flashlight into the mirror.
3. Have the other partner hold the paper at a slant in front of the glass. Move the paper around until you see the rainbow colors.



What can you learn about light from this experiment?

Option: Try different kinds of light: sunlight, florescent light, and so on.

Does the kind of light make a difference in the colors you see?

Readers' Theater from Romans 14

Reader 1: Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

Reader 2: For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume all Christians should be vegetarians and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

Reader 3: Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

Reader 4: What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli.

All: None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters.

Reader 5: It's God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

Reader 1: So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment,

facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit.

Reader 2: Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is. I'm convinced—Jesus convinced me!—that everything as it is in itself is holy. We, of course, by the way we treat it or talk about it, can contaminate it.

Reader 3: If you confuse others by making a big issue over what they eat or don't eat, you're no longer a companion with them in love, are you? These, remember, are persons for whom Christ died. Would you risk sending them to hell over an item in their diet? Don't you dare let a piece of God-blessed food become an occasion of soul-poisoning!

Reader 4: God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you.

Reader 5: So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault.

—Romans 14:1-10, 13-20, *The Message*

To Talk About

- What examples does Paul give of things that Christians were disagreeing about when he wrote this letter? (*Hint:* Look at verses 2-6.)
- Some other translations of this passage refer to those things as “disputable matters” or “doubtful issues.” What do you think that means? Do Christians have to agree on these things in order to be true Christians?
- What can you learn from this passage about how to treat other Christians who have different opinions about how God created the universe and our world?

When Christians Disagree

Word Search

F D Z F T B T W E L C O M E F
D V E C N A T P E C C A X A R
C U N D E R S T A N D I N G U
O T A R M P N A M F E L P R S
S C N Z T Q I A D V L O I E T
S E G C N M S H I N L T G E R
E P E Q I H U T S I E N Y M A
N S R F O S R Y T D I S W E T
E E U C P O S E K K N E S N I
L R K B P E N E C X F E U T O
T Q R P A E C O N F U S I O N
N N U B S J M B U E E L Q R V
E S A S I M L A C L D N V G F
G F X U D E B U H N X U A I L
M S I C I T I R C D O Q R G B

RESPECT

ANGER

DISAPPOINTMENT

FRUSTRATION

SUPPORTIVE

CALM

POLITENESS

MOCKING

RUDENESS

UNDERSTANDING

ACCEPTANCE

SHOCK

FRIENDSHIP

AGREEMENT

CRITICISM

WELCOME

SADNESS

GENTLENESS

CONFUSION

T R U E

<p>1</p> <p>"Young Earth" view of how old the universe is</p>	<p>1</p> <p>By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (Heb. 11:3)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>"Old Earth" view of how old the universe is</p>	<p>1</p> <p>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Genesis 1:31a)</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest. (Jer. 5:24)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>What about dinosaurs? (You have two choices here; either one can go in this square.)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Gen. 1:27)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>What about dinosaurs? (You have two choices here; either one can go in this square.)</p>
<p>3</p> <p>"Creation Science" view of evolution</p>	<p>3</p> <p>You [God] care for the land and water it. (Ps. 65:9a)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>"Evolutionary Creation" (or "Theistic Evolution") view of evolution</p>	<p>3</p> <p>[God] works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. (Eph. 1:11b)</p>

T R U E

<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (Heb. 11:3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>“Young Earth” view of how old the universe is</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Gen. 1:31a)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>“Old Earth” view of how old the universe is</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>What about dinosaurs?</p> <p>(You have two choices here; either one can go in this square.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest. (Jer. 5:24)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>What about dinosaurs?</p> <p>(You have two choices here; either one can go in this square.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Gen. 1:27)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>You [God] care for the land and water it. (Ps. 65:9a)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>“Creation Science” view of evolution</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>[God] works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. (Eph. 1:11b)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>“Evolutionary Creation” (or “Theistic Evolution”) view of evolution</p>

With One Voice

Though we may have differing opinions about the origins of the universe, we find our unity in confessing the essential teachings of Scripture. Here are some statements that Christians use to confess their faith together.

From the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

—opening statement

From the Heidelberg Catechism

Q. What do you believe when you say,
“I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth”?

A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth
and everything in them,
who still upholds and rules them
by his eternal counsel and providence,
is my God and Father
because of Christ his Son.

I trust him so much that I do not doubt
he will provide
whatever I need
for body and soul,
and he will turn to my good
whatever adversity he sends me
in this sad world.

He is able to do this because he is almighty God;
he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

—Question and Answer 26

From the Westminster Confession

1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.
2. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image, having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfil it; and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this

law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

—Chapter 4, Of Creation

From *Our World Belongs to God*

8.

In the beginning, God—
Father, Word, and Spirit—
called this world into being
out of nothing,
and gave it shape and order.

9.

God formed the sky, land, and sea;
stars above, moon and sun,
making a world of color, beauty, and variety—
a fitting home for plants and animals, and us—
a place to work and play,
worship and wonder,
love and laugh.

God rested
and gave us rest.
In the beginning
everything was very good.

—stanzas 8-9