

Answer Guide for Chapter 1

1:1-2

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (ESV)

- Who is credited for writing Genesis? *Moses*
- What other books is he given credit for writing? *Exodus, Leviticus, Number and Deuteronomy "The Pentateuch"*
- What word was added in the NRSV version of the first verse? *"when"*
- What difference do you find in verse 2? *Spirit of God instead of wind of God*
- What is the wind? *Holy Spirit-third person of the Trinity*
- How is the earth described? *A formless void*
- The unformed heaven and earth are characterized by *darkness* and *water/mist* ?

1:3-5 First Day God creates Light

- What is the name used for the creator? *God*
- What method does the creator use for his work? *Speaks things into existence*
- What was created on this day? *Light*
- What is the purpose of this part of creation? *Separate the darkness*
- John 8:12 How is Jesus described? *Light of the World*
- Over what period of time was light created? *One day*
- What petition of the Lord's prayer relates to this time period? *4th, Give us this day our DAILY bread*
- What are people doing that complain of being too busy or not having enough time? *Sinning by not trusting in the time God gives to them.*

1:6-8 Second Day God creates *Sky*

- Where are the waters located? *Above and below*
- What does God create to separate the water? *Dome or firmament*
- Psalm 104 How does the Psalmist describe this structure? *A tent supported with pillars*

1:9-13 Third Day God creates *Earth, Sea, and Vegetation*

- What is different first word used describing God's creating work from the first day and how the second and third day begin? *1st-"then", 2nd and 3rd-"and"*
- When God speaks, it happens. What words say this throughout the creation narrative? *And it was so.*
- In this day God completes work began in Day two. What part of the dome or firmament does he work on today? *Below the dome*
- What does God do first on this day? *Gathered Sea and Land together*
- What is the distinction between the vegetation that is created next?
Plants yielding seed and plants yielding fruit bearing seed
- What is necessary for the continued existence of plants? *seeds*
- How does God describe what he sees in his creative work of the first and third day? *He saw that it was good.*
- How would we describe the diet that was first given? *vegetarian*

1:14-19 Fourth Day God creates *Sun, Moon, and stars*

- God focuses his attention on what part of the dome? *above*
- God separates the *light* from the *darkness*.
- The lights were created to be signs of *seasons, days and years*.

1:20-23 Fifth Day God creates *Birds and Fish*

- What has God provided in order to now create living things?

Water, soil, vegetation

-Where does God bring the fish and birds from? *Both came from water*
-What is unique about these two creatures and where they were given to live? *Birds can't survive in water and fish can't without it.*

-Does God need to follow rules of nature or law in his creative work? *NO*

-What does God's blessing give the creatures the ability to do? *reproduce*

1:24-25 Sixth day-First work God creates *cattle, creeping things* and *wild animals.*

-These three groups of created work are expanded to mean all animals by adding the words *of every kind.*

1:26-31 Sixth day-Second work *Humankind* is created

-What is the same in the description of the first day of creation (vs 1) and the final part of Creation (vs 26)? *"Then" God said*

-Who is present doing this last creative work? *The Trinity, Let US*

-What word unique to this part of creation is added after God's speaking?
"make"

-In whose image are we made? *The image of God, the Trinity*

-In what image were all other living things created? *In their own kind*

-What ranking does God give humankind? *Number 1. They have dominion over all else.*

26 Then God said, "Let us make man^[a] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

-What word is used here instead of "humankind"? *man*

-What other words tell you that God was speaking about more than one sex? *Let THEM have dominion. Not just man.*

-Verse 27 seems repetitious and is written in different form. Why? *God emphasizes the point that he created humankind MALE and FEMALE.*

-What does God's blessing give man and woman the ability to do?

To be fruitful-to reproduce

-What is different in what God gives humankind to eat and what is given to other living creatures? *Green plants for creatures, plants and fruit with seeds for humankind*

-What is different in God's evaluation of the created work of the individual days and looking at the completion of creation? *God said it was VERY good.*

-Is this where you would have placed an end of the first chapter of Genesis? *It seems like the end of the chapter would come after the seventh day.*