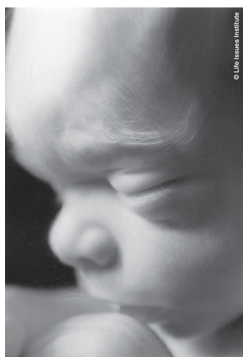
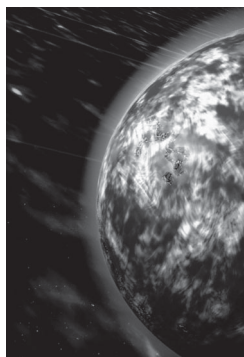


# Connecting the ...



# ... Creation Dots

## Teacher's Guide

(Reproducible Student Pages Included)



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Item #1104BS



# Connecting the Creation Dots - Teacher's Guide

[Comments to the teacher are in bold brackets.]

**[Opening Prayer: Thank You, Father, for giving us life and for giving us new life through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May Your Spirit of Life be with us in our Bible study and guide our understanding of Your Word that it may bear fruit in our lives and move us to share Your Word of Life with others. In Jesus name, amen.]**

Genesis is the book of beginnings. The early chapters are foundational to the rest of Scripture. They are foundational to life and what gives it value and purpose. In this Bible study we are going to “connect the dots” between the early chapters of Genesis and other parts of Scripture particularly those passages that deal with life.

## **Connecting the Dots to the Word of Life**

The Bible is first and foremost about Jesus. “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). Jesus was there in the beginning chapters of Genesis. The need for Jesus in the rest of Scriptures is given in the beginning chapters of Genesis. Without Him, there would be no dots to connect.

Read Genesis 1:1-3. Now connect the dots to the following passages:

John 1:1-3 – What in these verses connect to Genesis 1:1?

**[Remind everyone from John 1:14 that the Word here is Jesus.**

**Obvious connections to make:**

- **Jesus was there in the beginning.**
- **Jesus was God.**
- **He was the agent through whom all was made. You may point out Genesis 1:3 “And God said . . .” as the Word being active in creation.**
- **Jesus is the source of life as the agent of creation and as the agent of redemption which will be discussed more below.**
- **As God was the source of light in the darkness of the beginning (the sun was not created until day**

**4), so Jesus is the source of light in the darkness of sin.]**

Colossians 1:16 – What additional connection is seen here?

- **[The scope of what He created is seen—“visible and invisible.” All the material things of earth and the spiritual things of the heavenly realms including the angels.**
- **Most significantly, all things were created for Him.**

Hebrews 1:2-3 – What does this say about Jesus and His creation? **[The significant addition in these verses is that Jesus continues to sustain creation by “His powerful Word.” Without Jesus there would have been no beginning. Without Jesus what was begun could never continue.]**

Ephesians 1:22 – Whose in charge of creation and why? **[Clearly Jesus is “Head over everything.” But the significant new connection in this verse is that He is controlling everything “for the church.” Just as God was at work during Old Testament times working everything together getting things ready for the first coming of Jesus, so Jesus is now working all things for the good of His body the Church and getting things ready for His second coming. How comforting to know in times of unrest and uncertainty that our Head, Jesus, does not rest and we can be certain that He is in control.]**

Read Genesis 2:16-17 and 3:6-7. Now connect the dots to the following passages:

Romans 5:12-14, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 – Discuss the connection between the two “Adams.”

**[Sin and death came into God’s perfect world through the first Adam. Prior to this there was no death. This creates a problem for Christians who hold to some form of evolution. Evolution requires millions and millions of years of death. There was death before there were people according to evolution. The evolutionist would say that death is a natural part of the evolutionary process rather than something unnatural that resulted from sin. Such thinking**

**eliminates any connection to a Saviour from sin and death. No literal Adam who sinned in Eden means there would be no need for a second “Adam” born in Bethlehem. But Adam was real and his sin was real. God promised to do something about it.]**

Read Genesis 3:15 Now connect the dots to the following passages:

Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 27:45-50 – How do these passages connect to Genesis 3:15?

**[Salvation from the seed of the woman would not be without its price. Isaiah prophesied the price. Jesus paid the price on the cross. Depending on translations, Satan struck, bruised, or crushed the heel of the Savior. Painful, but not deadly!]**

1Corinthians 15:26, 54-57 – How do these passages connect to Genesis 3:15?

**[Now comes the head crushing! Jesus defeats sin through His suffering. Jesus defeats death through His resurrection. Jesus defeats Satan by grinding his head into the blood stained dust of Calvary.]**

Romans 6:4-7 – How does this passage connect to Genesis 3:15?

**[We are dead too! Crucified, dead, and buried with Christ. We are alive too! United with Christ in His resurrection. We are freed from the power of sin, death, and Satan! Oh, Satan still prowls about like a roaring lion, but he is a toothless, defeated lion who can work only through deceit and lies. We know the truth, and that sets us free.]**

The early chapters of Genesis that speak of God’s creation are essential to our understanding of Jesus and the necessity of His entering into His creation as the Word of Life.

### **Connecting the Dots to the Beginning of Life**

**[Connecting the creation dots to the Word of Life is of primary importance. But the creation dots also connect us to the importance of a proper understanding of the beginning of life.]**

The Bible is about life. In the early chapters of Genesis we learn about the origins of life with special emphasis given to human life. We learn about God’s plan for the proper context of ongoing human life.

Read Genesis 1:26-27 – Now connect the dots to the following passages:

Genesis 2:7, 2:22 – What is different about the Adam and Eve’s beginning compared to the beginning of other life?

**[God took special care in the creation of those who were in His image. Genesis 2:7 and 22 give a more detailed look at the creation of human life. God formed Adam from the ground and breathed into him. This combination of intimate, divine involvement is not seen with any other of God’s creatures. God “made” the woman. Literally he “built” the woman. Again, there is a picture of God’s hands on involvement. Human life has a very special beginning.]**

Genesis 1:28 – What is implied here about the beginning of human life from this point forward?

**[With the command to be “fruitful and increase,” God sets into motion a biological process for procreation. Now He will make use of sexual intercourse, sperm and egg, chromosomes and DNA, genes and gene sequences to bring new life. What must not get lost in the biology is that life is still a gracious gift from God (Psalm 127:3).]**

Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:22-6:4 – What is to be the context for this biological process of the beginning human life?

**[Procreating and nurturing new life is so special that it is given a special context, marriage and family. Note that marriage was instituted before sin. It was not an institution to curb sin but one to provide companionship and to create and nurture life. Thus it is not to be taken lightly as Jesus points out in Matthew 19. Marriage is a God given relationship between a man and a woman that is to be valued and protected. This relationship is so special that it is compared to Christ and His relationship to His Church. In light of the attacks on marriage and family, you may want to spend some extra time here. (LFL’s statement on marriage may be helpful. Give us a call at 888-364-5433.)]**

Psalm 139.13-14 – Who is still involved in this beginning of life process?

**[Just like God had an intimate, hands on involvement in the creation of the first human lives, so He is still involved in the biological process He established.]**

The early chapters of Genesis are essential in our understanding of how human life began and the context of marriage and family through which human life continues.

### **Connecting the Dots to the End of Life**

The Bible is about life that God intended to last forever. In the early chapters of Genesis we learn of the paradise God wants for His creation. We learn of what awaits us when God's redemptive plan reaches its completion.

Read Genesis 3:22-24 Now connect the dots to the following passages:

Psalm 90:10, Ecclesiastes 3:2, – Is there anything good about these passages in connection with the above verses?

**[God protected the Tree of Life from Adam and Eve for their own good. He did not want them to live forever in their sinful condition. The good news about these passages is that there is a limit to life in this sinful flesh and in this sinful world. Death certainly is our enemy and is a constant reminder of our sinfulness. Luther commented, “The death of a man is, however, an infinite and eternal misery and wrath” (*The Theology of Martin Luther* Paul Althaus Fortress Press, 1966 p. 405). But Luther also said, “We should be happy to die and desire death. Death is only the narrow gate and the small way to life” (Ibid. 408). We should not seek death even to relieve pain and suffering. The timing of our death is up to God. But we certainly can say with Paul, “I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far” (Philippians 1:23).]**

John 14:1-6 – What is our certainty that Jesus is preparing a place for us?

**[The certainty comes from the fact that Jesus not only knows the way, He is the way! His suffering, death, and resurrection prepared the way and now He is preparing the place. In Heaven we will experience relief from all earthly struggles of body and soul and enjoy perfect peace and joy. But there is something even better coming!]**

Revelation 22:1-5 – At the end of time, what will we have access to once again?

**[The closing chapters of the Bible get us back to the beginning chapters of the Bible. Now the tree of life is accessible. Our bodies will be resurrected and we will live in the paradise God intended for human life. Note the similarities in these verses to the Garden of Eden.]**

The early chapters of Genesis are essential to our understanding of the abundant life that God has promised and intends for His people.

## **Connecting the Dots to the Value of Life**

The Bible is about life and its value. The early chapters of Genesis help us understand the value that God gives to human life.

Read again Genesis 1:26-27 and this time connect it to:

Genesis 9:6, James 3:9, Psalm 8 – What does this say about the value of human life even after the fall?

**[Because God created human life in His image in the beginning, human life still has value even though sin has destroyed that image. What God did in the beginning raises human life to a level of value no other life has.]**

Read again Genesis 2:7, 2:22 and connect them to the following passages:

Job 10:8, 12:10, Jeremiah 1:5 – What do these passages say about the value of human life?

**[God remains the hands on creator of life! If you have something your grandma made by hand, it has special value even if it is worn and torn. So it is with each and every human life. Value is given by the hands that made us, not by our stage of development or the condition of our health. The embryo in the Petri dish has as much value as the gold winning Olympian. Grandma with Alzheimer's has as much value as neurologist who is studying her disease. It is who made you, not how well you work, that gives your life value!]**

Read Genesis 5:3 and connect it to the following passages:



Colossians 3:9-10, 1 Corinthians 6:20 – What do these passages say about the value of human life?

**[Human life is not only created by the hands of God, but redeemed by the hands of God. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross. In Christ, the image of God is being renewed in us. When Jesus died, He paid the price for the forgiveness of all sins for all people for all time. “You were bought with a price” applies to every human being. Every human life from the Petri dish to the nursing home bed is a life for whom Jesus died. That means every human life is our neighbor to love, to serve, and to protect. ]**

The early chapters of Genesis are essential in our understanding that life has value at all stages and under all conditions because God is the author and redeemer of life.

When you “connect the creation dots,” you realize how wonderfully valuable are those beginning chapters of Genesis. They speak of Jesus, the Word of Life. They speak of the beginning of life and the need for new life. They speak of what awaits us because of the new creation we have in Jesus. They speak of the value of all human life that guides our relationship with our fellow human beings. How gracious God’s revelation is when you “connect the dots”!

**[Closing Prayer: Lord God, help us always to “connect the dots,” to see the value and dignity that you give to our lives and to every life. Preserve the truth of your holy Word from Genesis to Revelation so that we might know the wonder of that truth and Your great love for us in Christ that it reveals. Give us boldness to proclaim your Word of truth to others. Give us compassion to be Your Word of love to others. Renew in us, in our churches, and in our land the value and dignity that you give to human life. We pray in the name of the Word of Life, Jesus. Amen.]**

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