

DETAILED OUTLINE: Genesis 1 - Creation Points to Christ

Lutheran High School Theology (45 Minutes)

I. PRE-CLASS PREPARATION & CONTEXT

A. Lutheran Theological Foundation

1. Luther's Approach to Genesis

- Luther's Genesis commentary was referred to in the Formula of Concord as a "Commentarius praeclarus" (excellent commentary)
- Lutherans "accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's Catechism: 'I believe that God has made me and all creatures'"
- Luther emphasized creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) by God's word
- Creation reveals both God's power and His desire for relationship with humanity

2. Lutheran Christological Hermeneutics

- All Scripture points to Christ (Luke 24:27, 44-47)
- God "has revealed Himself to us as the One who created all things and as the One who has taken up our humanity in order to redeem us"
- Creation and redemption are unified in Christ's person and work

B. ESV Translation Background

1. Translation Philosophy

- The ESV is an "essentially literal" translation emphasizing "word-for-word" accuracy, literary excellence, and depth of meaning
- Seeks "to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer"
- Published in 2001 by Crossway, under general editor J.I. Packer

2. Scholarly Credentials

- Created by "more than 100 leading evangelical scholars and pastors"
 - Endorsed by many ministry leaders including John Piper, R.C. Sproul, and others
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II. LESSON OPENING (7 minutes total)

A. Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Purpose: Establish reverent atmosphere, invoke Holy Spirit's guidance **Content:** Focus on God as Creator and Redeemer, request understanding

B. Hook Activity - "Jesus' Many Roles" (5 minutes)

Learning Objective: Connect students' existing knowledge to new content **Process:**

1. **Question:** "When you think of Jesus, what roles or titles come to mind?"
 2. **Expected Responses:** Savior, Redeemer, King, Lamb of God, Teacher, etc.
 3. **Strategic Addition:** Introduce "Creator" as often-overlooked role
 4. **Transition Statement:** "Today we'll see how Genesis 1 reveals Jesus as Creator from the beginning"
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III. BIBLE READING & CONTEXTUAL SETUP (8 minutes total)

A. Establish Reading Method (2 minutes)

- Assign verses to different students (Genesis 1:1-31)
- Encourage attentive listening for repeated patterns
- Provide context: Moses writing to Israelites about their God vs. Egyptian/Canaanite gods

B. Guided Reading (6 minutes)

Strategic Pauses for Emphasis:

- After v.1: "Notice who is doing the creating"
 - After v.3: "Pay attention to HOW God creates"
 - After v.27: "This verse is crucial for understanding humanity"
 - After v.31: "God's evaluation of His work"
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IV. MAIN TEACHING: FOUR CHRISTOLOGICAL THEMES (25 minutes total)

A. THEME 1: Christ as Agent of Creation (8 minutes)

1. Primary Text Analysis (3 minutes)

- **Genesis 1:1 (ESV):** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"
- **Hebrew Insight:** *Elohim* (plural form) hints at Trinity
- **Lutheran Emphasis:** All persons of Trinity active in creation

2. New Testament Connections (4 minutes)

- **John 1:1-3:** "In the beginning was the Word... All things were made through him"
- **Colossians 1:16:** "For by him all things were created"
- **Hebrews 1:2:** God "created the world" through His Son

3. Application & Discussion (1 minute)

Question: "How does knowing Jesus was the Creator change your view of His authority?" **Expected**

Response: Greater respect, understanding of His power over creation

B. THEME 2: The Creative Word (7 minutes)

1. Pattern Recognition (2 minutes)

- **Repeated Phrase:** "And God said..." (8 times in Genesis 1)
- **Power of Divine Speech:** Word brings reality into existence
- **Immediate Effect:** "and it was so" follows God's command

2. Christ as the Word (3 minutes)

- **John 1:1, 14:** Jesus IS the Word (Logos)
- **Same Creative Power:** Word that created also redeems
- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"

3. Lutheran Doctrine Connection (2 minutes)

- **Law and Gospel:** God's word both demands (law) and creates (gospel)
- **Word Creates Faith:** Gospel word creates faith just as creative word made universe
- **Means of Grace:** Word as vehicle of God's creative/saving power

C. THEME 3: Light Conquering Darkness (5 minutes)

1. Genesis 1:3-5 Analysis (2 minutes)

- **First Creative Act:** "Let there be light"
- **Divine Evaluation:** "God saw that the light was good"
- **Separation Motif:** Light separated from darkness

2. Christological Fulfillment (2 minutes)

- **John 1:5:** "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"
- **John 8:12:** "I am the light of the world"

- **John 3:19-21:** Light vs. darkness as spiritual reality

3. Theological Application (1 minute)

Parallel: Physical light conquering darkness = Spiritual light conquering sin **Personal Application:** Christ's light enters our darkness

D. THEME 4: Image of God and Perfect Restoration (5 minutes)

1. Genesis 1:27 Examination (2 minutes)

- **Divine Image:** Humans created "in the image of God"
- **Male and Female:** Both bear God's image
- **Unique Status:** Only humans described this way

2. Christ as Perfect Image (2 minutes)

- **2 Corinthians 4:4:** Christ is "the image of God"
- **Colossians 1:15:** "the image of the invisible God"
- **Hebrews 1:3:** "exact imprint of his nature"

3. Restoration Process (1 minute)

- **Romans 8:29:** Being "conformed to the image of his Son"
- **2 Corinthians 3:18:** "Being transformed into the same image"
- **Lutheran Teaching:** Christ restores corrupted image through justification/sanctification

V. APPLICATION & SYNTHESIS (4 minutes total)

A. Reflection Questions (3 minutes)

1. **Authority Question:** "How does seeing Jesus as Creator affect your understanding of His authority over your life?"
2. **Word Power:** "What does it mean that the same word that created the universe also saves you?"
3. **Hope Focus:** "How does knowing Jesus will restore all creation give you hope for the future?"

B. Catechism Connection (1 minute)

First Article Application:

- "I believe that God has made me and all creatures"
- **Connection:** Same God who created also redeems through Christ

- **Personal:** God's continued care from creation to salvation
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VI. ASSESSMENT & CLOSURE (1 minute)

A. Quick Understanding Check

- **Observation:** Note participation levels during discussion
- **Informal Assessment:** Listen for accurate connections between OT and NT

B. Assignment Preview

Next Lesson: Genesis 2-3 and the Fall **Focus Question:** "How does the Fall account show our need for a Savior?"

C. Closing Prayer

Content: Thank God for being Creator and Redeemer, ask for continued understanding

VII. DIFFERENTIATION STRATEGIES

A. For Advanced Students

- Provide additional cross-references for independent study
- Challenge with deeper theological questions about Trinity in creation
- Suggest Luther's Works Volume 1 for extended reading

B. For Struggling Students

- Focus on main theme: Jesus is Creator AND Savior
- Use visual aids showing Old Testament → New Testament connections
- Provide simplified outline with key verses

C. For Visual/Kinesthetic Learners

- Create timeline showing creation themes fulfilled in Christ
 - Use hand motions for "God said" repetition
 - Draw simple diagrams showing light/darkness, image concepts
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VIII. FOLLOW-UP RESOURCES

A. Student Resources

- ESV Study Bible notes on Genesis 1
- Lutheran Study Bible commentary sections
- Bible Gateway or ESV.org for additional cross-references

B. Teacher Preparation Materials

- Luther's Works Volume 1 (Genesis 1-5)
- ESV Expository Commentary on Genesis
- Lutheran Confessions (Augsburg Confession, Articles I & II)

C. Assessment Tools

Future Quiz Questions:

- How does Genesis 1:3 connect to John 1:1?
- What does it mean that Christ is both Creator and Redeemer?
- How does the image of God in Genesis 1:27 relate to salvation?

IX. THEOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES REINFORCEMENT

A. Lutheran Distinctives Emphasized

1. **Scripture Clarity:** Genesis clearly teaches creation by divine word
2. **Christocentric Reading:** All Scripture points to Christ
3. **Creation/Redemption Unity:** Same God creates and saves
4. **Word Power:** God's word effective in both creation and gospel

B. Expected Student Outcomes

- **Knowledge:** Identify four major christological themes in Genesis 1
- **Comprehension:** Explain connections between creation and redemption
- **Application:** See Jesus as both Creator and personal Savior
- **Analysis:** Connect Old Testament texts with New Testament fulfillment