

Preeminence of Christ

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.” Colossians 1:18 (NIV)



Aim Questions:

1. **Who wrote the book of Colossians and why?** (*Paul, to help the church at Colosse that was facing some problems.*)
2. **Who can we assume began the church at Colosse? How did this all happen?** (*Epaphras. He was probably saved in Ephesus by Paul and went back to Colosse and began the church there.*)
3. **What is the theme of Colossians?** (*Preeminence of Christ.*)
4. **What were some of the false teachings that Paul needed to address?** (*Gnosticism, Jewish legalism, and asceticism.*)



Hook:



What Does it Mean to Be First? (Discussion).   Discuss with the students what it means to be first. Look up the definition of the word “first” in the dictionary. See how many synonyms they can list. Ask the students the following questions:

1. Have you ever been first in something?
2. What is the first thing you do each day?
3. If you could be first in anything, what would you choose?
4. What are some of the results of being first?
5. What is the first memory you have?



Take a Hike in God's Creation! (Worksheet/Activity).   Each student will need:

- COL01.GF1 Pg. 1 copied onto white cardstock
- 1 verse label from COL01.GF1 Pg. 2
- 1 sheet of construction paper
- double-stick tape or white glue
- coloring crayons or markers

Take your class on a walk outside and collect things that you find that are part of God's creation. Have the students follow the directions below to complete their craft:

1. Paste the collected items onto the points of the sun's rays on COL01.GF1 Pg. 1.
2. Cut out the verse label and glue it in the center of the sun.
3. Glue the entire page onto the sheet of construction paper.

Tell the students that this morning they will hear how Paul tried to remind the church at Colosse that Christ came before the world and created everything in it.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –



The Preeminence of Christ (Flannelgraph). 🦋, 🦋 Before class, fill the board with all kinds of pictures from Bible times, life today, things that apply to nature, and creation. Work backwards, pulling off each picture as you explain:

“Before there was ____, there was ____, and God was in control.”

Continue pulling items off of the board until you get to the items found in nature or creation. Explain to the students that before there was anything, there was Christ. Pull off the last piece, and tell them that Christ was there to create everything from the beginning. He was and is first, or preeminent, in everything.

Bible Adventure for 1st – 6th Grades –

In the days of the early church, the apostles spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they traveled. One of the places to which the apostle Paul traveled was the city of Ephesus where it is thought he met a man named Epaphras. Epaphras became a follower of Jesus Christ and eventually returned to his home in the city of Colosse where he began a church. Several years after the Colossian church was planted, some dangerous ideas began to spread within it so that the purity of the church was threatened. Some of the false ideas being spread were that God, being a Spirit, was good, but anything physical was evil. Some also taught that Jesus was only a kind of spirit being sent from God but was less than God Himself. There was also the teaching that said that following Jewish laws was what made a person holy. The worship of angels was also becoming more accepted.

Epaphras was so troubled by these false teachings that he made a trip from Colosse to Rome where Paul was in prison to tell Paul about it. Paul wrote a letter to correct the false teachings that had crept into the church. He was known by many of the believers of that time, and his words would carry weight because people in the church trusted him. We'll talk about what was in the letter in just a bit.

It was decided to send the letter to Colosse with Tychicus, one of Paul's friends. Tychicus was accompanying Onesimus, a runaway slave, back to Colosse where he would return to his master, Philemon.

Paul began his letter to the Colossian church by introducing himself and greeting his brothers and sisters in Christ. He expressed His thankfulness to God for the growth in the Colossian church which Epaphras had told him about—how they showed their love for one another and the evidence of their faith in the way they lived their lives.

Next, Paul wrote that he had been praying without stopping for the Colossian church. He had especially been praying that they would grow in wisdom and in spiritual understanding. Paul knew from hearing Epaphras' report that this was what the church needed more than anything. They needed a solid foundation of knowing who God is and who Jesus Christ is. They needed a solid foundation of truth so that they would be able to recognize lies when they heard them. Paul began sharing with them the things they needed to believe and stand on so they would not be taken in by every false teacher who came along.

Paul then focused in on the theme of his letter—the preeminence or supremacy of Christ. This simply means that Christ has first place in everything. He is highest in power, in authority, and in importance. He is the first and last word on any subject. Paul knew that it was vital for these new believers to understand who their Savior was, so he reminded them that Jesus existed before anything else and created all things for His glory and enjoyment. He is the one who keeps the universe going. Jesus is not only God's Son, He is the exact likeness of God Himself. He was not some kind of spirit being God had sent, He was and is God! Paul wanted no misunderstandings on that point!

Not only is Christ God, but Paul told the Colossians that He is also head of the church. The proof is in Christ rising from the dead. Only God could accomplish such a miracle. The resurrection happened for another reason as well. Listen to Colossians 1:18: “And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.” Remember, supremacy means “first place.” Paul was telling the Colossian church that Jesus Christ, based upon Who He is and what He did, is first place in everything!

These must have been reassuring words for the Colossians to read in light of all the false ideas they had been hearing. Paul, however, went one step further. This same Jesus, the Creator of the universe, was pleased to offer His own life so that sinful man could have peace with God and actually become part of God's family. The Colossians could be sure of this truth if they stayed loyal to what they knew to be true and stood on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As Paul wrote this letter from prison, he was suffering for the Gospel and for the new church, yet he was happy to do so. His suffering gave him the perfect open door to share with others about the suffering Christ went through in his tremendous love for a lost world. When they saw Paul's willingness to suffer for Christ's sake, it made the Gospel message even more real to them. Paul wanted the Christians at Colosse to be willing to do the same—to be bold in their faith and stand up for the truth of the Gospel, even if it meant suffering.

What gave Paul this unswerving commitment to share the Gospel wherever he went? It was the greatness of Christ! God had chosen to make known the "glorious riches...which is Christ in you." Jesus walked among men and showed them who God is. He went to the cross, giving Himself as the ultimate sacrifice. God revealed His love, His majesty, and His splendor in and through His Son. He so captured Paul's heart that the apostle proclaimed Him everywhere he went and taught men how to become mature in their faith. Paul had discovered the balance needed in a fruitful life for Christ. He gave everything he had to his ministry, and he knew that the power he needed to do it and the results that came were directly from God Himself.



Have you ever been exposed to ideas about God or the Bible that seemed rather strange to you? What did you do about it? Where can you go to find out if an idea is true or false? The Colossians had their letter from Paul. We have that, and we have sixty-five other books of the Bible to turn to when we need answers. If we need wisdom, James 1:5 tells us we need only ask God for it. God's wisdom lives in His Word, and He longs to teach us the truth that is found there. You don't have to look very far today to see false teaching that challenges the authority of God over this world. Be wise as you live out your days on earth. Satan is the father of lies, and his tricks are around every corner. Get your feet firmly planted in the truth of God's Word, and ask Him for His guidance and wisdom.

In the mind and heart of every believer, Jesus Christ is to have first place. This means that our attention, our love, and our loyalty should first be to Him. No person or thing should grab our attention away from Jesus. If we really believe what the Bible teaches us about Christ, He will be our greatest treasure and will have first place in our lives. But if we lose our focus or forget who He is, then we will begin to look away from Him. Our eyes and our attention will go to other things that offer no hope, no joy, and no satisfaction that lasts. You don't have to read very far in the Bible to discover that God alone is man's hope, joy, and satisfaction. Anything else is meaningless in comparison.



Look:





What's Your View? (Game).   This game can be played within table groups or with two players. You will need:

World view cards - **COL01.GF2 Pg. 1** duplex-copied to **COL01.GF2 Pgs. 2 & 3.**

Biblical view cards - **COL01.GF2 Pg. 4** duplex-copied to **COL01.GF2 Pgs. 5 & 6.**

Cut the cards apart and shuffle so they are mixed well. Place the cards question side up in a stack. A player takes a turn by reading the first card aloud. He then has an opportunity to keep that card (something he only want to do if it is truth) or reject it. If he thinks it sounds like truth and chooses to keep it, he then turns it over to reveal the truth (Biblical view) or lie (World view). If he chooses not to keep it, the card is placed in a discard pile and play goes to the next player. All cards that are kept are held until the end of the game. Award one point for each Bible view card and deduct one point for each World view card. The player who has the most points is the winner.



The Highest (Worksheet).   Have the students unscramble the words to complete the Bible verse and find the secret code, **COL01.GF3.** *Answer: first place.*

Christ Is First Place (Worksheet). 🎨, 🦋 Have the students review today's lesson by searching for the keywords in the puzzle, **COL01.GF4 Pg. 1**. **Answer Key: COL01.GF4 Pg. 2**. Discuss with the students how our attention, our love, and our loyalty should first be to Him. No person or thing should grab our attention away from Jesus.

Aim Questions (Worksheet). 🎨 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **COL01.GF5**.

Passage Review Questions (Worksheet). 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **COL01.GF6**.



Took:

Placing Christ First in My Life (Discussion/Worksheet/Prayer). 🎨, 🦋 Discuss with the students that Christ is preeminent and is supreme and sovereign over all things. Have them color and fill in the blanks on the form from **COL01.GF7**. Discuss how to apply this principle daily. Allow the students to write down some of these applications. Spend time praying together asking God to assist us in placing Him first in our lives above everything else, making choices based on truth, and resisting temptation to follow false teaching.

Take a Stand for Truth (Writing Assignment). 🦋 Bring in several copies of newspaper so that each student has his or her own. Read the letters in the "To the Editor" section. Ask the students the following questions:

1. Can you determine what the writer is responding to?
2. What position have they taken?
3. Is it a position of truth or not? Why?

Have the students write a response to either a letter or an article elsewhere on the paper. This is an exercise in having the students read, discern, and respond to what the media has presented. The article may contain truth, false statement, a combination of both, or straightforward, unbiased reporting. Regardless of the information in the article, each can warrant a response.

Putting on Your Biblical Glasses (Craft). 🎨, 🦋 This is a graphic presentation of the idea that God wants us to use His Word as a filter for everything we see, do, or say. These "Biblical glasses" can remind us to view everything in the world in comparison to what the Word of God says. Each student will need:

- 1 Bible from **COL01.GF8 Pg. 1** copied onto a transparency
- 1 template from **COL01.GF8 Pg. 2** for each table
- 1 sheet of construction paper
- 2 6-inch pieces of chenille wire
- glue
- scissors
- tape

Explain to the students that Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians to correct the false teachings that had crept into the church. Have the students follow the directions below to complete their craft:

1. Use the template to cut out two glasses from construction paper.
2. Sandwich the clear Bible window between the two pieces of construction paper.
3. Poke two holes in the sides of the glasses.
4. Insert the two pieces of chenille wire to hook over the ears.
5. Secure with tape.



Colossians Mobile (Craft) 🦋, 🦋 Students may add a piece to their mobiles each week as they work their way through the book of Colossians. Each student will need:

COL01.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2 duplex-copied onto cardstock

COL01.GF9 Pg. 3 copied onto white paper

12-inch piece of yarn

glue

scissors

coloring crayons

paper clips

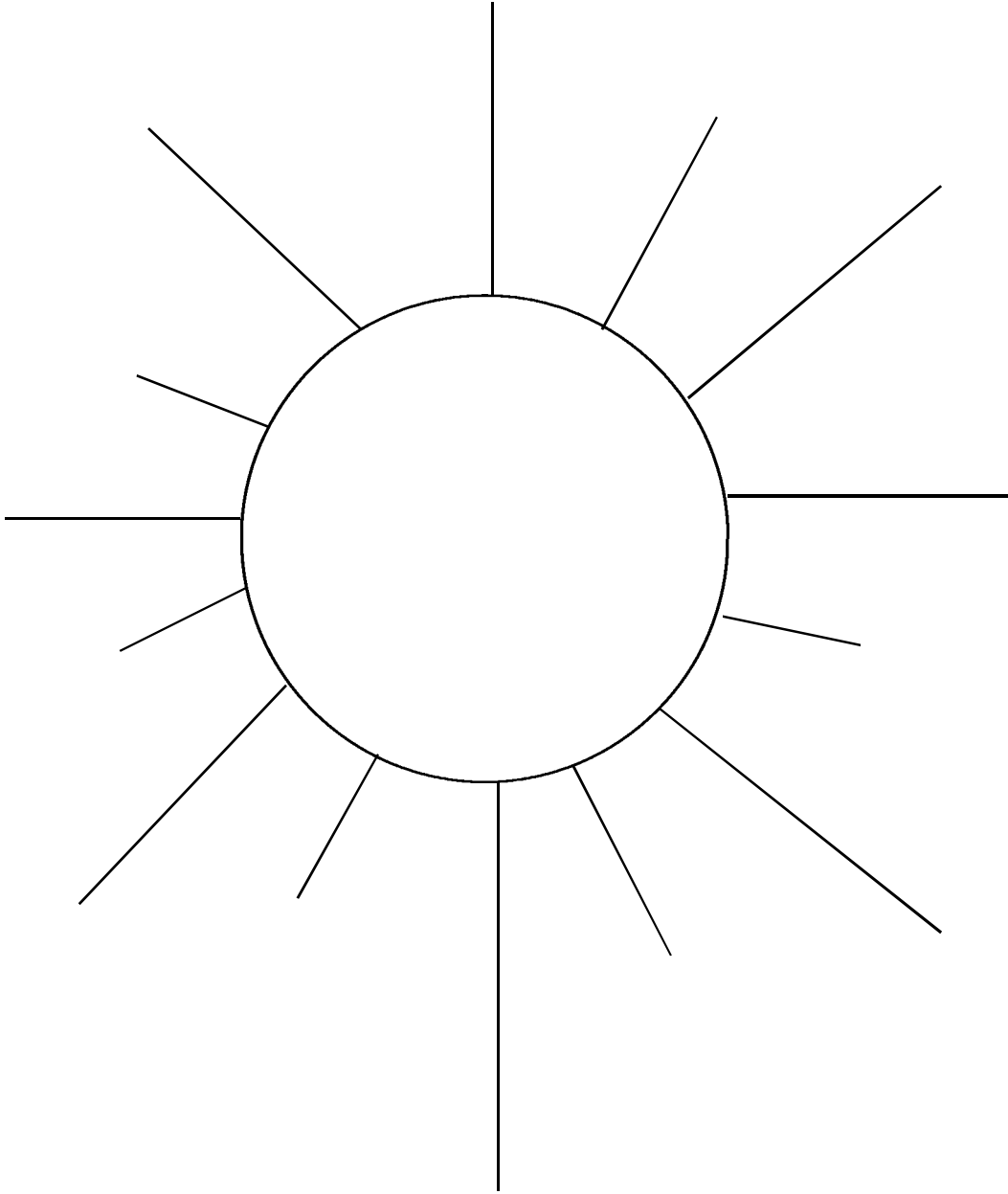
tape

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their craft:

1. Cut out the shaded parts and along the black lines of the number "1" on **COL01.GF8 Pg. 1**.
2. Color the days of creation and the story of Christ pictures on **COL01.GF8 Pg. 3**.
3. Cut and paste the days of creation pictures onto the number "1" side of the mobile and the story of Christ pictures on the back side.
4. Punch holes in the mobile where indicated.
5. Thread the yarn through top hole and knot.
6. Bend the paper clips to form an "S" shape and hang from the lower holes.

Each week the students will add a piece as we work our way through the book of Colossians.

God's Creation



*“All things were created
by Him and for Him.
He is before all things,
and in Him all things
hold together.”
Colossians 1:16c-17*

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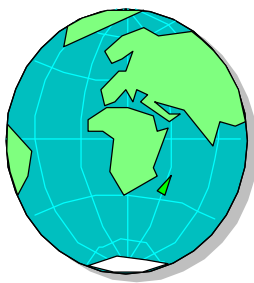
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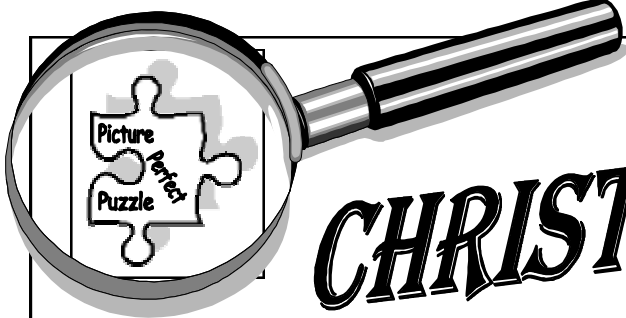


<p>God is a God of love, and He would never send anyone to hell.</p>	<p>There are many ways to reach God; you simply need to find the best one for you.</p>	<p>It's o.k. to believe only parts of the Bible and not others.</p>
<p>God is merciful and accepts everyone regardless of their lifestyle.</p>	<p>God is everywhere and in everything.</p>	<p>There are many ways to heaven.</p>
<p>A loving father would never discipline his children.</p>	<p>The Bible is a collection of stories and myths passed down from long ago.</p>	<p>Live life to its fullest. Go for it. Get all you can here on earth.</p>
<p>As long as I live a decent life and don't murder or steal, I'll get to heaven.</p>	<p>God will never be able to forgive my sins. They are too big.</p>	<p>If I work hard enough and do all the right things, God will let me into heaven.</p>

<p>What we listen to, watch, or read does not affect our spiritual growth.</p>	<p>God is holy. People are too sinful. There is no way we can come before Him.</p>	<p>My guardian angel watches over me.</p>
<p>God doesn't care about all the little details.</p>	<p>God only chooses the most righteous for His service.</p>	<p>Sharing the Gospel with others is for pastors and missionaries.</p>
<p>It's how we appear on the outside that matters to God.</p>	<p>If it feels good, do it.</p>	<p>Humans evolved from slime billions and billions of years ago.</p>
<p>Look out for number one!!</p>	<p>Babies are born good. Doing wrong is something they learn as they grow.</p>	<p>What is right or wrong depends on your perspective.</p>

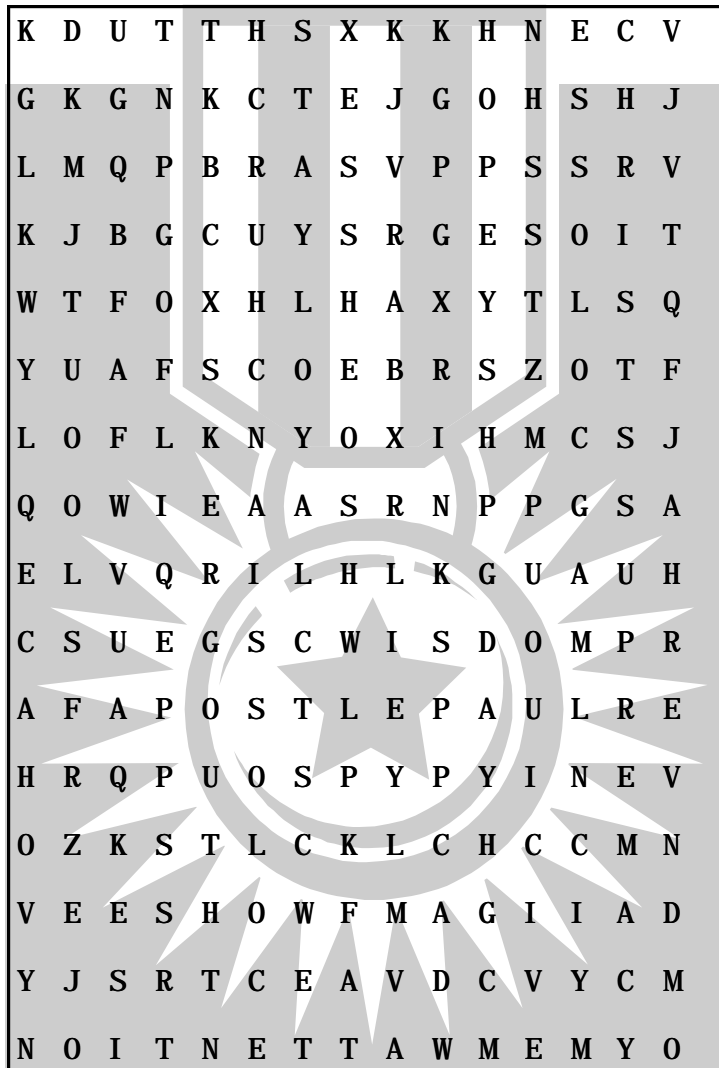
<p>The only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>God is everywhere all at the same time.</p>	<p>The Bible is the inspired Word of God.</p>
<p>Christians are God's main way of spreading the Gospel.</p>	<p>Christ was there before anything was created.</p>	<p>There is only one true God.</p>
<p>Jesus and God are the same.</p>	<p>God can never lie.</p>	<p>God will judge sin.</p>
<p>Christ will someday return.</p>	<p>Christ rose from the dead and is alive today.</p>	<p>The world was perfect and without sin at first.</p>

<p>Nothing is more powerful than God.</p>	<p>Christ can cleanse us from all of our sins.</p>	<p>We will be rewarded in heaven for the deeds we have done on earth.</p>
<p>God wants us to love our enemies.</p>	<p>God allows us to suffer in order to strengthen us.</p>	<p>There is salvation in no one other than Christ.</p>
<p>God created women to be helpers to men.</p>	<p>God knows how many hairs we have on our heads.</p>	<p>To fear God is a good thing.</p>
<p>God is a jealous God.</p>	<p>We must be holy because God is holy.</p>	<p>Money will not satisfy you.</p>

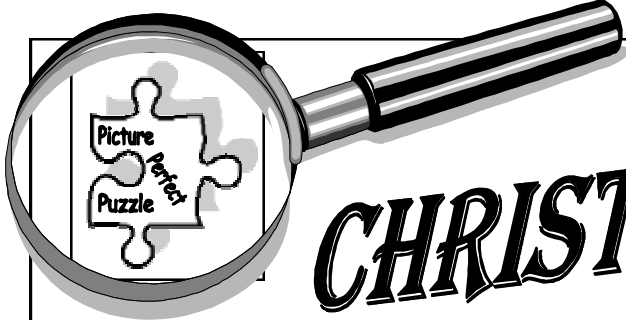


CHRIST IS FIRST PLACE

In the mind and heart of every believer, Jesus Christ is to have first place. This means that our attention, our love, and our loyalty should first be to Him. No person or thing should grab our attention away from Jesus. Review today's lesson by searching for the keywords in the puzzle below.

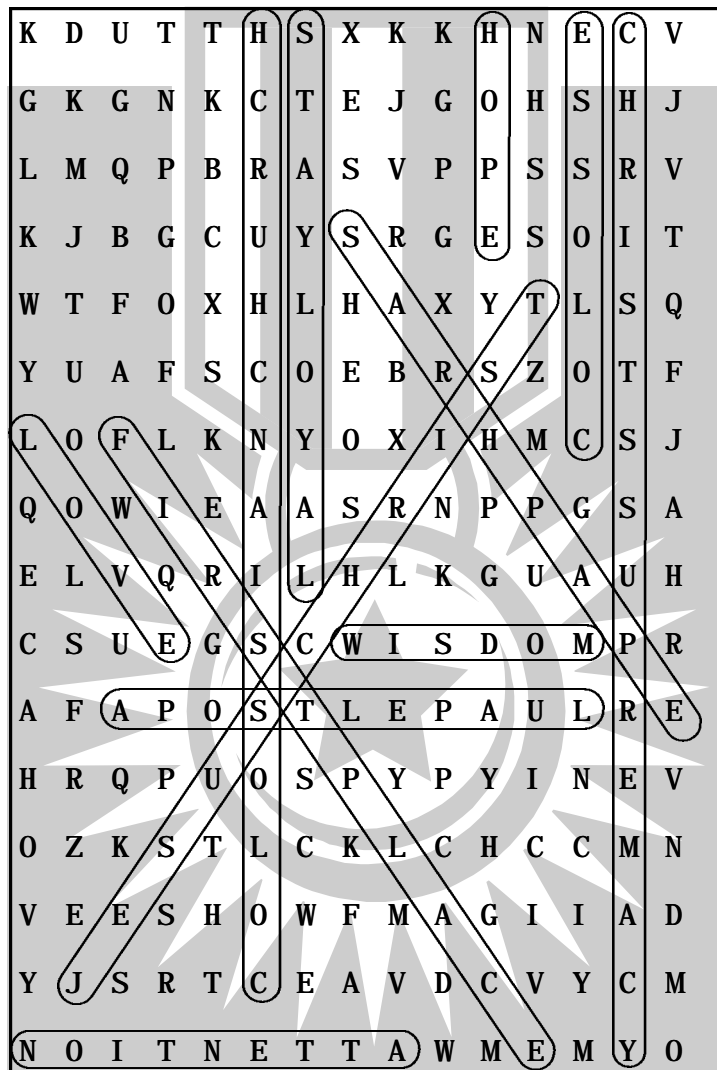


APOSTLE PAUL ATTENTION CHRISTS SUPREMACY COLOSSE	COLOSSIAN CHURCH EPAPHRAS FIRST PLACE HOPE	JESUS CHRIST LOVE STAY LOYAL WISDOM
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APOSTLE PAUL	COLOSSIAN CHURCH	JESUS CHRIST
ATTENTION	EPAPHRAS	LOVE
CHRISTS SUPREMACY	FIRST PLACE	STAY LOYAL
COLOSSE	HOPE	WISDOM

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Who wrote the book of Colossians and why?
2. Who can we assume began the church at Colosse? How did this all happen?
3. What is the theme of Colossians?
4. What were some of the false teachings that Paul needed to address?

No one or no thing should grab our attention away from Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is the greatest "treasure" in all of life, we should seek Him at all times. To live wisely, we must ask God for His divine counsel and wisdom.

Colossians Chapter 1

"And He is the head of the body, the church, He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy." Colossians 1:18

Passage Review Questions

Colossians Chapter 1

1. How does Paul address himself to the Colossian church?
vs. 1
2. How is the letter addressed? vs. 2
3. What is Paul's greeting? vs. 3
4. What do Paul and Timothy give to God because of the faith of the Colossians? vs. 3-4
5. Why do they pray to God this way? vs. 4b
6. From what is their faith and love springing? vs. 5
7. In verse 5, what are the three words of godly virtue? Put the words in order from the verse in the blanks.

_____ is the soul looking upward to God.

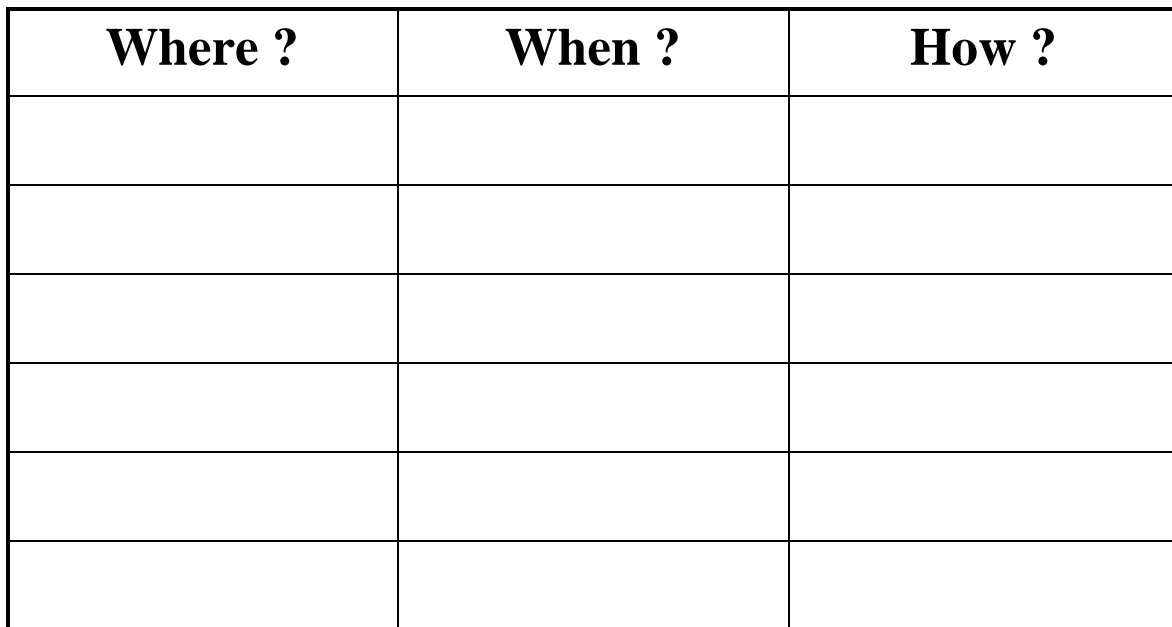
_____ looks outward to others.

_____ looks forward to the future.

9. From whom had the Colossians learned this Gospel? 1:7
10. What is God being asked to do for the Colossians? vs. 9
11. Why are the Colossians being prayed for this way? vs. 10
12. How is the prayer for strength to be produced in the Colossians? (two words) vs. 11b
13. How are they to give thanks to the Father? vs. 11-12
14. From what has God rescued us? vs. 13
15. Into where has God brought us? vs. 13
16. What do Christians have through Christ? vs. 14

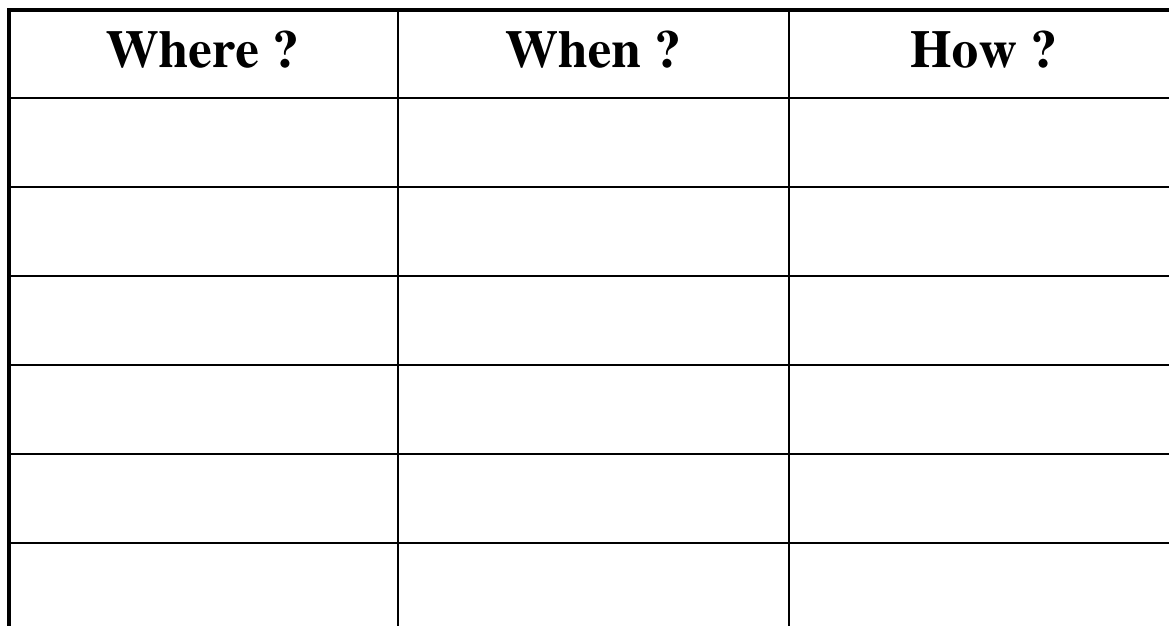
17. What are seven unique characteristics of Christ? vs. 15-20
1. vs. 15
 2. vs. 15
 3. vs. 16-17
 4. vs. 18
 5. vs. 18
 6. vs. 19
 7. vs. 20
18. What did we used to be to Christ and why? vs. 21
19. As Christians, what are we now to Christ? vs. 22
20. In what are Christians to continue? vs. 23
21. In Paul's labor for the church, what did he rejoice in being able to do for Christ? vs. 24
22. What are three things that we as Christians do for Christ? vs. 28

Placing Christ First in My Life



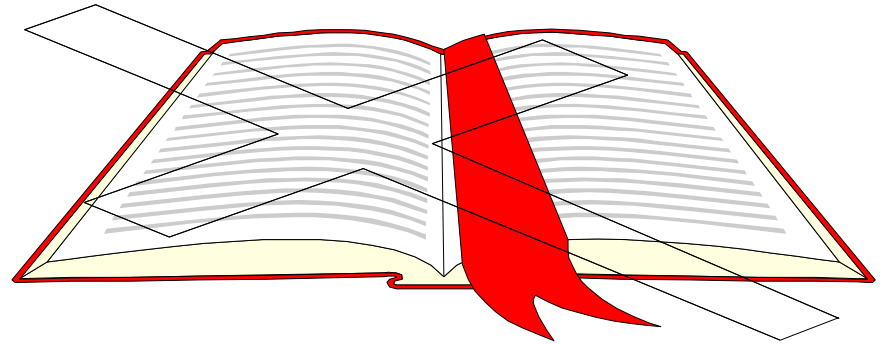
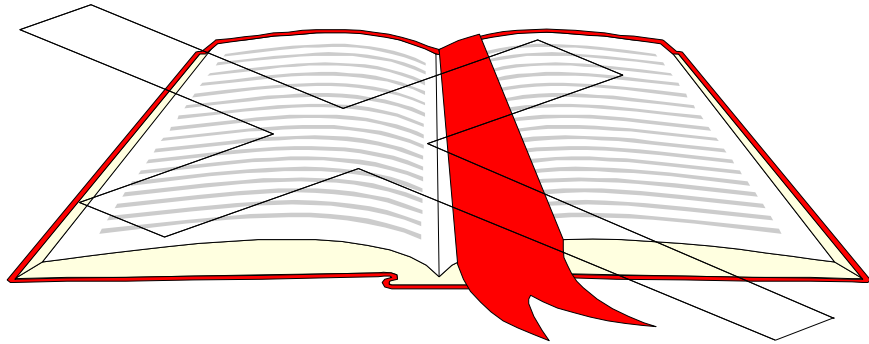
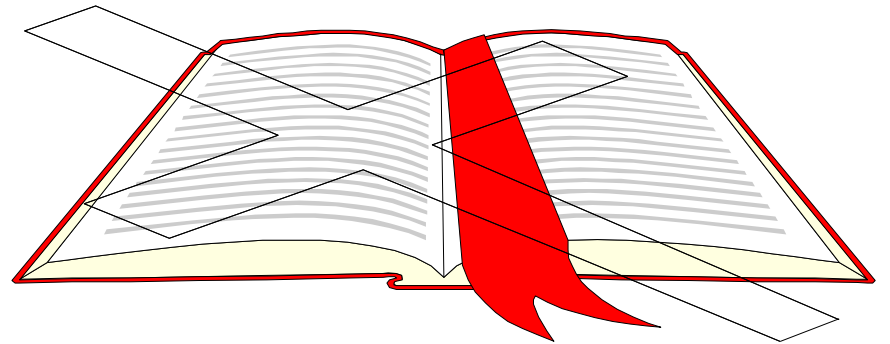
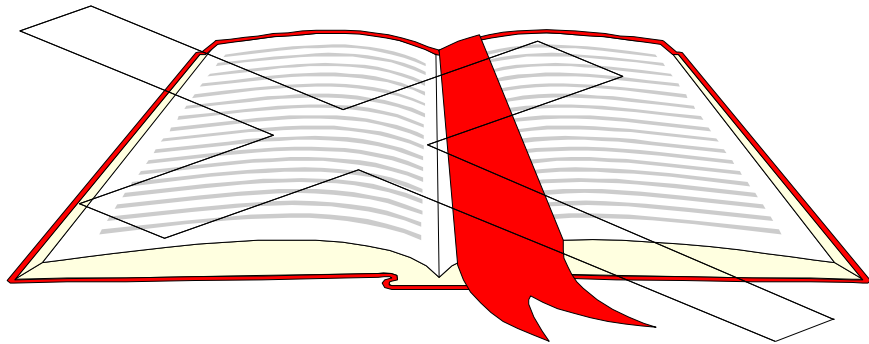
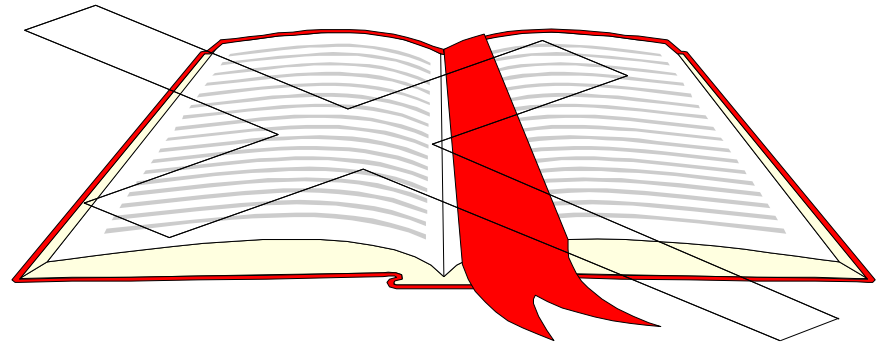
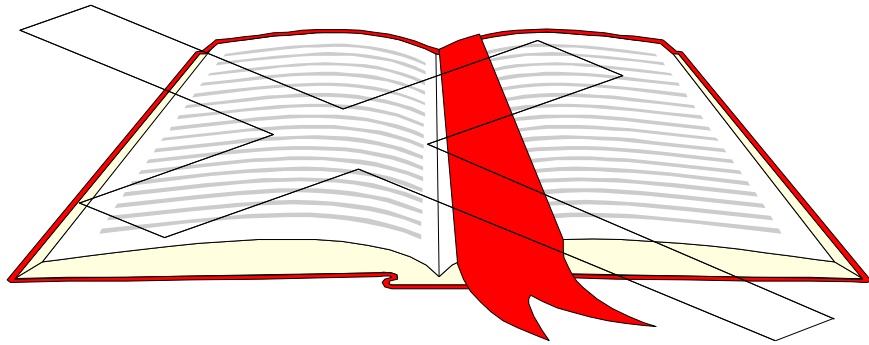
Where ?	When ?	How ?

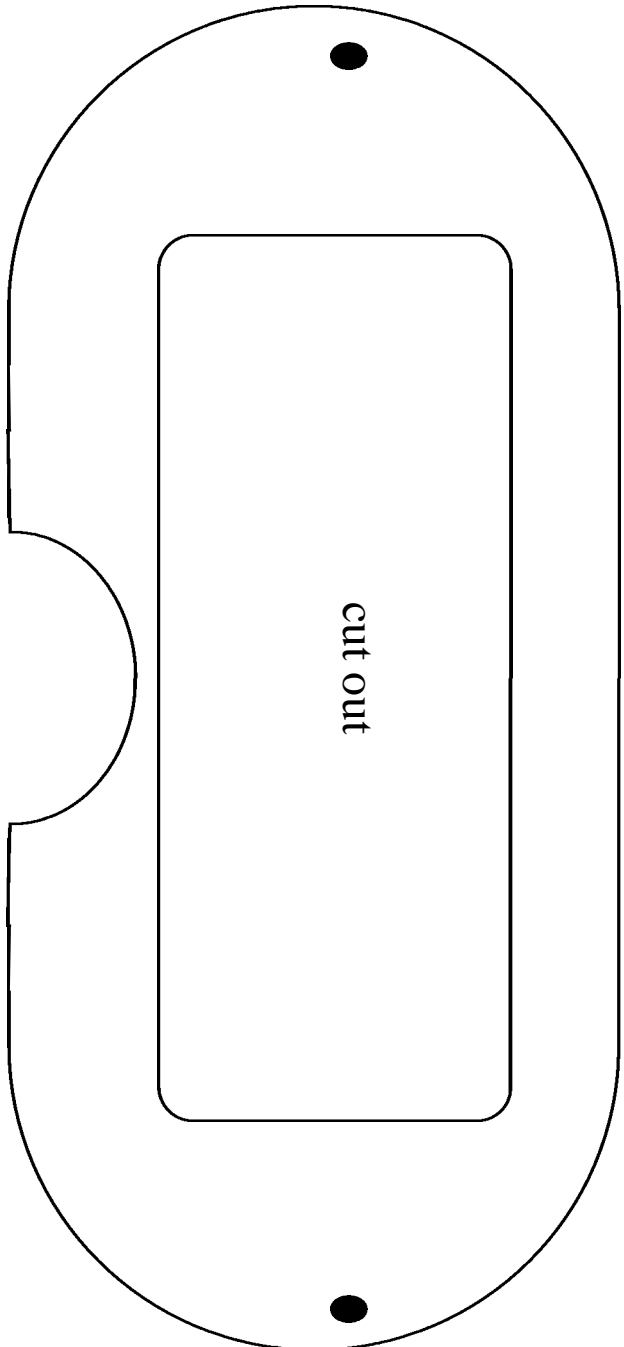
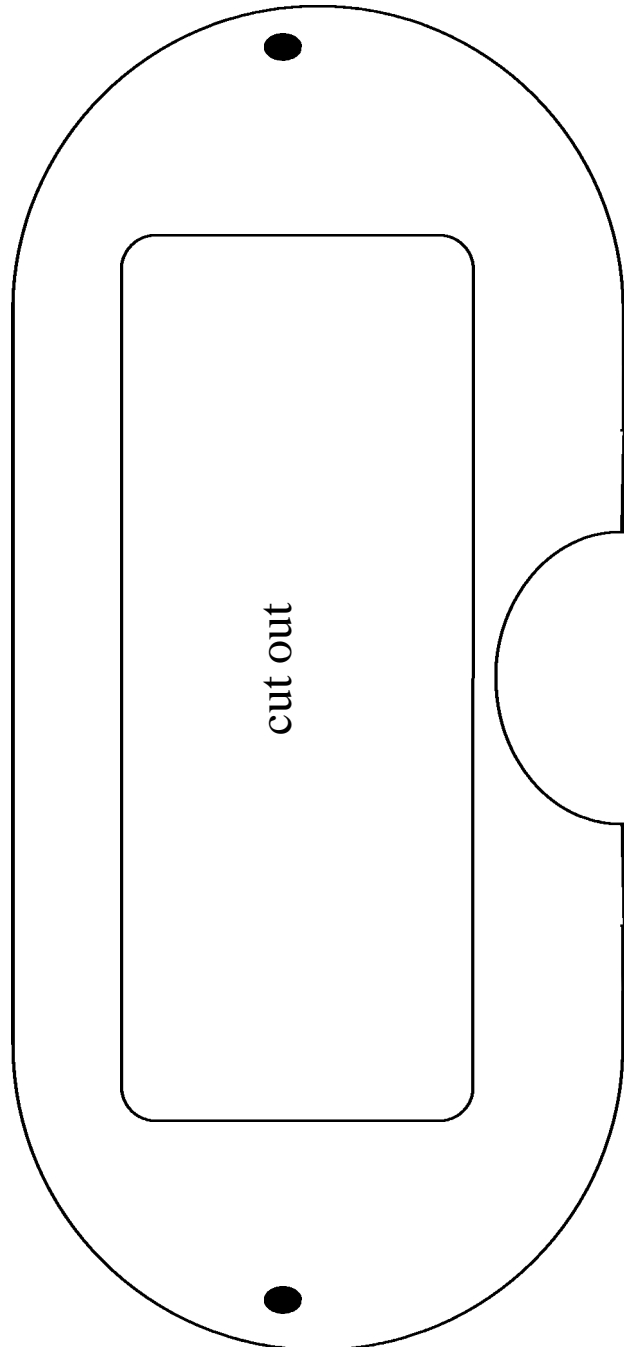
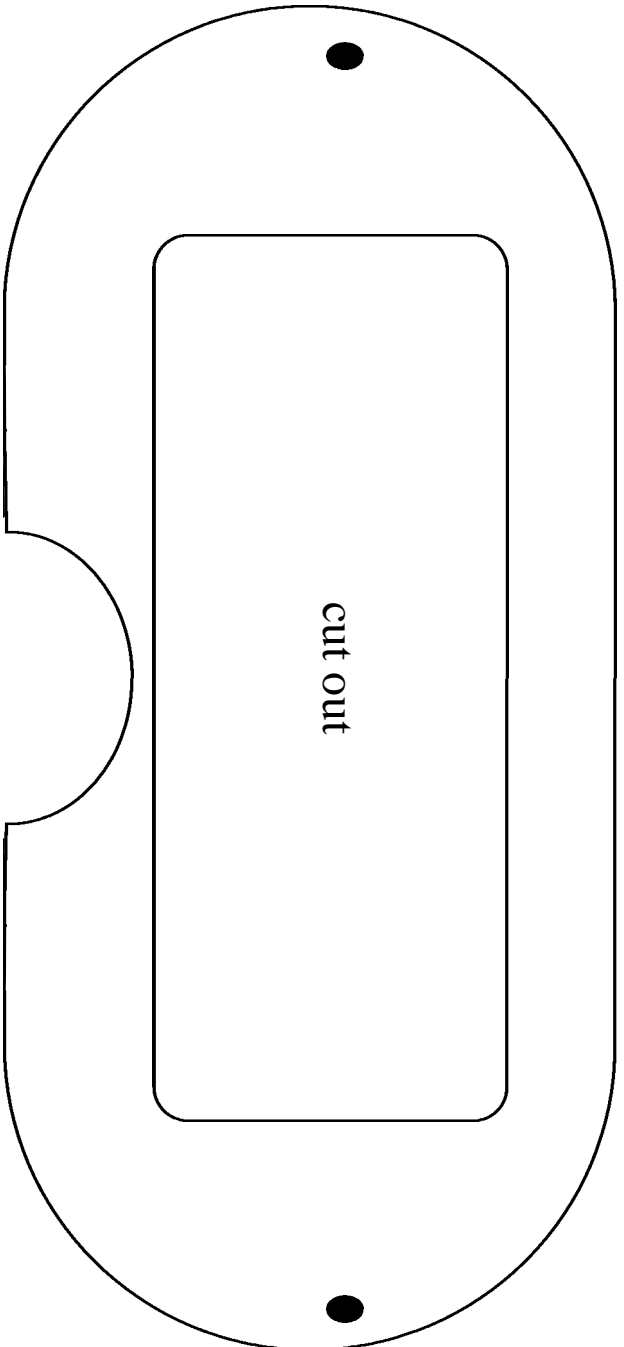
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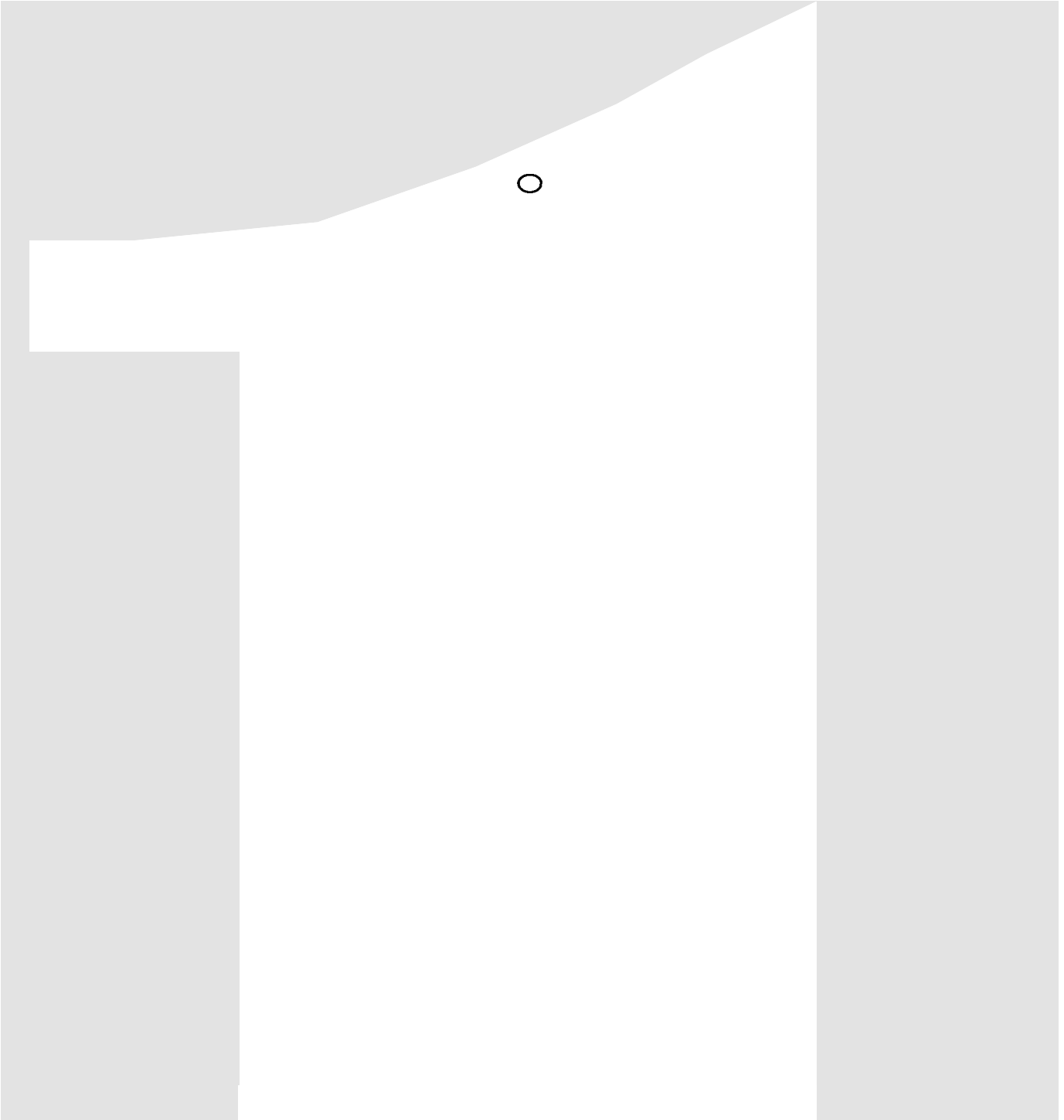


Where ?	When ?	How ?

Putting on Your "Biblical Glasses"





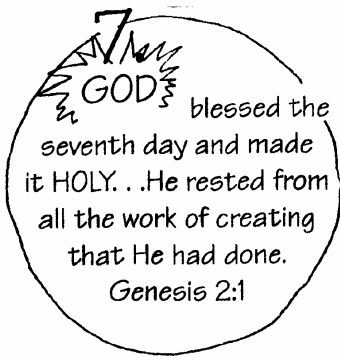
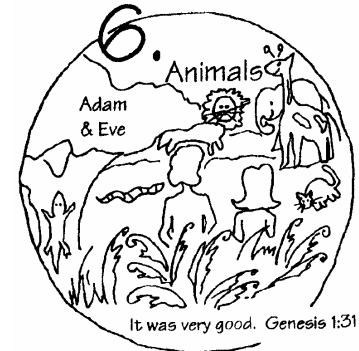
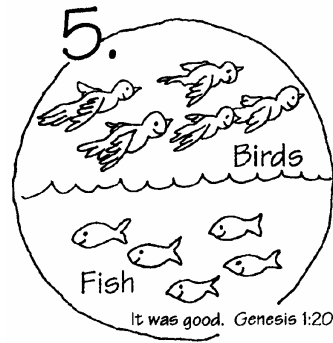
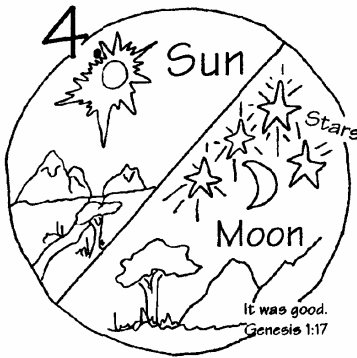
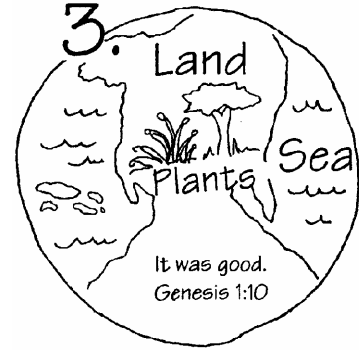
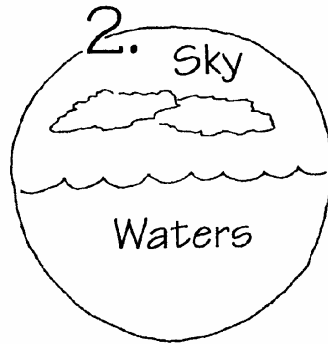
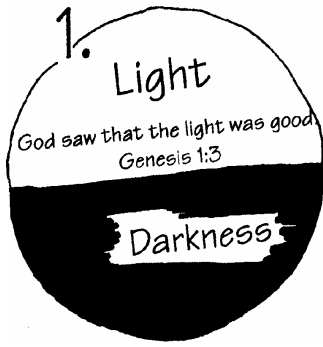


FIRST BORN OF ALL CREATION



**BEFORE CREATION,
JESUS WAS.**

Days of Creation



Story of Christ

