

Creation Story

May 18, 2008

The Lord be with you! (And also with you.)

Everyone needs to be ready.

I wonder: What is the biggest present you ever got?

Now, downstairs in the Godly Play classrooms, everyone gets a turn to answer wondering questions. Even the grownups. But today you don't need to answer out loud. Just answer them silently, wherever you're sitting.

So, I wonder: what is the biggest present you ever got?

It might have been a new bike. Or an iPod. Those are good presents.

Maybe it was a new book. Or a new computer. Or maybe it was a new puppy or kitten.

Those are all wonderful gifts, the ones you're thinking of! Those are ALL big gifts. We've all gotten some wonderful big gifts.

Did you know that there are some presents so big that nobody notices them? They are so huge that they are hard to see. They are so hard to see that the only way to know that they are there is to go clear back to the beginning - or maybe a little BEFORE the beginning.

In the beginning....

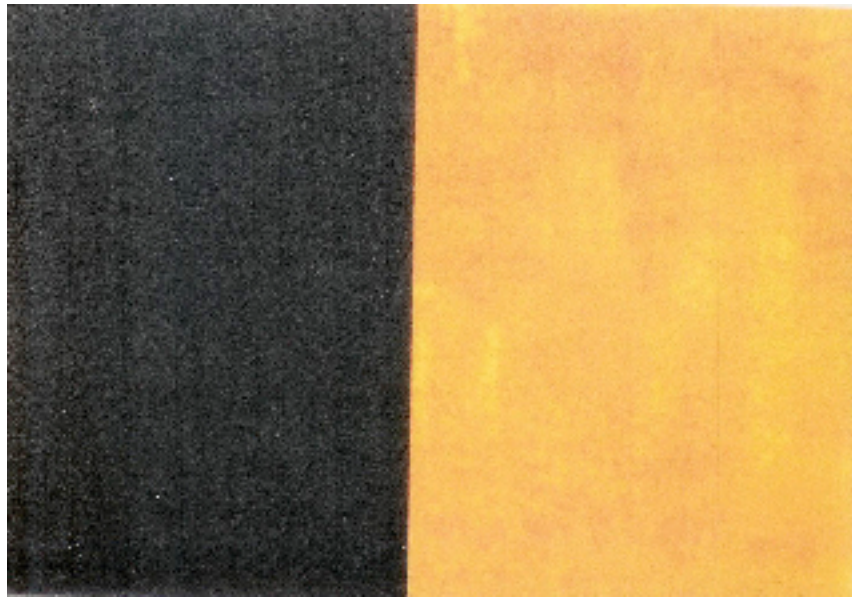
In the beginning there was....

Well, in the beginning, there wasn't very much!

In the beginning, there was....nothing.

Except perhaps, an enormous smile. But, there was no one there to see it.

*Then on the very **first** day ...*

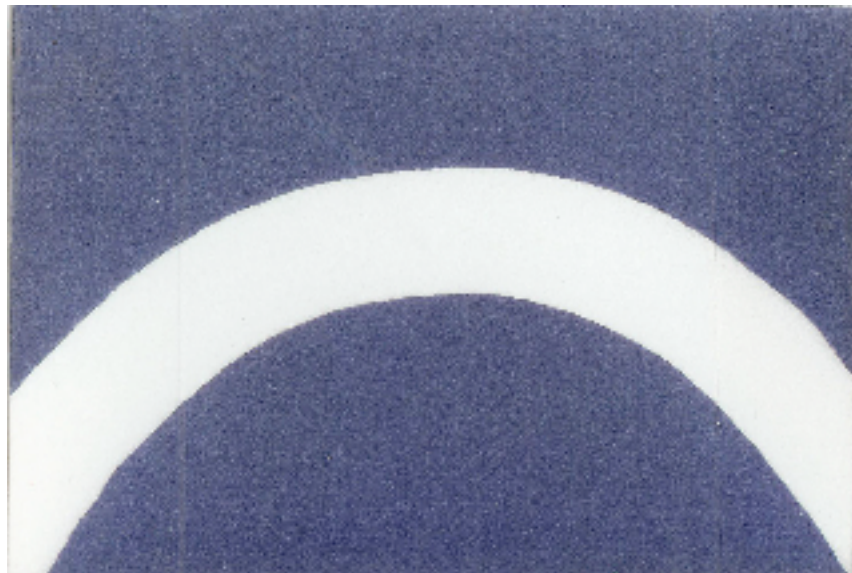


God gave us the gift of light. So now there is not just darkness, but there is light and dark.

Now, I don't mean just the light in the light bulb or in the car lights at night. I don't mean just this light or that light, but I mean ALL of the light that is light. God gave us the gift of the light that all light comes from.

When God saw the light, God said, ... "It is good." ... And that was the end of the first day.

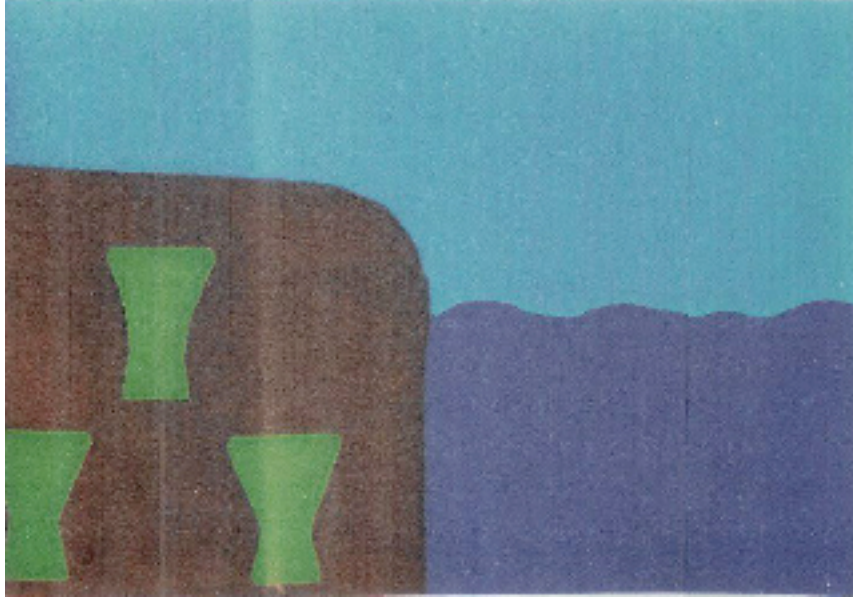
*On the **second** day ...*



God gave us the gift of water. Now, I don't mean just the water in the water glass or the water in a bathtub or shower. I don't even mean just the water in a river or a lake. I don't even mean just the water in the ocean, or the water that comes down from the sky in rain. I mean ALL of the water that is water. This is the water that all the rest of the water comes from.

The white arc is the firmament. It divides the waters above and the waters below. When God saw the water, God said, ... “It is good.” ... And that was the end of the second day.

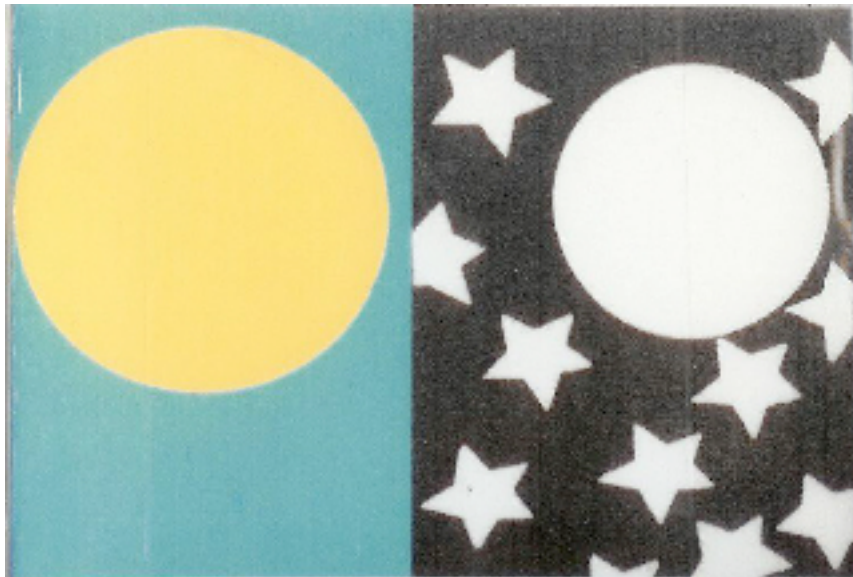
*On the **third** day ...*



God gave us the gift of the dry land. God divided the water and the dry land, and gave us the gift of green and growing things.

When God saw the dry land and the green and growing things, God said, ...“It is good.” ... And that was the end of the third day.

*On the **fourth** day ...*

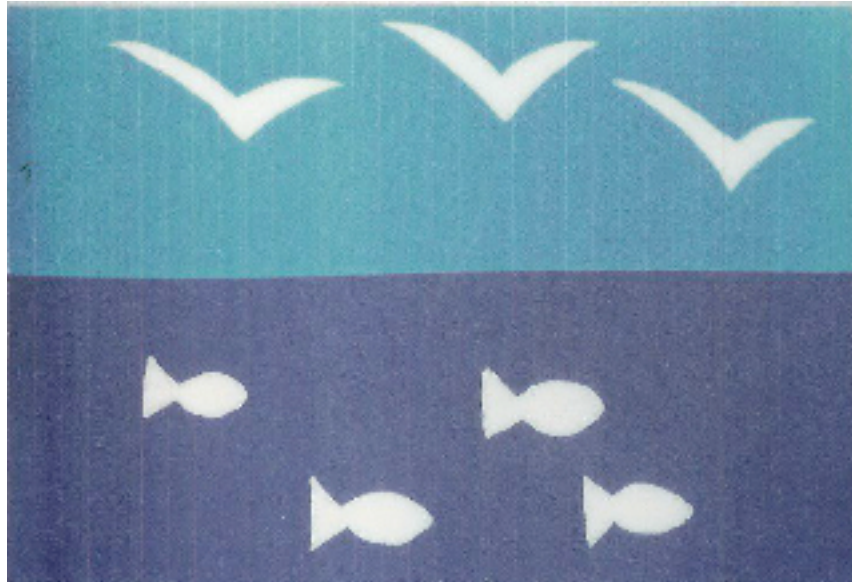


God gave us the gift of the day and the night. God gave us a way to count our days.

This is the great light that rules the day, the sun, and these are the lights that rule the night, the moon and the stars.

*When God saw the day and the night, our way to keep time, God said, ... "It is good."
... And that was the end of the fourth day.*

*On the **fifth** day ...*



God gave us the gift of all the creatures that fly in the air. Not just the birds but all of the creatures that fly. And all of the creatures that swim in the water. All of them.

When God saw all of the creatures that fly and all of the creatures that swim, God said, ... "It is good." ... And that was the end of the fifth day.

*On the **sixth** day ...*



God gave us the gift of all the creatures that walk upon the earth; the creatures that walk with two legs, like you and me, and all the creatures that walk with many legs.

When God saw the creatures that walk with two legs and the creatures that walk with many legs, and all of the gifts of the other days, God said, ... "It is very good," ... and that was the end of the sixth day.

*On the **seventh** day ...*



God rested and gave us the gift of a day to rest - and to remember the great gifts of all the other days.

There is nothing there, on the seventh day, because people go to different places to remember the great gifts. You can put something there to show your favorite place to remember. It might be in your backyard by a tree, in a church, or in your room. It might be in the mountains or by the ocean or a lake. I don't know where your place is. Only you know.

What I do know is that this day is so special, that sometimes the Christian people mark it with a cross, and the Jewish people mark it with a star, the star of David.

Now, I wonder:

I wonder which one of these days you like the best?

I wonder which day is the most important?

I wonder which day you are in, or which one is especially about you?

I wonder if we can leave out any one of these days and still have all the days we need?

I wonder how you will work with this story today?

Amen.

*(Images are from Godly Play Resources; the text of the story is from **The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Vol. 2**, by Jerome Berryman.)*