

## Puppets Day 1: Genesis 1:1-5

Peter: Hi Lilly

Lilly: Hi Peter – what do you have there?

Peter: It's a Bible; I was given it for my Birthday. – I've never had a Bible before.

Lilly: I love reading Bible stories – hey, maybe we can read it together.

Peter: That would be great; let's start right now! Um... Here we go. The Old Testament. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus...

Lilly: No, no! – That's not where you start. Here: 'Genesis 1:1'

Peter: What does Genesis mean?

Lilly: Genesis means Beginnings – it's the name of the first book –The Bible is made up from 66 different books and letters all stuck together and Genesis is the book about the beginning of the world.

Peter: Well I guess it makes sense to start at the beginning so let's read.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Peter: Wow – He just said it and it happened. – He didn't have to connect any wires or turn on the switch or anything!

And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

Peter: Now why did He stop there? If He's so powerful that He can just say it and it happens why didn't He just keep going and make heaps more stuff straight away? Was He tired?

Lilly: Oh no, - God doesn't get tired. Actually He had a special plan – He was making a pattern. Here I'll show you. ....This is something that I made at Church. Each number is a different day but see how the black is opposite the black and the green is opposite the green, and the blue is opposite the blue? In the first half of the week God makes dark and light, then the sea and air, and then the land. Then in the second half of the week He fills the dark and light, then fills the sea and air, and then fills the land. See He was making a pattern. Black, blue, green, black, blue, green!

Peter: Wow! I have to go now but I can't wait to learn more tomorrow; that was amazing!

## Puppets Day 2: Genesis 1:6-8

Lilly: Hi Peter.

Peter: Hi Lilly I have a question – yesterday the Bible said "the first day," and you said God was making a pattern; making everything in the first half of the week and filling it in the last half – I am wondering if that first week was the same as our weeks now? *(Hold up calendar showing Monday as first day)* Was it 7 days long? Was the first day a Monday? Do we even know?

Lilly: One question at a time! Yes we know. Yes it was 7 days long just like today. But look I bought a new calendar today too. Mine is different though - the first day on my calendar is Sunday.

Peter: Show me! – How can they be different!?

Lilly: My Mum told me that when she was a little girl, all of the calendars had Sunday as the first day.

Peter: Really? How strange. Well, do we know what the first day in the Bible was?

Lilly: It was Sunday. – The people who lived when the Bible was written were very careful to keep track of the days, and the Jews have continued to keep track, so we know for sure that Sunday was the first day.

Peter: That's amazing – how do you know all that stuff?

Lilly: I learned lots of it at church, and Mum and Dad talk to me about it at home too.

Peter: Hey, let's keep reading my Bible. – Where were we?

Lilly: Genesis 1 verse 6 -

Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth. And that is what happened.

Peter: Waters of the heavens? Waters of the earth? – What does that mean?

Lilly: The 'waters of the earth' is easy...

Peter: You mean the sea? But what are the waters of the heavens?

Lilly: Some people think God made something like a bubble around the earth to protect it, but when Noah's flood came the bubble popped. Other people think it's just talking about the clouds.

Peter: OK, let me read now.

God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. God called the space "sky." And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

Peter: Is that when God made the clouds and the sun and stuff?

Lilly: The clouds, yes, and the air we breathe, but not the sun – it came later.

Peter: What about rain and what about storms?

Lilly: God didn't create storms – storms came later. The weather was perfect when God made it.

Peter: Oh – I hear my Mum calling, gotta' go - but that's amazing.

### Puppets Day 3: Genesis 1:9-13

Peter: Hurry up Lilly; I can't wait to find out what God made next. Are you ready?

Lilly: Ok, OK – I'm ready. We're up to verse 9 isn't it?

Peter: Yes, here it is.

Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. And God saw that it was good. And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

Peter: Wow! The land and the plants all in one day!

Peter: And God certainly made it beautiful. Giant, snow topped mountains, raging rivers, the Grand Canyon – my uncle went there last year and brought back the most amazing pictures. I have to ask though why did God make the deserts so dry and other places so wet? And what about the north and south poles which are covered in snow and ice? Why did God make them so hard to live in? And the movies always show the ancient world covered in volcanos – why did God make volcanos?

Lilly: (giggles) Too many questions at once. Actually when God made the world, it wasn't too hot or too cold or too wet or too dry; it was perfect for people to live in. But later on, the people got so wicked that God had to send a giant flood to destroy most of the world and that changed everything – you've heard about Noah haven't you?

Peter: mmm (nods)

Lilly: The volcanos would have started during the flood, and the rushing flood waters probably made the Grand Canyon too. Everything we see today, the mountain, rivers, valleys – were made by the flood. That's why the world doesn't look perfect anymore – some mountains are too high, some places too hot or cold, or too wet or dry.

Peter: That is amazing – I'm going to have to learn more about Noah.

#### Puppets Day 4: Genesis 1:14-19

Lilly: Hi Peter are you ready to find out what God did next?

Peter: Yes, here we go.

Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night.

Peter: What does that mean?

Lilly: Think about it – what great light do you see in the sky in the day?

Peter: You mean the sun?

Lilly: Yes – and the moon is the smaller light you see at night. Keep reading now.

Peter:

He also made the stars. God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

Peter: I'm confused. How could God make the sun and stars *after* the earth? I thought for sure the sun had to be there first because my teacher said that the gravity from the sun holds the earth in place!

Lilly: Well, I don't know exactly – I think I will have to ask God when I get to heaven. But hey, He's God – if He can just say something and it happens, I guess He could hold the world till He made the sun..."

Peter: Wow! Imagine how big and strong God must be!

Lilly: Did you notice something else unusual too. God made the plants before He made the sun.

Peter: Hey you're right! And the plants need the sun or they die. You should have seen when my uncle's car broke down and he left it sitting in the yard for ages and when he finally moved it all the grass under it was dead. So how did the plants survive without the sun?

Lilly: They survived because it was only one day! Plants can survive without the sun for one day.

Peter: You're right. Today I've learned so much; imagine how God is so big He can hold the whole world! That's amazing.

## Puppets Day 5: Genesis 20-23

Peter: Hi Lilly, I can't wait to find out what happens next.

Lilly: Me either, shall I start reading? Genesis 1 verse 20.

Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

Peter: OK, I get that God made the fish and sea animals and birds, but what is offspring? And what does 'be fruitful and multiply' mean? What do springs and fruit and maths have to do with animals?

Lilly: (giggles) My Sabbath School teacher says that offspring meant children and that when God told them to be 'fruitful and multiply' He was telling them to have lots of children.

Peter: Well I never would have guessed that.

Lilly: Can you see the pattern now? On the first day God made the day and night then yesterday, on the fourth day He filled the day with the sun and night with moon and stars. On the second day God separated the water to make the sea and the sky, then today He filled the sea with fish and the sky with birds.

Peter: You're right. I guess He must be going to fill the land tomorrow since that's what He made on the third day. And I guess that explains why He made the land and plants before making the sun – because that's what worked with His pattern. It's a good thing He didn't try to make the birds before He made the sky. Can you imagine what a disaster that would have been?

Lilly: I know – but God knew exactly what He was doing.

Peter: Yes, and that is amazing – I'm gonna' go tell my Mum - see you tomorrow.

## Puppets Day 6: Genesis 1:24-32

Peter: Hi Lilly, I know what God must have made today. I think He's going to fill the land with animals.

Lilly: You're right so let's read it. Here we are - verse 24.

Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

Peter: At least I know what offspring are now – children.

Lilly: Yes

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Peter: And I know what 'be fruitful and multiply' means – have lots of babies – but what does 'reign over' them mean? How can people make rain happen?

Lilly: It's a different type of reign – it mean to be a ruler or to be in charge of and to look after. God told people to look after the earth and the animals.

Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

Peter: The wild animals really ate green plants too, even the lions?

Lilly: Yes! – When God made the world the animals were all friends. There was no hunting or killing or even dying.

Peter: Wow! I like that idea. Keep reading.

Lilly: OK,

Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

Peter: Wait a minute – so he made everything.

Lilly: Yes.

Peter: All the animals?

Lilly: Yes.

Peter: Even t-rex?

Lilly: Yes.

Peter: But my teacher said that they lived millions of years before people.

Lilly: I've heard that to but if you believe what the Bible says, then the dinosaurs were created on the same day as the animals. I think the story that dinosaurs are millions of years old is a lie that Satan made up to try to trick people.

Peter: Why is Satan trying to trick people?

Lilly: I don't think he wants people to believe that God made everything that He said He did in six days.

Peter: Wow! That sounds amazing; I'm going to have to think about it.

## Puppets Day 7: Genesis 2:1-4

Peter: Hi Lilly, I have learned so much this week – what else is there left to make?

Lilly: The best thing. Here we're up to chapter 2 – you read it.

Peter: OK

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed.

Peter: Completed? I thought you said there was something else to make?

Lilly: Be patient – keep reading.

Peter:

On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when He rested from all his work of creation. This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

Peter: I don't get it? What did God make?

Lilly: A special holy day

Peter: A day with holes in it?

Lilly: No! Holy means it belongs to God. Here let me read you a different verse, it is found in the second book of the Bible, Exodus chapter 20 verse 8-11.

Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day He rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

Lilly: On the seventh day God made the Sabbath – it's a special day to spend time with God. It's kind of like God is having a party for the birthday for the world – every week – and we're invited. Mum and Dad don't have to go to work, we have special food, special toys, fun stuff to do at Sabbath School and Church... It's my favourite day of the whole week. Hey! You should ask your Mum if you can come with me to church.

Peter: I'm going to ask my Mum right now. Hey – what days is it today?

Lilly: It's Sabbath!

Peter: OK – I'll see you soon.