

GKidz Barnabas Club
Theme of the Year: ARISE & SHINE
The Big Answer: God and Evolution

Date: 12 & 13 July 2014

Memory Verse:

“Let all of them praise the name of the Lord, because He gave a command and they were created.”
Psalm 148:5 (NIRV)

Bible Text:

Genesis 1:25, 26, 31, Psalm 139:13-16
(All Scriptures in NIRV unless otherwise stated)

Learning Objectives:

Children will learn that:

- 1) Evolution is not fact, but remains a theory that is not in line with God’s creation order
- 2) Natural selection is not the same as evolution, but reflects God’s creation order
- 3) Man did not evolve from monkeys, but are created in God’s image

Note to Leaders:

The aim of this lesson is not to delve into the specifics regarding evolution, but to give children a broad idea of what evolution is and why it is contrary to the Word of God. Doctrinally, we do not subscribe to the views espoused in theistic evolution, but believe in a literal understanding of the Genesis account of the creation of Man. You are encouraged to read up on the various doctrinal issues relating to Evolution, and should you have any questions, to clarify with your Team Leader or GKidz Pastor directly.

Please refer to the recommended readings section at the end of this lesson to further understanding the concepts of evolution and natural selection.

RE-CAP OF LAST WEEK’S LESSON (20 MINS)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zWKm-LZWm4>

Teacher 1: Hi guys and girls! Today we continue on with finding “THE BIG ANSWER” to all of our biggest questions! So today --

Teacher 2: (rushes in hurriedly) ‘Cher ‘cher ‘cher! I got something I want to tell you!

Teacher 1: What is it?

Teacher 2: Do you know that God created the entire universe and that creation was made to worship and glorify God?!

Teacher 1: Yes. We all know that already!

Teacher 2: (slightly disappointed) Oh...You do? **(excited again)** But cher! I got proof that creation was made to worship God!

Teacher 1: I also have, it's called the Bible!

Teacher 2: No... I got proof on video! I want to show you a video of this guy called Louie, who shows us how the stars and the whales worship God!

Teacher 1: You sure or not?

Teacher 2: Yes! Come see! **(play video)**

Teacher 1: Wow. That was a powerful video. This reminds me of our theme verse in Psalm 148:5.

Teacher 2: Oh I have memorized it already! Psalm 148:5 says, "Let all of them praise the name of the Lord, because He gave a command and they were created!"

Teacher 1: Well done! Anyway, today we are going to explore a new topic on Evolution!

PLATFORM TEACHING (25 MINS)

Teacher 1: Before we begin, we must make clear this very important point. A theory of science can only become scientific fact if it can be observed, measured and tested. Otherwise, it remains a theory only.

Teacher 2: Errh 'cher. What you are trying to say is that as long as there isn't real proof, all this theory remains a theory, not fact.

Teacher 1: Yes! So let's talk about the Theory of Evolution. Simply put, evolution is a process that cannot be observed but happened over long periods of time.

In the theory of evolution, scientists believe that all life on earth came from a so-called "last universal ancestor" that lived about 3.8 billion years ago! That's why we can see many similarities between species, because we have a common ancestor.

Teacher 2: My ancestor is from China leh, but not everyone is Chinese. So how can we have a common ancestor?

Teacher 1: That's not what I was referring to. Scientists believe that all animals, bacteria and even man, came from a single organism, but they went through many different processes to give us the many species we see today.

Teacher 2: But that's not true what! If we look back to God's Word, we find that it was He who created all the different kinds of animals, plants and even you and I! How could we have evolved from a common organism if the Word of God says otherwise?

Teacher 1: So clever! Evolution remains a theory and not a fact. But many people use this as a fact. That is why we have to expose this myth.

Teacher 2: Errh... 'cher, last week we asked the children to write their questions in. And this question is from Theodore. He asks, "Is natural selection and evolution the same?"

Teacher 1: Ooh. That is one Big Question! Let me quickly explain what natural selection is. Natural selection is a process that can be observed where organisms adapt to survive in a particular place. These organisms adapt to survive by losing some information in their DNA.

Teacher 2: And just now, we learnt that evolution is a long process that cannot be observed, that allows an organism to evolve into something else, for example a dinosaur into a bird. This requires organisms to gain information in their DNA.

Teacher 1: Yes. Based on the meanings of these two terms, we can see that they are very different. But let me give you an example of how natural selection is different from evolution.

Object Lesson: Being Sick

Props Needed: Bacteria and Antibiotic Cut-Out (GKidz will provide)

Teacher 1: When you are sick or you have an infection (**show bacteria cut-out**), you take an antibiotic to kill the bacteria in your body (**show antibiotic cut-out**). But sometimes, the antibiotics don't work because the bacteria have become stronger (**reveal the strong arms of the bacteria**) and can't be killed. But in order for that to happen, the bacteria have to adapt to survive in your body, which has been made stronger by the antibiotic.

Teacher 2: I see...and that also means that in order for the bacteria to survive, it'll have to give up some of its original traits to adapt.

Teacher 1: That's right! And if your body changes again, like say you take a different kind of medicine, then the bacteria will not be able to survive although it has changed. That is natural selection in action!

Teacher 2: If evolution and natural selection was the same, does it mean that the bacteria would not only adapt, but also evolve into something else in our body, like a worm?

Teacher 1: Gross! But it doesn't work that way... Over time, the bacteria still remain bacteria.

Teacher 2: Ahh... I think I get it now. But how can we see God in this process of natural selection?

Teacher 1: Take a look at Genesis 1:25, it says "God made all kinds of wild animals. He made all kinds of livestock. He made all kinds of creatures that move along the ground. And God saw that it was good."

Well, take a look at the words "all kinds". We understand these two words to basically refer to the different family of animals that we find today.

Teacher 2: Oh! So what you're saying is, for example, wolves, foxes, German shepherds and Chihuahuas all belong to the dog kind, or dog family. But they won't evolve to say, a future version of an elephant right?

Teacher 1: Yes! The reason why we have so many different species of dogs is due to natural selection helping the dog kind survive as the world changes through time. But it will not do what evolution requires, which is to evolve to another type of animal.

Teacher 2: Wow! That confirms what we read in the Bible! And it also proves to me again that evolution is only a theory. Ok so I have a BIG question to ask, did we really come from monkeys?

Teacher 1: Take a look at what Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our likeness. Let them rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Let them rule over the livestock and over the whole earth. Let them rule over all of the creatures that move along the ground."

Based on the Bible alone, it is clear that we did not evolve from monkeys. Because monkeys were not made in God's image!

Scientists also have not been able to 100% confirm that humans have indeed evolved from monkeys. All the evidence and research that they say supports this theory is incomplete.

Teacher 2: ‘Cher, I have been thinking! No other animal or creature has a brain that is as powerful as the human brain! The way we communicate is way advanced than animals. Only we can walk upright without having to use our hands... And only we can express our emotions so obviously! We are clearly not from the animal kingdom!

Teacher 1: You are right!

Teacher 2: So far we have asked these questions, number 1 – Did all of creation evolve from a single living organism? Number 2 – Is evolution the same as natural selection? Number 3 – Are humans evolved from monkeys? I have one final BIG question... Why did God choose us to be created in His image? Why does He want to know us?

Teacher 1: You know, we will never fully understand why God chooses to do certain things. If we knew, then we could be God ourselves! But, I know one thing. Evolution says that all of us were born as a result of some random accident in this great big world.

But I know for a fact that we are not an accident, but we have been specially designed by God to reflect His glory. We are not random, but uniquely made. Take a look at Psalm 139:13-16, “ You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother’s body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. None of my bones was hidden from you when you made me inside my mother’s body. That place was as dark as the deepest parts of the earth. When you were putting me together there, your eyes saw my body even before it was formed. You planned how many days I would live. You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them.”

So while I may never know why each of us are on this earth. I know for sure that God personally supervised the creation of each and every one of us.

We will find out more in our small group. But for now let us pray... (**Teacher 1 to pray**)

Next week, we will answer many of your questions! We have gotten a lot of questions last week, and we hope to get more this week! So if you have any more questions, please grab a “MY BIG QUESTION” slip from your leaders.

SMALL GROUP TIME (20 MINS)

A. Connect (5 mins)

Go round and ask the children what was one thing that they learnt from the platform teaching earlier.

B. Processing The Word – OBJECT LESSON (10 mins)

Logistic Needed: Modelling Clay (GKidz will provide – to return after use to the Team Leader)

(Before the lesson: please spend some time on your own to meditate on Psalm 139:13-16)

Begin by explaining to the children that evolution; natural selection and creation are three different concepts.

Tell the children that in simplest forms, evolution would be like taking a piece of modeling clay, placing it on top of a piece of paper, and hoping that millions of years later, it will evolve into a book.

To explain the concept of natural selection, split the modeling clay into two mounds. Tell the children that natural selection is about adapting to survive in the environment you are in. Using the two mounds of clay to illustrate, explain that these two mounds can survive in its current environment. But if we increase the temperature by 1000°C, some of them will die (illustrate by casting aside one of the mounds), while others will adapt (illustrate by taking some pieces of clay away from the mound) to survive. Point out to the children that dogs and tigers in colder countries look and act differently than dogs and tigers in warmer countries.

Now combine the mounds into one big lump of clay, and begin molding the clay as you explain to the children that creation recognizes that there is a God who decided to make each one of us uniquely in His image. Refer to Psalm 139 and share what the Lord had impressed on you as you read the passage. Conclude with a fully formed figure of a man (or woman) and affirm in the children that they are not a result of an accident, but fully designed by God.

End the time of processing by praying for the children, especially if you know of areas in their life where they struggle with identity and self-worth.

B. Wrap Up (5 mins)

Logistics Needed: BIG QUESTION slips (GKidz will provide)

Ask the children to fill in a BIG QUESTION slip if they have a question they want answered next week.

LEADERS' RECOMMENDED READING

1) Evolution:

Book – “Science And The Bible” by Henry M. Morris

Website – <https://answersingenesis.org/theory-of-evolution/>

2) Natural Selection:

Website - <https://answersingenesis.org/natural-selection/>

3) Human Evolution:

Website - <https://answersingenesis.org/human-evolution/>

Website - <http://carm.org/questions/about-people/what-meant-when-it-says-man-made-image-god>