

Lesson 17

The Age of the Earth

The earth is about 6,000 years old!



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 12 Flip Chart. Over the past weeks, we've talked about what God made on each day of creation week. As I point to each day, I want you to tell me what was created on that day. Ready? Point to each numeral on the Flip Chart as students review days one through six of creation week.

- Refer to Lesson 16 Flip Chart. On day six God created ALL land animals and people, right? Who remembers what we talked about last time? What was the huge animal we read about? A dinosaur. Behemoth.

Yes! God made dinosaurs, too! We read about an animal in the book of Job that sounds a lot like a dinosaur with a tail like a cedar tree. God called it Behemoth.

Since dinosaurs are land animals, they were created at the same time as all the other land animals like bears, elephants, bunnies, monkeys, and horses on day six.

- How long ago were the dinosaurs and all of the other things created? Was it millions of years ago? No!
- No. It wasn't millions of years ago. Do you remember how many years ago God created everything? 6,000 years.
- Yes! God created the universe only about 6,000 years ago. But how do I know that? Where

should I go to find the answer to that question? The Bible.

Birthdays in the Bible

Right! We should go to the Bible to find answers to our questions. And that is what we are going to do today.

- First, how many of you have ever heard this song? Sing the first lines of "Happy Birthday" or other traditional birthday song. Show of hands.
- When do you hear that song? On our birthday.
- Right! That is the happy birthday song. But what is a birthday? Allow discussion.

Bring out birthday candles and one cupcake if you brought it. A birthday marks the day we were born. When we celebrate our birthday, we're counting every year since the day we were first born. Put five candles into the cupcake, or hold up five candles. So if you are five years old on your birthday that tells us that you were born five years ago. Add a candle. And if there are six candles on your birthday cake that means you are six years old! Birthdays are fun and important. They help us keep track of how old we are.

The Bible talks about birthdays, too! And we're going to celebrate today as we learn about that. I'm giving each of you a party horn. But there is a special time for you to use it. Whenever you see me blow my horn, I want you all to blow your horn, too. Then wait until I do it again before you blow your horn again. Okay? Pass out one party horn (blowout or noisemaker) to each student.

- Watch and listen carefully. Here we go. Who was the very first man ever created? Adam!
- Yes! In Genesis, God tells us about Adam's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. And it talks about how many birthdays these people had. Blow party horns.
- We are going to read about Adam first. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. We are going to read from God's Word now. Make this a special

time as the student brings the Bible and opens it to where the sticky note is.

Genesis 5:5

I'm going to read Genesis 5:5. This tells about Adam's birthdays! Read Genesis 5:5.

- How many birthdays did Adam have? How old was he when he died? 930 years old! Write 930 on the board.

Wow! Can you imagine having 930 birthdays? Blow horns.

Genesis 5:8

That's a long time to live. This next verse is about one of Adam's sons. His name was Seth. Listen to this and tell me how many birthdays Seth had. Read Genesis 5:8.

- Did you hear it? How many birthdays? 912 birthdays! Write 912 on the board.

Seth had 912 birthdays! Blow horns. That is how old he was when he died. People lived a lot longer back then, didn't they? And God was very careful to tell us exactly how long some of them lived—how old they were.

Genesis 9:29

You've heard of Noah, haven't you? Listen to this verse about Noah. Read Genesis 9:29.

- How many birthdays did Noah have? How old was he when he died? 950! Write 950 on the board.

That is really old. You would need a very big cake to put 950 candles on it! Blow horns.

Now the Bible tells us about lots of birthdays! We aren't going to read all of them. But it tells about Adam, his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren. The Bible tells how old all these people were. And because we know Adam was the very first man, we can tell how old the earth is by adding up all these birthdays! Blow horns.

The Earth Is 6,000 Years Old

- How old do you think the earth is? If the earth could have birthdays, how many do you think it's had? Allow guesses. 6,000 years old.

The earth is about 6,000 years old. Blow horns.

- But have you ever heard someone say the earth is millions of years old? How about billions of years? Allow discussion.

Turn to the Lesson Flip Chart. Well, the earth is NOT millions or billions of years old. And we know that because God told us about all the birthdays some of the people had—starting with Adam.

You see, Adam was the first man. He was created in the beginning when God first formed the earth. And if we add up all the years that went by from Adam and his sons, to Noah and his sons, all the way to a man named Abraham, we get 2,000 years!

Now, there are people who study history—things that happened in the past. And these people say that from Abraham all the way to Jesus another 2,000 years went by. So we have 2,000 + 2,000, and that is 4,000 years so far.

- What do we call the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday? Christmas. Blow horns.

Right! And the very first Christmas was about 2,000 years ago!

Count up the years on the Flip Chart. So, let's do some math and add them up. If you add 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000, that equals 6,000 years that have gone by from Adam at the very beginning of the world all the way to us today!

So, the earth has had about 6,000 birthdays. Blow horns. That's a lot of birthdays, but not as many as a million or a billion!

God tells us in his Word how old the earth really is. Remember, the Bible is God's holy Word, and God does not lie. So we can trust the Bible—it always tells the truth. And it tells us that the earth is only about 6,000 years old. That's 6,000 birthdays! Allow students to blow the horns a few times.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

