

Lesson 2: Increase and Filling

**Note to teacher-* This lesson has the children adding to a “craft” at various intervals during the lesson. It could also be done as a follow-up activity after the teaching. The children will need a piece of blank paper and crayons or markers. At the end, each will need sunflowers seeds (in the shell) and glue. For younger students, teacher may want to prep by drawing and labeling the boxes that the students will fill with pictures, or by making copies of the template for each child.

God made everything in the earth with a purpose- to show us something of Himself. He made the things of the earth as a picture of something spiritual that man could not really understand until Jesus came and gave us His Life so that He could be our life. Let me explain it this way. What if I told you a very special friend of mine was coming to live with us. I showed you her picture and told you all about her because I wanted you to be ready for her when she came. Each day I would read you letters from her, or show you another picture, or tell you stories about her. Then, one day, she came and moved in with us. The pictures were helpful when she was far away, but now that she’s with us, you wouldn’t look at the picture to try to figure out what she might be like. Instead you would ask her yourself. You might bring her the picture and ask, “What is this a picture of? What were you doing there? Tell me the story behind that picture,” but the picture did its job already, and now we have the Person.

Well, there was a time that God used pictures. We no longer have to know Him through pictures because Jesus lives in us and we can speak to God ourselves. The people of the Old Testament didn’t really understand the pictures. But now that Christ is come, He sometimes points to those pictures and speaks to our hearts and shows us something of Himself that was kind of hidden there. When Jesus shows us Himself, we call this “revelation” or the “revealing of Christ.” We sing a song, “Reveal Thy Son in me...” That is a prayer asking God to let us see Him and not just things about Him.

Okay, so today I want to read to you from Genesis 1, when God created the earth. We are pretty familiar with that story, or picture, but I saw something new there last week that I never noticed before. I believe God was speaking in my heart, showing me Himself in a new way. So I’m going to read each of the first 3 days of creation, and after each day, you’re going to draw a picture in each box on your paper. First, fold your paper in half “hotdog style.” Draw a line down the fold. Now, on the left side of the page, make 4 boxes. (See or use the template on the last of page of this lesson.)

- 1 ¶ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

The earth was empty. In the first box write “**empty**” and leave the rest blank.

- 3 ¶ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- 4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. {*the light from...: Heb. between the light and between the darkness*}

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And then God created Day and Night. Can you draw something that looks like day and night in the second box on your paper? Label it **Day 1-light**.

6 ¶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

The firmament is like the air or atmosphere. God created **air**. Draw something to represent air in the third box and label it **Day 2-air**.

9 ¶ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear: and it was so.

10 And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was* good.

Now God has created dry land and separated it from the seas, or oceans. God created **soil and water**. Draw some dirt or ground and some water in the fourth box and label it **Day 3-land and water**.

So look at your pictures. What do we have? We have light, air, soil/land, and water. What can you think of that needs only light, air, soil, and water? Plants, of course. God said that in the beginning, the earth was void- that means empty. Just like a cup is made to be filled up, the earth was made to be filled, and the earth is a picture of man (remember Adam was made out of the dirt of the earth?) People are also made to be filled. So God mentions that the earth was empty and then He creates light and air and soil and water so that the earth can be filled, filled with seed.

I want to take you to another one of God's pictures and stories. Do you remember Abraham? God promised Abraham a land to inherit. "All this land I will give to you," He told Abraham. But Abraham said, "But what good is land if I have no seed to inherit it?" What good is ground without seed to sow? What good is land if, when I die, I have no son to live in it? God is again showing us how important it is for land to be filled with seed. Abraham is also saying, "Even if I have something to give, what good is it unless I have someone to give it to?" And I think this is God's heart, too. He has something wonderful- His Son, His Life- and unless He has vessels to fill, His purpose cannot come to its fruition, end, goal. We are the land God wants to fill with His seed. This is His picture in creating the earth. The earth, like our souls, is empty. God has made it possible for Life to grow in that empty place. **He** has provided everything. To the earth, He has created light, air, soil and water. To us, He has provided the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son so that we might be filled "with all the fulness of God (Eph. 3:19)."

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the **herb yielding seed**, *and* the **fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself**, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

So the earth begins to be filled with grass and herbs and fruit trees, and **seed**. In the tall box, I want you to glue a sunflower seed at the bottom of your page. You can draw dirt around it and sprouts if you want to, but don't draw a plant yet.

God provided all that was needed for seed, and then He also made it so that seed would make more seed. The Bible says that the plants yield **seed** after its own kind. What does that mean? That means that once a plant grows and dies, that's not the end of it. The plants make seed so that there can be more plants and more plants. God set in order a pattern of increase. Remember, the earth was empty and He made it to be filled. Seed is the way He fills the earth. Seed making more seed. And the way seed makes more seed is by death, burial, and resurrection! Did you know that? A seed goes into the ground and the husk comes off and dies. The heart of the seed then begins to grow and soon it reaches above the earth. The plant will flower, and then the flower will die. The seed will either be hidden inside fruit (if it's a fruit bearing plant) or the seed will blow away or drop to the earth and there will be an increase. One zucchini seed turns into lots of zucchini, each with lots and lots of seeds inside. The same with green beans, corn, etc. One seed has the potential of becoming SO many seeds- and yet it is still the same kind of seed!

So how does all of this explain what God desires? He has planted His seed in our hearts, if we have received His Son. We have all of Jesus we'll ever have or need. A seed has great potential. As His Life works in us, there is an increase. It isn't "more of Jesus"; it is the greater seeing and knowing of what we already have. We see more of Him, we know more of Him, and if we don't resist Him, He takes over more and more land in our hearts. This is how His Seed fills the land of our hearts. And all of this God designed from the very beginnings of creating the earth.

I want to repeat something I said one more time. **God** provided everything needed for the increase of seed in the natural creation- light, air, soil and water. Seed increased and filled the earth before man was even created! It was not man's job to make increase. Spiritually, this is also true. It is not our "job" to try to "manifest" more Jesus. God has provided everything necessary for the increase of His Son. If we see that that is God's design and purpose, then we can ask Him to work His desire in us.

Now, in the last box, draw a sunflower and we will glue sunflower seeds to the center of the flower. You can label it increase. Light, air, soil, and water were created that there might be seed and the increase of seed. God works in us that our hearts might be filled with Him.

I have two last verses for you. They are about being hungry so that God may fill us. What happens when you are already full? Have you ever been so full that you couldn't

eat another bite- even if it was something tasty? Our heart, God's land, can be too full to let Him fill it. It can be full of earthly things- hearts that desire the things of the earth more than Him. It is hard to fill something that is already full. James 4:8 says Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you. For God to fill us, we must leave what is not Him behind. Here are the verses:

Luke 1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Luke 6:21 Blessed *are ye* that hunger now: for ye shall be filled.

Prayer: Lord make us hungry for you that we be filled- that we might come to know the purpose for which we were created. Let the land of our hearts be filled. Have your increase in us.



Template for *Increase & Filling*
