

**The Twelve Days of Christmas**  
**#6 – Six Geese A’Laying** (Longer version)  
Genesis 1: 1-31

**Objective:** The students will understand that the Bible teaches that God is separate from His creation. (Note: this is an important truth for our Japanese students because, in the words of the Geneva Bible’s notes, “God’s free act of creation through the Divine Word signifies that the universe is not an emanation or part of the divine being, thus ruling out all forms of pantheism...” Emphasis mine.)

**Step 1: Link**

Today we will talk about the sixth day of Christmas. On the sixth day of Christmas someone is going to give me six things. Who is the someone? (God, or ‘my true love’) The six things that my true love will give me today are geese!

What do you know about geese? (E.g. They mate for life, they migrate, they lay eggs. Remember that today’s Bible time is kind of long, don’t get bogged down here)

**Step 2: Introduction**

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me six geese a’laying. Six geese laying eggs. First let’s talk about grammar. A’laying (write on board) is an old-fashioned, very informal way to say that the geese were “laying eggs right now.” Six geese a’laying.

Now, eggs. Why do geese lay eggs? (Chicks.) Eggs mean new life. A new little goose will come out of the egg. The geese remind us of the days of creation. God created the universe in – how many days? Does anyone know? (6) God created the universe in six days. The six geese a’laying remind us of the six days of creation.

**Step 3: Prepare to read the Bible: Pose questions**

The passage in the Bible talking about the six days of creation is long. I don’t think we have time to read it. So I will give part of it to each of you. Please read your part silently, and then we will share answers. Here are two questions for you to answer about your part:

1. What did God create on the \_\_\_\_\_ day?
2. How did God create it?

**Step 4: Read the Bible.**

Note to teachers: If you do not have six students, counting yourself, do as much as you can in the group, and lead them through the rest together. I.e., if you only have 2 students, that makes three of you. Choose three days creation and read silently and report on them. Do the other three days together. Or have each student do two sections. (not recommended for beginning classes, where so much reading and reporting might be overwhelming). Also since Day 6 is the longest reading it might be a good one to ‘leave out’ and do together.

**Fun Idea:** Write the following on slips of paper (different colors would be really nice) and have the students draw from a jar or something.

Day 1 : Genesis 1: 1-5  
 Day 4: Genesis 1: 14-19

Day 2: Genesis 1: 6-8  
 Day 5: Genesis 1: 20-23

Day 3: Genesis 1: 9-13  
 Day 6: Genesis 1: 24-31

**Step 5: Have the students report on what they learned.** Record it on the board. Here is a suggestion (you could draw the chart as they are reading. The items in parentheses are the student answers, write those in as students report or as you discover together):

Day	Created?	How?	Day	Created?	How?
1	(heavens, earth, day, night)	(God said)	4	(Sun, moon, stars)	(God said)
2	(sky, sea)	(God said)	5	(birds, fish)	(God said)
3	(dry land, plants)	(God said)	6	(animals, man)	(God said)

**Step 6: Observations**

I want to show you something interesting. Look at this chart. Look at verse 2. “The earth was without form.” In the first three days, God gave the earth form. From heavens and earth, to sky and sea, to dry land with plants. Now everything was ready. In the second three days God filled these areas. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day, He filled the heavens. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day, He filled the sky with birds and the sea with fish. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day He filled the dry land with animals, and last of all He made man. There is a beautiful harmony to the six days of creation. (*Be pointing to things in the chart as you talk about them.*)

Now, I have a question about eggs. Are eggs a part of the mother goose? Or are eggs separate from the mother goose? (They are separate. They will become a different goose.) This has an important meaning for the days of creation. Eggs are separate from the mother goose, and God’s creation is separate from God Himself. The creation is not part of God. (The creation is not an extension of God.) The creation is completely separate from God.

Now, God can live in His creation, like you live in your house or apartment. The Bible teaches that God fills the heavens and the earth. But He is still separate from the heavens and the earth, like you are separate from your house or apartment. You are not your house. God is not His creation.

This teaching in the Bible is very different from the Shinto teaching that gods are in all of nature, in the mountains, trees and ground, for example. The Bible teaches that God is separate from His creation. Like the goose and the egg.

**Step 7: Are there any questions? Shall we enjoy our song one last time?**

Answer questions. **Sing.**

Note 1: You could go over the singular and plural forms very quickly. Goose – geese. This is the only bird in the song that has a special plural form. (Ministering English – meeting their felt needs)

Note 2: If they ask for any meaning in choice of ‘geese’ over other birds who lay eggs, you might answer that perhaps it was because they mate for life. The Bible uses the symbol of marriage for God and His people, and no matter how bad the relationship became, no matter how badly His people treated Him or how sinful they were, God never divorced them. He would punish them, but He never divorced them.

**Also** – it is important to realize that Genesis 1 is Hebrew poetry, not a scientific treatise. God started the Bible with a poem! This is probably the main reason you have the “beautiful harmony.” (according to Dr. Timothy Keller)