



# THE GARDEN OF EDEN

part 1: "It All Began With Water"

## Leader's Guide

### Overview

It says in 2 Peter 3:5, "But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water." How did our world begin? The Bible says it all started with water. In this session we will explore what has become known in the scientific community as the "Canopy Theory" – the idea that the original planet earth could have been like a giant greenhouse with a vapor barrier surrounding the planet. How would this affect our world? It would create a paradise – like the Garden of Eden!

### Specific Session Tips

- As an ice breaker, maybe ask each person to "Share your name and a description of your perfect vacation destination." (Note: This leads into discussion of God's perfect creation: The Garden of Eden ;-)
- NOTE: The last discussion question asks people if they think they are going to heaven – don't miss this important opportunity to discover people's spiritual condition. Pray that people get saved!
- This is a fun session that will really create a lot of discussion. Keep in mind, the "Canopy Theory" is simply that – a theory. But the evidence is very interesting!
- Just a reminder – Do not to answer every question yourself. Your job is to draw people out.
- Possibly do some extra research using Ken Hamm's Answers In Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/>

### Suggested Format (90 minute meeting)

- **15 minutes – Greet & Treat.** Welcome people and encourage them to mingle before the meeting.
- **35 minutes – Intro & Video.** Introduce the topic, hand out blanks and then show the video.
- **35 minutes – Discussion.** Lead the group through an honest discussion using questions below.
- **5 minutes – Prayer.** At the end of your time, ask for prayer requests, and have several people pray.

### Weekly Reminders

- Pray! Before each meeting, pray for each person by name and ask God to speak to their hearts!
- At the end of the meeting, remind people of who is on for treats the next week & what your topic will be.
- Pray at the end. Make sure to end ON TIME (You can always tell people they are welcome to stay – but give those who need to leave the option to make an exit as soon as the class time expires).

### Possible Discussion Questions

1. What is your reaction to this video? What impressed you the most? Why?
2. Why is believing in an actual Creator as described in the Bible (Genesis 1 & 2) foundational to our faith?
3. When we look around our world it seems "Busted and broken down." Is God to blame? Why or why not?
4. Discuss the "Canopy Theory". What surprised you about it? What questions do you have?
5. If the world was like a giant "Green House", with twice the atmospheric pressure (~14.7 psi) and 50% more oxygen (from 21%-30%) – how do you think that might affect plant life? Human aging? Size of insects and mammals?
6. Describe what heaven might be like in light of the "heaven on earth" that we see in the Garden of Eden.
7. Do you know for sure you are going to be in that heaven? If you died today, where would you be? Why?