

Watermelon War!

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
You get better results breaking large tasks into smaller ones.	Gen. 1:1-2:3.

Other ComputiVerse lessons cover several of the reasons for breaking up large tasks. This one focuses on the SEQUENCE of smaller tasks.

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Process

[Include throughout the lesson, the steps of the Gospel so while the students' attentions are fresh, the real lesson is being planted.]

Let's have prayer before we learn how to keep from having to eat catsup on paper.

Pray.

Watermelon War!

It's War! Watermelon War, that is.
That's how the headlines should read.

You've been given the assignment to cover the annual watermelon war for your school newspaper. You've heard rumors there have been some new war machines developed for this year's battle.



But three things you know for sure:

- Where and when it will happen.
- You won't have any help.
- Things will happen fast, and you'd better be prepared.

You've decided the SEQUENCE of tasks to be:

1. Get names and facts beforehand.
2. Take pictures during the action.
3. Interview eyewitnesses.
4. Write the description.
5. Assemble and submit the copy to editor.

***I don't care if the CIA
did design that
watermelon seed
launcher!! I still say it
looks like a mousetrap
with a lifesaver candy
for the gun sight!!***

As you reexamine your sequence of tasks above, you begin to notice that each of the tasks needs different tools to get the job done.

[You might ask your students to guess what things they'd take along to accomplish each of the five tasks.]

Possible take-along stuff might include:

1. Clipboard, paper, several pencils, and a map of the area
2. Camera, film, list of required pictures to take
3. Small tape recorder, fresh batteries
4. Your computer, floppy disk, and printer paper
5. Original photos, diskette of what you've written and printed out

It's not hard to see that doing things on a computer is also made up of following a "path" from one step to the next. Whether we're making a picture in a paint program, creating a script for a make-believe radio show, or making a fancy list of everybody in your Sunday school class, some things have to be done before starting the next thing.

[Read No-Burger Blastoff]

Galactic Game

See if you can list the steps for getting ready to go to the moon. Which tasks probably have to go first? Then GO GOOFY!! Pretend you had two steps reversed. What would happen? Astronauts practice month after month on "what would happen if" scenarios. They're called Contingency Plans.

Gen. 1:1...

God created in steps or units. The lesson is that big projects are better managed by dividing them into smaller tasks that are more easily done.

“And God saw that it was good”. He reviews what He did and puts His stamp of approval on that day’s process before He starts the next step.

Taking “one day at a time” allows us to **focus** on the particular needs of that part of the whole project.

Some projects have parts similar to some we’ve done in other projects that can be **duplicated**.

- Some of the steps in fixing the flat tire on the back of your bicycle are the same steps you used to get the chain on and adjusted for the big race last Saturday.
- Some of the steps in making a chocolate fudge cake are the same steps used to make a batch of brownies as a thank you for someone who has done a special thing for you. ☺

God built creation using steps ...

1st day – space (empty)

2nd day – atmosphere & water.

3rd day – land, sea, & plants

4th day – time (stars & planets)

5th day – swimming & flying life

6th day – walking life & MAN.

7th day – rest & blessing

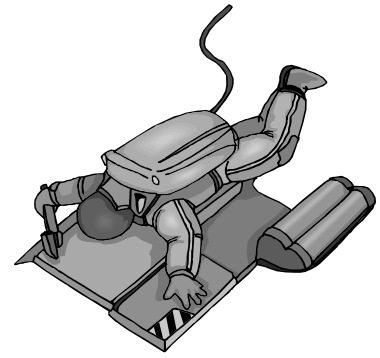
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“No Burger” Blastoff

[Theme: Details can be very important.]



Strapped to the front of a bullet blasting toward orbit, Kathi will soon be traveling twenty five thousand mph. Maximum G forces now pressing her into her seat will quickly be replaced with weightlessness. What a concept: fly with less effort than the birds.

As Mission Specialist for Satellite Deployment Kathi’s 5-day in-orbit agenda is packed with a variety of tasks. Her favorite might be the experiments for the high school students in Iowa to track solar wind on opposing sides of the earth.

A mental collage went through Kathi’s mind as she unbuckled from her launch configuration. Trying to visualize the expectant Iowa students, the shuttle walls offering countless switches and controls Kathi has spent the last two solid years learning, just for this one launch. A quiet smile shows as she recalls those long ago days at home learning what seemed like endless commands on her PC to create school reports. Even then, she was careful to not leave anything out and the warm fuzzy feeling in sharing new things with friends.

The voice of Ground Control’s Mission Director shocked Kathi back to the here and now... even though Kathi’s “here” was 160 miles over her director’s head. Both of them rehearsed tomorrow’s deployment, uploading final data, and primary contingency plans. When Kathi had the opportunities on Earth, she relished emphasizing to the media, all the rehearsing and practicing that goes into astronaut training.

But then something seemed wrong. The shuttle commander started opening compartments in the food storage bulkhead and quickly returned to her seat and began hushed dialog with the pilot.

Kathi’s agenda for the day demanded she’d better get started... and quickly. She knew it was crucial that all her tasks be done today... and in the proper sequence too!

The commander came on the intercom to all the crew and announced, “I’ve just notified Ground Control that in loading the satellites, and all the tools, plus the new condiments for testing, drinking water, etc.... we’ve overlooked loading any food. Ground Control suggests we experiment trying the new catsups, etc. on paper.”

What a great time it would be to find a Hamburger Fly-in.

Kathi last remembers trying to visualize catsup and relish on paper when she was startled awake from her sleep by her mother’s voice, “Come on honey! Get up you’ll be late for school! Breakfast will be ready in a second.... We’re having blueberry pancakes!”

Kathi mumbled to herself, “And no catsup! ... a detail that might be important someday”, then grinned and dressed.

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