



# God Created the World

Unit 1 | Lesson 1 | Older Elementary Lesson

## Bible Study Aims

Kids will:

- realize that God is the Creator of everything.
- understand that everything belongs to God.
- desire to worship God as the Creator.

## Key Idea

God created everything for His glory.

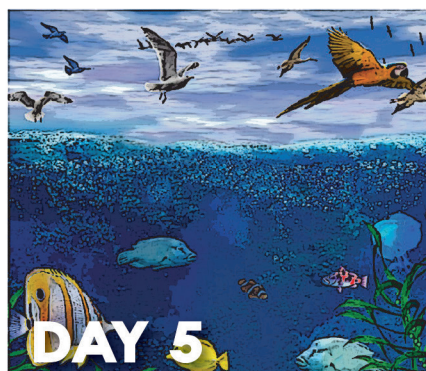
## Bible Passage

Genesis 1

## Memory Verse

Genesis 1:1

## SIX DAYS OF CREATION





## BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

God exists outside of time and always has. In His goodness and power, He created the heavens and the earth. He is the one true God, the Creator of all things, and continues to care for and sustain the universe He had designed perfectly.

- On Day 1, God created light and separated light from darkness, giving us day and night.
- On Day 2, God made the waters and separated the seas and the sky.
- On Day 3, God made dry ground appear and filled the earth with plants. He gave each kind of plant its own seeds and fruit.
- On Day 4, God filled the heavens He had made with the sun, moon, and stars—establishing seasons and weather. These acts of creation show us that God set up weather and time under His control, creating a system of order and making the world a sustainable place to live.
- On Day 5, God filled the seas with fish and other animals that live in the water and filled the air with birds!
- On Day 6, God filled the land with all kinds of creatures!

Everything God made was good and perfect.



## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Read Psalm 19:1 and 33:6-9. God is the Creator of the universe, yet He knows and cares for us intimately. As you have time this week, stop and praise God for all that He has made. Take a walk or sit outside, if possible. Dwell on the majesty and power of God. Are you in awe of Him?



## SOCIAL MEDIA POST

This week our kids will explore the very first story in the Bible in Genesis 1. They'll learn that God created everything for His glory. He is worthy of our worship!



# Supply List

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## WELCOME TIME

### BUILD A CREATION

- Building blocks

### A-Z THINGS IN NATURE

- A-Z Printable or sheet of paper (1 per kid)
- Pencils

## LARGE GROUP TIME

### GETTING STARTED

- None needed

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

- Bible
- Building blocks
- Shoebox

### RESPONSE TIME

- None needed

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Bible

### GALAXY BOTTLES

- Bowls
- Cotton balls
- Empty plastic water bottles with lids (1 per kid)
- Funnel
- Glitter
- Paint
- Newspapers or plastic tablecloth
- Water

### CREATION GAME

- None needed

### REVIEW

- None needed

### BIBLE MEMORY

- Bible

### MENTORING MOMENT

- None needed

### PRAYER TIME

- Leaf or other nature item



# Welcome Time

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## ARRIVAL

Follow your church's safety procedures as you welcome and greet kids. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.



## OPENING ACTIVITIES • 5-15 MINUTES

### Option #1: Build a Creation

Give children building blocks like Legos or Duplos and allow time for them to work together in pairs to create something. After a couple of minutes, invite some of them who are willing to present their creations to the group. Be mindful of the time. *Option:* Share creations after the large group time.

**You made some pretty unique creations! Some of you created a model of something that already exists like your favorite animal, and some of you used your imagination to make something you've never seen before. One thing you all had in common is that you used the blocks to make your creation.**

- **How many of you made the blocks that you used for your creation?** (No, someone else made the blocks.)

**Today, we're going to learn how God made everything—out of nothing!**

### Option #2: A-Z Things in Nature

Ahead of time, print a copy of the A-Z Worksheet for each child.

**How many things do you think we could name if we put our heads together? 50? 100? More? Let's see if we can name something for every letter of the alphabet.**

Give each kid an A-Z Worksheet. Let them write the letters of the alphabet on the left side of the page. Then allow time for them to come up with ideas for each letter of the alphabet.

As time allows, have kids share their ideas with each other. See who had the most unique ideas to share with the group.

**Today, we're going to learn about how and why all these things got here.**



## TRANSITION

Transition to large group.



# Large Group Time

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## GETTING STARTED • 5 MINUTES

### Greeting

Welcome! I'm so glad you are here today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm so excited to be able to explore the Bible and grow to know and love God more with you.

### Introduction

Let's play a nature-themed "Would You Rather?" Game. If you would prefer the first option, stand up. If you prefer the second option, sit down.

- Would you rather climb to the top of one of the tallest mountains or relax on the beach?
- Would you rather explore the depths of the ocean or the far reaches of space?
- Would you rather see a giant waterfall up close or go deep into a cave?
- Would you rather be in a field with all kinds of beautiful flowers or a field with delicious fruits and vegetables you could harvest and eat?
- Would you rather be in a treehouse or ride an innertube down a stream or river?

The world is full of amazing places that we can see and explore. Close your eyes for a moment. I want you to picture the most interesting or amazing thing you've ever seen in nature. Can you imagine it? Have you ever wondered how that place came to be? How was it made? How long has it been there? Open your eyes. We can go to the Bible for all kinds of questions we have about the world around us and how we live in it. The Bible is true and tells about God and His story. Today we'll see what God's Word says about how the world and everything in it came to be and why. We'll learn that *God created everything for His glory*.

### Pray

Let's pray. Dear God, You are the incredible Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Please grow our awe and wonder of You as we explore what You have made. Give us a desire to love and obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## BIBLE EXPLORATION • 15-20 MINUTES

### Bible Skills

- **Did everyone bring their Bible today?** Have kids get out their Bibles and pass out Bibles to any kids who need one.

The Bible is God's Word or message to us. God is true and trustworthy, and everything in His Word is too. The Bible tells us about who He is and what He has done. It teaches us the way to know, love, and follow Him.



Our Bible Exploration today takes place at the very beginning of God's story with humanity. It is in the first book of the Bible, **Genesis**. Help kids turn to Genesis 1 in their Bibles. Assist them using the Table of Contents, if needed.

## Scripture

Have a helper turn off the lights. As you read the verses in the darkness, ask children to picture in their minds what is happening. When you come to verse 3, turn on the lights or have them open their eyes.



*Read Genesis 1:1-8.*

**The Bible says that God spoke, and the world was made.** Set out some of the extra blocks from earlier on a table in the front where children can see.

- **If I say, "Make a tower!" to the blocks, what would happen? Why?** (Nothing. We can't create from just our speech.)

**Most scientists will admit that they can't prove how man got here or how the world began. They try to give an explanation, but they aren't really sure and can't be. They are only guessing because they were not there when the world began and they don't know anyone who was.**

**You and I were not there either, but we know Someone who was. God has told us in His Word what happened. We believe what He says because we know He would not lie.**



*Read Hebrews 11:1, 3.*

**If you trust a person, you believe all he says, not just some things. If we really trust God, we will believe all of His Word. Imagine what a mess a traveler would be in if he did not trust his road map. He would get lost. Even if he believed some parts and not others, it wouldn't be much help to him; he wouldn't know where to go. But, if he knew it had been made by someone he could trust, he would trust the map and follow it faithfully.**

**Without the Bible, our guidebook, we would get lost, too. If we trust God who wrote it, we will believe what it says. As we get to know God better, He helps us trust Him more.**



*Read Genesis 1:9-13.*

**God tells us that He made all kinds of plants and He tells us what the plants do.**

- **How do we get new plants from plants that are already here?** (ITake responses.)

**God has made plants so they can reproduce themselves.** (If you are using a Bible version that uses the phrase, "after its kind," explain what this means.)



*Reread Genesis 1:12.*

**Imagine what would happen if apple seeds grew tomato plants or tomato seeds grew onions. Farmers depend on each seed growing "after its kind."**

- **Why do you think God make plants before animals?** (Animals need plants to eat in order to live.)
- **Why did God make light before plants?** (Plants make food with light using a process called photosynthesis. Plants can't live without light.)

**Imagine how bare and muddy it would be without plants. It would also be lifeless—animals and people cannot live without the food and oxygen they provide.**

**God planned His creation carefully. He did everything in the right order. He did not make plants until the air and light and land and water were ready for them. He did not make animals until the plants they needed were ready and waiting.**

Take the blocks for example. If I just drop them randomly (do so while you continue talking), they won't form into anything. There is an order to how they connect and build together.

Think about it: Does God still work in an orderly way today? Consider how things grow and seasons come and go. This shows that God is still controlling things.

- How would you feel if when you went to bed, you could never be sure the sun would come up the next day? (Take responses.)
- What if the weather could change from summer to winter at any time? How would you know what to wear or when to plant gardens? (Take responses.)

Let's continue with our picture of the blocks for a minute. As you are talking, put some blocks in a shoebox.

- If I dropped the blocks into this box, closed the lid, left it in a secure place, and never unlocked it, would it ever turn into a design on its own? (Take responses.)
- What if we shook the box? Shake the box. Would the pieces connect and form something on their own? Why or why not? (Take responses.) Have a volunteer come look in the box to see what happened. Let them share with the group.

God created intentionally and intelligently. He created with order, not chaos. Because He did, we have a beautiful world filled with variety that continues to exist, many, many years after it was made.

 Read Genesis 1:20-25.

We could name animals all day and never name them all. Even if we just tried to name animals mentioned in the Bible, it would take a long time. The Bible mentions 38 mammals, 34 birds, 11 reptiles, and 16 insects by name.

Let's think back to our block creations. We all used the same kinds of blocks, but we all made something unique. God's creation is filled with even more beauty and variety! In fact, scientists are still discovering creatures and plants that we haven't seen before in places like the rainforests and the depths of the oceans. God has made some incredible living things! And He has placed each one in the best environment to have all of its needs met. For example, animals who live in cold climates have thicker skin or fur, and animals who live in warmer climates require less water to survive, or are able to store water for longer periods of time. God is an amazing creator!

On day 6, God also made people in His image, and gave them the responsibility to care for His creation. We'll talk more about that next week.

 Read Genesis 1:30-31; 2:1-3.

We've talked about how God made the world. Let's think for a minute about why God created the world.

- Did God need the world? (No. He existed before He made the world. He is not dependent on the world in order for Him to exist.)

 Let's find out what the Bible says about this in Colossians 1:16. Read the verse.

The world was created by Christ, for Christ. *God created everything for His glory!*

## Application

- If I had come up and destroyed your block creations, how would that have made you feel? Why? (Take responses.)

You probably would have been upset because it belonged to you since you were the one who made it. It wasn't mine to do with however I pleased. In an even greater way, creation belongs to its Creator—God.

- What do you think this means? (Take responses.)

- **How can we show God through our words and actions that we believe that *God created everything for His glory*?** (Thank Him; Praise Him; Give Him credit for the things He has made; Obey Him; Take care of the things He has made; etc.)

*God created everything for His glory!*

## **RESPONSE TIME • 2-10 MINUTES**

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### **Worship**

Sing songs about God as our Creator and the creation He has made.

### **Prayer**

Pray a praise litany together based on Psalm 136:1-9.

When you pause, have kids say the phrase "His steadfast love endures forever."

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- Give thanks to the everlasting God.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- Give thanks to the Lord of lords.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- God alone does great wonders.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- By His understanding, God made the heavens.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- He spread out the earth above the waters.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- He made the great lights.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- The sun to rule the day.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- The moon and stars to rule over the night.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- He provides a home to all the animals.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- He gives food for all the animals.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- He alone is worthy of our praise.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)
- He is our sovereign Creator.** (His steadfast love endures forever.)

## **TRANSITION**

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Transition to small groups.





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS • 5-10 MINUTES

- **List what God created, in order.** (Take responses)
- **If you've heard this story before, did anything new stick out to you this time?** (Take responses)
- **If you could have been there, which day of creation would you have wanted to see and why?** (Take responses.)
- **Is it easy or hard for you to believe that God made the world out of nothing? Why?** (Take responses.)
- **The phrases "God said" and "God said it was good" are repeated often in this chapter. What does this repetition emphasize?** (God is powerful and spoke creation into being. God declares what is good.)
- **What are some things we learned about God?** (God is the Creator; God spoke all creation into existence; God declares what is good; He blesses what He creates; God brings everything into fullness, as He showed by resting on the seventh day; etc.)
- **Why did God bless the seventh day? How do we recognize or celebrate the seventh day now?** (Take responses)
- **Why did God create the world?** (*God created everything for His glory.*)



## ACTIVITY OPTIONS • 10-15 MINUTES

### Pathway #1: Galaxy Bottles

Cover your workspace with old newspapers or a large sheet of plastic.

Give each kid an empty water bottle and some cotton balls. They will place a few cotton balls at the bottom of the bottle. Pour some glitter on top.

Mix about 1/2-1 cup of water with a few squirts of paint in a bowl. Using a funnel, pour the paint into the water bottle on top of the cotton balls. Add another layer of cotton balls and glitter.

Repeat the process with 2-3 additional colors. Put the cap on top, and swirl the paint in the bottle.

As they work, discuss what God made on the fourth day of creation.

- **How does it make you feel when you look at or think about the vastness of the universe and the God who made it all?** (Take responses.)

### Pathway #2: Creation Game

Form a circle. The player who is IT stands in the middle of the circle. IT points to someone, says one of the four categories (land, water, sky, or space), and then says, "1-2-3-4-5-6-good!" fast. The person that IT points to must name something God made in that category before IT finishes saying, "1-2-3-4-5-6-good!" If the person does that, IT points to someone else. If not, the person and IT trade places. Answers can't be something someone else has already named. If no one is caught in three tries, IT spins around with eyes closed and points to someone to be the new IT.



## REVIEW • 5-10 MINUTES

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Kids will take turns rolling a die. Kids will share something that God made on the day that matches the number the die landed on. Continue until all kids have had at least one turn. Repeat as time allows.

- Day 1, God created light and separated light from darkness, giving us day and night.
- Day 2, God made the waters and separated the seas and the sky.
- Day 3, God made dry ground appear and filled the earth with plants.
- Day 4, God filled the heavens He had made with the sun, moon, and stars—establishing seasons and weather.
- Day 5, God filled the seas with fish and other animals that live in the water and filled the air with birds.
- Day 6, God filled the land with all kinds of creatures.



## BIBLE MEMORY • 5-10 MINUTES

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Memorize Genesis 1:1. Read the verse together. Teach the following hand motions to help students remember the verse.

- "In the beginning"** (*with index finger, point to the opposite wrist as if tapping a watch*)
- "God"** (*point up*)
- "created"** (*use hands to motion words coming from mouth*)
- "the heavens"** (*stretch hands high*)
- "and the earth"** (*touch the ground*).
- "Genesis 1:1"** (*hold up one finger on each hand*)



## MENTORING MOMENT • 2 MINUTES

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Share an example of how spending time in creation has helped you recognize and worship God as your Creator.



## PRAYER TIME • 5 MINUTES

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Pass around a leaf or another item from nature. Whoever has the leaf can thank God for one thing they are thankful He has made. If a kid feels unsure about praying out loud, they can pass the leaf to the next person. Close in a prayer of thanksgiving when your group is done.



## DISMISSAL

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Follow your church's security procedures as you release kids to their families.