

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GENESIS 1

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 19:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. All of creation exists to bring God glory.



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART
TO TEACH; PLAN
THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS
and OPEN
THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS
THE STORY
OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO
LOVE THE GOD
OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO
LIVE OUT THE MISSION
OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

The Bible begins where we would expect it to: with the beginning of all of creation. But the beginning that Genesis 1:1 speaks of is not the beginning of everything. It was not the beginning of God. God is eternal—He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed. So the beginning in this session’s Bible story is the beginning from our perspective. It is humanity’s beginning.

You might notice that the Bible story stops a little earlier than you might be used to: before God created Adam and Eve. That happened on Day 6, along with the animals of the earth, but that is not included here because that will be covered in the next session in much more detail.

Instead, for this session, take your time to emphasize three things:

First, that God created everything from nothing. God did not create like we do—by taking some raw materials like clay and making a beautiful sculpture. Instead, God made everything that exists—everything we see and even that we don’t see—simply by speaking it into existence from nothing. That’s important because it teaches us that everything belongs to God because He made it all and also how powerful He is to be able to create the universe by speaking it into being.

Second, that God created everything with order. Not only do we see that God created the different kinds of plants and trees as well as animals according to their different kinds, but we also see an orderly pattern in the days of creation. God created by separating things on days 1-3 (light from darkness; sky from water; and then land from oceans) and then He filled what He had created on days 4-6 (the stars, sun, and moon in the heavens; birds and fish in the sky and waters; animals on the land).

Third, that God created everything for a reason—to bring Himself glory. We will talk a lot more about this during this unit, and all of our study through Scripture. But for now help your kids see that everything exists to show how good God is—to show His glory for all to see.

DAYS OF CREATION

Separated

Day 1: Light from darkness

Day 2: Sky from water

Day 3: Land from oceans

Filled

Day 4: Sun, moon, stars

Day 5: Birds and fish

Day 6: Animals

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, ask kids about their week, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ When you draw, build, or paint something, does it always turn out exactly as you imagine it in your mind? How does it feel when your creation doesn’t match your imagination? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Just Six Days” activity page.

SAY “ It’s amazing to think about all of creation being made in less than one week. The Bible teaches us that God created everything that exists in just six days. Today we will learn more about creation. We will focus on what creation can help us understand about God. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: CREATED THINGS FACE-OFF



Form two lines of kids. Invite the first kid in each line to step forward and face each other. Name a category (Examples: fruits, birds, fish, mammals, nuts). The kid who thinks of a fitting item first will say the item. The other kid will have 15 seconds to name a different item that also fits the category. If she is successful, the first kid must now think of a third item. When one kid is unable to think of an item, the other team gains a point.

Select the next kids from each team and play again with a new category. Play until all kids have had a turn. The team with the most points wins.

SAY “ It’s hard to think of all the things God created, especially in a pinch! Imagine how amazing God must be to have created all those things out of nothing! God didn’t just remember them, but created them out of nothing at all. Not even the idea of a fruit existed until God thought of it. We’ll talk more about that soon. ”

OPTION 2: SORT AND SEPARATE

Form groups of four or five kids. Provide each group with assorted buttons or another manipulative. Challenge the groups to sort their buttons according to color. Then, ask them to separate the sorted piles based on a secondary attribute, such as shape or size. Continue to add additional attributes to further separate the piles.

SAY “ Good job sorting and separating those buttons. Keeping things organized is a helpful habit. We see organization all over God’s creation. In fact, the first verses of Genesis tell us about God’s creating opposite things then separating them—like light from darkness and oceans from dry land. God did much more than just separate things; He also filled the universe with wonderful creations, like stars, plants, fish, and mammals. Today we will talk more about the organization of God’s creation and what it teaches us about Him. ”

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hey everyone! I’m so glad you all are here. Today is a very special day. Today we are starting a wonderful journey through the Bible. Did any of you bring your Bible with you today? [Allow responses.] The Bible is God’s Word. He gave people exactly the right words to write so we could know everything we need to know about Him and everything we need to know about ourselves.

As many of you can probably guess, the best place to start any journey is at the beginning. So today, that is exactly where we will be—at the very first verse of the very first chapter of the very first book in the Bible. Genesis 1:1 says “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Everything that exists was created by God.”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “That raises a very important question that we will be studying for a few weeks. **Why did God create everything?** God existed before creation, and He is perfect in every way. He has always been perfect in every way. God doesn’t need creation, and creation cannot make God better; perfect means He’s as good as good can be.

As we will learn, **God created everything for His glory and our good.** That means that God made all that He made for our benefit and to show us His own perfection.”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Although our story talks about the beginning, it’s really only the beginning of God’s creation. It is not the beginning of God, because God does not have a beginning. God is eternal, which means He has always existed and will always exist. When we talk about our timeline, it is a timeline of the story God is telling with His work in creation, not a timeline of Him.

Our first story on this timeline of God’s one big story is called “God Created Everything.” As you hear the story, pay attention to what we learn about God through His creation.”

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Created the World.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

“ In the beginning, nothing existed except for God. God created the heavens and the earth. The earth had no shape, and darkness covered the earth. The Spirit of God was there, hovering over the waters.

God spoke: “Let there be light!” What God said happened. God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” Evening came, and then morning came. That was the first day.

God spoke again: “Let there be a space between the waters to separate them.” What God said happened. He made a space between the water that was on the earth and the water above the earth. God called the space “sky.” Evening came, and then morning came. That was the second day.

God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” What God said happened. God called the dry land “earth,” and He called the gathered water “seas.” **God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth make plants and trees with fruits and seeds.” What God said happened.** Plants and trees grew according to their kinds, and God saw that it was good. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the third day.

Next, God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to shine on the earth, to separate day from night, and to help us track time in days and years. **God saw that it was good.** Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fourth day.

Next, God made creatures that move and swim in the water. He made birds to flap their wings and soar across the sky. God saw that it was good. God told the animals to multiply, and they filled the seas and the sky. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fifth day.

Then God made more animals—livestock, creatures that crawl, and wildlife—to live on the earth according to their kinds. When God said it, it happened. And God saw that all of it was good.

Christ Connection: Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. All of creation exists to bring God glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Doodle It: Display a dry erase board. As you tell the story, draw simple figures to represent the different things God created on each day. Number the drawings and review them frequently with the kids.

Call for active listening: Instruct kids to listen for the word *good*. Every time kids hear it, they should give a thumbs up.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ The story of creation is told many times, and as a result we can sometimes take for granted how amazing it is. If we don’t take some time to think about it, we might miss some of the lessons God wants to teach us. There are three really big ideas I want us to understand from this story.

God created everything from nothing. When people create art, we have to start with things that already exist. We cannot paint without using the colors that already exist around us. We cannot sculpt without using stone, clay, or metal to shape. We cannot play music without the sound of created things moving and vibrating. God’s power to create is much greater than our power to create. He simply spoke and creation existed.

God created everything good. Each time God finished with a part of His creation He said that it was good. Again we see the power of God’s words. God is perfect in all His attributes. Everything He created was good because He is good and declared His creation to be good.

God created everything on purpose. God made every single part of creation for a reason. God did nothing by accident or mistake. **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.** When God filled the sky and the seas and the earth with animals, He gave them the ability to multiply and spread His glory further and further. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. All of creation exists to bring God glory. Although everything was perfect in the beginning, we can look around and see that the world is broken by sin. That’s why God sent His Son to become human. Jesus lived a perfect life, died the death we deserve because of sin, and rose again. Anyone who trusts in Him will have her sins forgiven and live forever with God. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 1, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt the kids to discuss:

1. Did someone create God?
2. What is your favorite part of creation, and why?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Many people around the world have never heard that God made them and loves us. God calls Christians to tell others about Him and about His Son, Jesus. A missionary is a follower of Jesus who is sent out to make more disciples for Jesus among the nations and peoples of the earth.

Sometimes the United States of America is shortened to just be called “America,” but did you know that other countries are also part of the world we call “the Americas”? There’s more than a dozen

different countries spread across North America, Central America, and South America. Missionaries live in these areas of the world, sharing the gospel. ”

Show the Americas on a world map. Then play the missions video. Close in prayer, asking God to open the ears of people in the Americas would hear about Him.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read the passage together. Then use Sticky notes to cover a few key words. Challenge the kids to say the passage again, filling in the covered words. Continue covering words in this way until the kids are reciting the key passage from memory.

SAY “ The Book of Psalms contains written praises and prayers. A psalm is basically a song of praise. When we read a psalm, we are reading the lyrics of a worship song written thousands of years ago by God’s people.

Psalm 19:1 helps us understand that God’s creation exists to show us God’s glory. King David wrote Psalm 19, and the first verse tells us that the heavens tell us about God’s glory and goodness. ”

Lead the kids to sing “The Heavens Declare (Psalm 19:1).” You may also choose other worship songs to sing

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

SAY “ Father, You are good and Your creation helps us see how much You love us. We ask You to move in our lives so that every moment is spent loving You and worshiping You. Help us be a part of bringing glory to Your name. Amen. ”

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: SOCCER PASS



Ask kids to sit in a circle. Explain that soccer is the most popular sport in Central and South America.

Challenge kids to pass the ball around the circle using their feet. Kids can pass to the player next to them or to someone across the circle, but all players must touch the ball at least once.

When the ball gets around the circle, ask a question about missions from the “Missions Questions” printable. Call on kids to answer the question. Then play again.

SAY “ Remember that people in our country and in nearby countries need to hear about Jesus. Whether God calls us to go far away or stay nearby, we will have opportunities to share the gospel wherever we are. ”

Close in prayer, thanking God for Christians in the Americas who tell others about Him.

OPTION 2: CREATION CHARADES



Invite a volunteer to act out something God created (Examples: trees, oceans, fish, rocks, lions, birds) without making any sounds. Challenge the rest of the group to guess what object he is pretending to be. Allow the first kid who guesses correctly to act out the next created thing.

SAY “ In a few of those cases, it was a little bit difficult to tell what was being communicated by the acting. The Bible tells us that God created everything, and that God’s creation declares His glory. That means that when we look at creation, we don’t have to guess what it’s communicating to us; we can know for sure that all of creation shows us that God is all-powerful, loving, and good.

This week, consider something in creation that you find cool or interesting. Come up with something that created thing teaches you about God. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 BIBLE SKILLS & REVIEW (10 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 1. Direct kids to use the table of contents at the front of their Bibles to help them if they are unsure of where to find a specific book. Explain the difference between the large chapter numbers and the small verse numbers. You may guide the kids to understand that the reference numbers were added in by people to help us study the Bible, but they were not part of the original writings.

You may also choose to explain the use of Bible divisions and explain that Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament and part of the division known as the Law—the first five books in the Bible. Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote the books of the Law. Then ask the kids to summarize today's Bible story in their own words.

SAY “ Today we started an incredible journey through the Bible. The very first story in the Bible teaches us that God created everything by speaking. Everything God created was good because God is good. **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.** ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the kids to discuss their answers.

SAY “ What are some ways creation can teach us about God? ”

Guide the kids to see that creation is filled with evidence of God's goodness. Help them consider the order we see in nature, such as complex food webs and ecosystems that balance themselves, or the motions of the planets and stars. Guide them to consider some of the amazing ways our bodies work, like converting the plants and animals we eat into energy or receiving sensory input like light or sound to interpret as color and language. Remind them that the goodness and beauty in nature is a reflection of God's goodness and beauty.

SAY “ Why does God deserve all our worship? ”

Help the kids think about the ways God is more excellent than anything in the world. Help them understand that all the wonderful things the world has to offer are the result of God's goodness to create a good world. Help them understand that we owe God everything we have because God not only created everything we see, but He created us. Our ability to enjoy creation is a result of His grace and love toward us.

SAY “ Do you think God wants us to explore and understand His creation? ”

Help the kids to consider the effects of learning about creation. Encourage them to consider the ways understanding God's creation has helped people invent new technology. Remind them that God created us and gave us the ability to think logically and examine the world He created. Help them see that studying and understanding the world can be a wonderful way to worship God when we remember that He is the Creator behind everything we can study.