

Lesson 1

God Creates the World

Bible Lesson: Genesis 1

Memory Verse: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ◆ that the Bible is God's Word and teaches us that God loves us
- ◆ that God is eternal
- ◆ that God created everything

Prepare Materials

- ◆ nametags in the shape of an animal to go along with the Creation theme (pattern ideas in Teacher Manual) or in the shape of a Bible or praying hands as a more general theme
- ◆ attendance chart
- ◆ stickers with picture of Jesus, Bible, or stars for recording attendance each week
- ◆ a children's Bible

- ◆ black and white construction paper 8½"x 11" cut in half horizontally, 1 black piece per child and 3 white pieces per child
- ◆ pictures of Jesus and other Bible characters
- ◆ My Favorite Bible Stories book and other Bible storybooks
- ◆ chart with the words to "The B-I-B-L-E" written on it
- ◆ rhythm instruments (optional)
- ◆ Books of the Bible wall chart
- ◆ tag board strips to fit into each space with the first three books of the Bible written on them (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus)
- ◆ Ambassador Hymnal, 1 for each child
- ◆ index cards with the memory verse written on them, 1 card for each word
- ◆ large sheet of construction paper or freezer paper, 1 per child

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Introduction

First graders trust their teachers. They believe what you say. Once they hear a truth you have told them, they tend to say, "I know that!" when they hear it again. Prayer and preparation are important for you so that your reason for teaching them is clear and accurate. Be careful to keep the lesson on track and avoid distractions.

B. Prayer Preparation

1. Ask God to help you trust His Word. Ask that He would cleanse your heart from sin by the shed blood of Jesus.
2. Thank God for each child you have in class. See them as Jesus would: precious little lambs in need of love and direction and encouragement.

3. Thank God you can offer to these little ones hope and direction from our caring Almighty Heavenly Father.

C. Bible Study

God began our world. He alone is eternal. He always was and always will be. The word God means the worshiped one, who is lasting, binding, firm, strong. He is the Eternal and Supreme Being. In the plural the meaning is the Eternal Powers.

Everything has been made and shaped by Him. He made the heavens with its sun and stars. He made the earth, and He made you and me. This we believe: God is the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Jesus, the Son of God, was with the Father when the world was made (Colossians 1:15-17). The Holy Spirit worked with the Father and the Son to form the world out of confusion and emptiness (Genesis 1:2). Surely the Creation of the heavens and the earth was miraculous. God took that which was without form and made it into something intricate, complex, and beautiful. The tremendous scope of creation, the attention to the finest detail, and God's preservation of what He created is seen in the teaching from this lesson. We affirm earnestly that a Creation so tremendously ordered did not happen by chance.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1) is a verse that believers come back to all their lives. This verse is basic to the faith. Because the Word of God teaches that God created, we believe it. Faith begins here. Through faith we see and believe what is also written in the last book of the Bible, *"For Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed and were created"* (Revelation 4:11).

D. What Is God Like?

We cannot fully comprehend the attributes of God. Some of the truths about Him are gathered for us in Luther's Small Catechism Explained. (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Board of Parish Education, Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 1963.)

1. There is none higher than God. *"For Thou art the Lord Most High over all the earth: Thou art exalted far above all gods"* (Psalm 97:9).
2. God is eternal. *"Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God"* (Psalm 90:2).
3. God is almighty. *"For nothing will be impossible with God"* (Luke 1:37).
4. God is all-knowing. *"God knows all things"* (I John 3:20).
5. God is everywhere present. *"Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence?"* (Psalm 139:7).
6. God is holy. *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory"* (Isaiah 6:3).
7. God is wise. *"O Lord how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou has made them all"* (Psalm 104:24).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

Greet each child by name! Welcome them to the first class of the new school year. Be sure to introduce yourself by name and write your name for the children to see.

It would be nice to have nametags for the children and for yourself. These can be purchased or made in animal shapes to go along with the Creation theme (see pattern ideas in Teacher Manual) or in the shape of a Bible or praying hands as a more general theme. Make them bright and colorful.

Note that there are a variety of ideas included in each lesson to help you teach the Bible text. You probably will not have time to do all the activities and music that are listed. You are encouraged each week to select the ideas that will work best with your particular class.

Use a Learning Center

ART CENTER – THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD

Have each child make a Bible. To do this they will need three pieces of 8½" x 5½" paper and one piece of black paper the same size.

PLACE the three white pieces of paper on the table. Then place the black paper on the top. Now **FOLD** the papers in half to make a book. **STAPLE** along the fold line.

Give the children pictures of Jesus and other Bible characters. These could be cut from old

Sunday school papers. Have the children **GLUE** the pictures into their book. This will be their "Bible."

They may also **WRITE** or **COLOR** to add other things to their Bibles. Help them decide what kinds of things they would find in the Bible (Bible characters, Bible verses, or themes).

STORY CENTER – GOD’S WORD IS TRUE

Have several Bible storybooks available for the children to look through. Include with these books My Favorite Bible Stories. Also include a children’s Bible for them to look at. **TELL** them these stories all come from the Bible, and the Bible is true. We can believe everything that we read in the Bible because it is God’s Word.

MUSIC CENTER – WE SING ABOUT GOD’S WORD

INTRODUCE the song "The B-I-B-L-E" p.335 Ambassador Hymnal, p.17 Salvation Songs Favorites, or p.48 Little Ones Sing Praise. Have the words written on a chart for the children to read. Some of the children may not be able to read, but they will still have something to look at as you sing.

SING the song for the children, then sing it together. For extra practice, give the children rhythm instruments and let them play while you sing the song. Encourage them to sing and play at the same time.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

The theme hymn for the first quarter is "We Praise Thee, O God" from the Ambassador Hymnal p.188 and printed on the back cover of the student books and Teacher Manual. **INTRODUCE** this song today. It would be

especially helpful for each child to have his own hymnal to read from.

Before class begins, prepare an illustrated version of the hymn on tag board. Each week, help the class learn the hymn by pointing out the visual clues and by teaching them to read

some of the words. A sample pattern is included in this manual.

You may also want to consider beginning one of the theme hymn projects listed in the introductory pages of this manual.

Begin by **READING** the words to the first verse for the class to listen to:

*We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,
We bless Thy holy name, glad praises we sing.*

If there are children who can read in the class, have them each read one line of the hymn. **DRAW ATTENTION** to the mention of God being our Creator in line one. Have a child define what that means. Help them as necessary. (God created the whole world. God created you and me.)

Now sing the first verse of the hymn for the children as they hum along. Last of all, have them sing it with you.

Pray the Message

TELL the children what prayer is (talking to God) and why we pray (to thank God for what He has given us and to ask for His help with what we need). Lead in prayer thanking God for each child by name and praising Him for bringing us all together to learn more about Him from the Bible.

Learn the New Words

eternal Without beginning or end. God is eternal, and has always been and will always be.

Bible God's Word to man. It tells us everything we need to know about God. The Bible contains many books with different names.

Genesis The first book of the Bible, and it means beginning.

wise To know and do what is true and right.

Introduce the Message

CHOOSE one child to close his eyes for a moment. Ask that child what he sees. Ask him to turn and face a different direction while keeping his eyes closed. Again ask him what he sees. Then ask another child to do the same.

TELL the children that this is the way that the world began. It was dark and empty, with nothing. Our story today will tell us more.

Read/Tell the Message

Pick up your Bible and **ASK**: What is this? Wait for their responses, but make sure that you do **SAY**: The Bible is God's Holy Word.

Then **ASK**: Why is this book so important? If the desired response is given, affirm them. **SAY**: This book is important because it is God's Word to us. Everything in the Bible is true. We can always believe what is written in the Bible because it is impossible for God to lie. God is truth. We are going to hear a story today about our Bibles and about how God created the world.

READ the first and second paragraphs. Give the children a chance to answer the first question. Help them state the attributes of God, such as loving, helper, creator, knows all about us, is always with us.

READ through the next two paragraphs. Then **ASK**: What does the Bible tell us? Make sure the children get the idea that the Bible tells of God's love for us.

ASK: What is the first book of the Bible? (Genesis) **READ** to the end of the story.

ASK: What does it mean to be eternal? Help them understand that it means that God has always been alive and will always be alive. He will never die.

GOD CREATES THE WORLD

When you close your eyes, what do you see? No matter which way you turn, you can't see anything. Everything is blackness or darkness. Did you know that this is the way

that our world used to be? We are going to learn from our Bibles today about how our world became like it is now.

The Bible is God's Word and is completely true. Our Bible tells us everything we need to know about God. Can you tell me some things that you know about God?

In the Bible God tells us how much He loves us. He tells us how we can love Him too and live for Him. What a precious book the Bible is! We should read it every day.

The Bible has many books. Each book has a name. The name of the first book is Genesis, which means beginning. In the beginning of Genesis, it says God created the heavens and the earth. At first the earth was dark and empty. There was no sun or moon or stars. There were no people, no trees, no animals, no sky or water or mountains.

But there was God. God has always been and will always be. He is eternal. God is also wise. He is the one who changed our world from being dark and empty to being the big, beautiful place that we live in. It took God just six days to make the heavens and the earth and everything in them. God made flowers and ants and grains of sand. God also made animals and trees. And He made people so He could talk with them and be with them. God saw all that He had made, and it was good.

Reinforce the Message

SING again the song "The B-I-B-L-E." Remind the children that the Bible is the Word of God, and we can trust it completely!

ASK: What is one of the most important things that the Bible teaches us? (that God loves us!)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize the Bible Verse

SING "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" printed in student books and Teacher Manual. This will be the theme song to prepare for learning the memory verse each week. When you begin singing this song, it will let the children know that it is time to hide God's Word in their hearts.

Before class begins, write each word from the memory verse on individual index cards. Also **WRITE** the reference on a card. Now place these cards on the table in the correct order. **POINT** to the words as the class reads together (or have a child point).

*In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1*

Now **REMOVE** one card and read the verse again, filling in the missing word. Continue with this process, having the class or individuals say the verse from memory. If time permits, allow the children to work together and put the cards back in the proper order.

Make sure each child has a chance to say the verse before the class time is over. You may wish to have a chart on which you could place a sticker or a star if the child says the verse. Include yourself!

When you are done with the memory cards, place them in a Memory Basket to save for review during another class time. This Memory Basket can be used each week to store a craft or activity page that teaches the Bible memory verse. (See "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" music page for instructions on how to make the Memory Basket.)

Study the Books of the Bible

Before class begins, prepare a wall chart for teaching the Books of the Bible that can be used throughout the quarter. A readymade chart is available from AFLC Parish Education, or you may create your own out of tag board. Also have tag board strips made for the first three books of the Bible.

If time permits, you may want to tell briefly about each book as you introduce it each week.

ASK: Does anyone remember the name of the first book of the Bible from our story today? (Genesis) **SAY:** Remember we also learned that the Bible has many books.

ASK: Do you know how many books there are in the Bible? (66) **SAY:** We are going to be learning the names to a few of these books each week! By the end of the year, we will know all 66 books!

EXPLAIN: The Bible has two different parts. One part is called the Old Testament, and the other part is called the New Testament. This quarter we will be learning all the names of the books in the Old Testament. There are 39 books in the Old Testament.

SAY: Remember the first book of the Bible is **Genesis**. Genesis means beginning. This book starts at the beginning of the world with Creation.. It tells of the first people and how they became a family and a nation. **PLACE** the tag board strip on the chart as you say Genesis. Have the children say it, spell it, and then say it again.

Now introduce **Exodus**. **SAY:** Exodus is the story of Moses. It begins with his birth and continues to tell of the exit of the Jews from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. It also tells how God gave the Ten Commandments. **REPEAT** the first two books as you place the Exodus strip on the chart.

SAY: The third book is **Leviticus**. Leviticus tells the story of the tribe of Levi who were chosen to care for the tabernacle, God's tent church. Leviticus tells about many of the laws God gave to His people, what they needed to know about offerings and feasts, and how to worship in the tabernacle. Have the children **SAY, SPELL,** and **SAY** the word Leviticus as you place the strip on the chart.

***The above information is from the Books of the Bible flannelgraph. See Resource List.*

Note that several resources are available from AFLC Parish Education to help you teach the books of the Bible each week. Some of these ideas include a visual story about the history of the Bible, flannelgraph, short story booklet, bookmark, wall charts, and pamphlets.

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 – God Created the Heavens and the Earth

Using a large piece of construction paper or freezer paper, the students will make a mural of the universe.

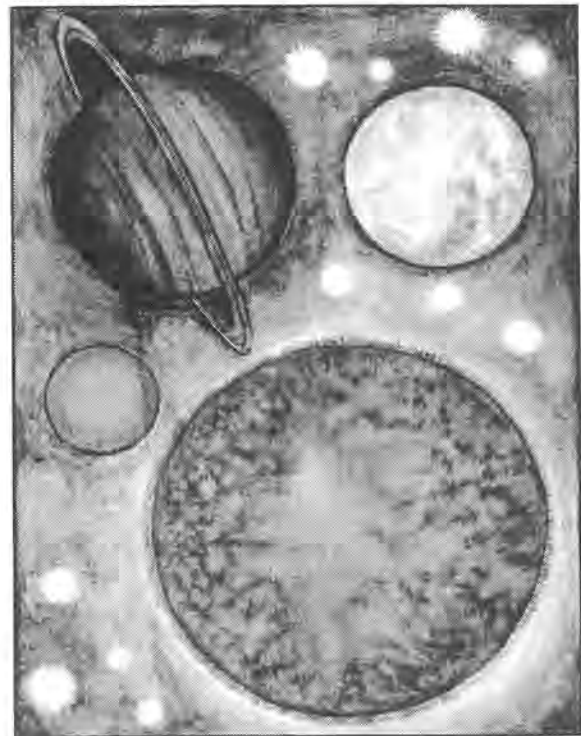
Have each student **CUT OUT** the pictures of the earth, sun, moon, planets, and stars and arrange them on their paper. Help the children to **GLUE** the pictures onto their paper. If time allows, you may also want to write the memory verse on each student's paper with a color crayon or marker.

SAY: God created the things we see here on the earth. Can you name some of these things? (animals, birds, trees, flowers)

SAY: God also created the heavens with all the stars and planets. It took God just six days to make the heavens and the earth and everything in them! On the seventh day God rested. God saw all that He had made, and it was good!

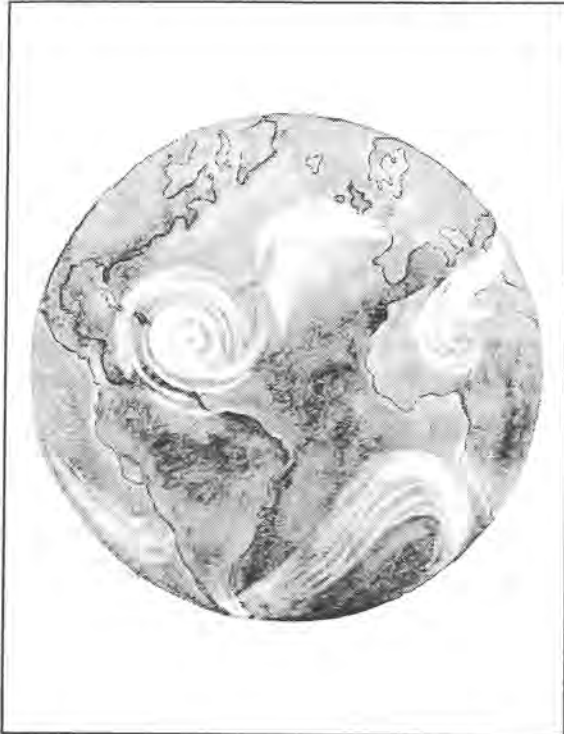
Lesson 1 – Activity 1

God Creates the World



Lesson 1 - Activity 1

God Creates the World



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ACTIVITY 2 - Memory Verse Code

Using the code box at the top of the activity page, ask the students to **WRITE** the corresponding letter on the line that matches the symbol. You may need to show them how to do the first several blanks. Then let them continue on their own. Help any child who may need assistance.

When the students have finished with the lettering, **READ** the verse together to help reinforce the memory verse for this lesson.

*In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1*

Lesson 1 - Activity 2

God Creates the World

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Teach and Sing

Teach the song "My God Is So Great" p.64 Little Ones Sing Praise. This is an active song to end the day with and allows the children a chance to move a little.

Help guide the children with the following actions:

My God is so great
(kneel, then jump up with hands above head)
so strong and so mighty!
(flex one arm, then the other)
There's nothing my God cannot do.
(shake head side to side)

The mountains are His,
(place tips of fingers together like a tent)
the rivers are His,
(make rippling motion with fingers)
the stars are His handiwork too.
(point to the sky)

Emphasize that God is able to do anything. He created the whole world in only six days. He made the mountains and the valleys and the stars in the skies. He made people so He could talk with them and be with them. He loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior from sin. There is nothing that God cannot do!

SING "The Wonder Song" p.21 Salvation Songs Favorites. Let each child think of one thing that God has created that no one else could. Be sure to sing the last two verses emphasizing that only God can make our hearts clean from sin, and only God can give the wonderful gift of salvation.

Pray Together

Introduce prayer time by **TELLING** children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. **EXPLAIN:** We do this so that we can think only about Jesus. Then we won't distract others, and we aren't distracted by others while we pray.

ASK children to volunteer to pray. If they don't know what to pray for, **SUGGEST** that they thank God for their Sunday school and church, for Jesus, and for taking their sins away.

At this age you might want to suggest the words to pray, such as: Thank You, God, for my Sunday school. Amen.

Remember to collect the nametags as students are leaving if you would like to use them again next week.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Gather and Prepare Materials

- ◆ soft rubber ball
- ◆ small paper bags, 1 per child
- ◆ memory verse cards from last week
- ◆ construction paper, 2 sheets per child
- ◆ rhythm instruments including bells (optional)
- ◆ pictures of animals, people, trees, flowers, and sun for use with the Bible story
- ◆ tag board strips for books of the Bible chart with the words Numbers and Deuteronomy
- ◆ large piece of tag board (optional)
- ◆ several pieces of various colors of construction paper (optional)
- ◆ 12 wooden clothespins (optional)

Prepare Lesson 2

Begin your study and preparation with prayer.

Pray for each student daily by name.

Read the Bible text (Genesis 1) and student lesson.

Memorize the Bible verse:

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Read the Teacher Manual.

Highlight, underline, and write in your own notes to help you teach Lesson 2.

