



UNIT 1 | SESSION 1

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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



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	Filled
Day 1: Light from darkness	Day 4: Sun, moon, stars
Day 2: Sky from water	Day 5: Birds and fish
Day 3: Land from oceans	Day 6: Animals

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: DESCRIBE AND DRAW



Before the session, write the names of various created things on separate index cards. (Examples: clouds, earth, ocean, flower, tree, sun, moon, stars, bird, fish, cow, snake, giraffe) Prepare one per kid.

Instruct each kid to find a partner. Tell partners to sit back to back. Give partner 1 a piece of paper, a marker, and a clipboard. Give partner 2 a creation card.

Explain that partner 2 will describe to partner 1 how to draw the creation named on the card. She may not say what it is. Partner 1 will draw based on partner 2's instructions and try to guess the creation.

When a partner guesses the creation, give them a new card and paper so they can switch roles and play again.

SAY “ Was it easy or hard to draw something just by hearing about it? Imagine trying to draw something you have never seen before! When God created the world, He made everything out of nothing. Let’s hear more. ”

OPTION 2: QUICK CREATIONS

Choose two volunteers to compete in a creation contest. Give them construction blocks or play dough and explain that they will have 30 seconds to form something you name.

Announce something volunteers can create with their supplies. (Examples: clouds, earth, ocean, flower, tree, sun, moon, stars, bird, fish, cow, snake, giraffe) Start a timer.

After 30 seconds, call for the volunteers to stop. Instruct them to display their creations for the group. Kids may clap for the creation they like better. Play additional rounds, choosing two new volunteers to form a different creation each time.

SAY “ Great job, everyone! How do your creations compare to the real thing? [Pause for kids to respond.] When God created the world, He didn’t use clay or sticks or anything. He created everything out of nothing—just by speaking! We will hear more in today’s Bible story about creation. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION

SAY “ Today and over the next couple of weeks, we are going to be thinking about a big picture question. The big picture question helps us learn and remember something that is true about God or ourselves. It reminds us that beyond the smaller details of a Bible story, God is working out a greater plan.

Our big picture question is, **Why did God create everything?** Now that is a great question. Have you ever wondered why God created everything? Does anyone have any ideas? [Pause for kids to respond.] Here’s the answer: **God created everything for His glory and our good.** Can you remember those two reasons? His glory and our good. God’s glory shows His importance and greatness. Let’s say it together: **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.** ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER

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 bolded 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

Use hand motions:

As you tell the story, use hand motions as you describe what God created. For example, move your hands up and down like waves to represent water or form a circle as the sun.

Call for active listening:

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

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ What an incredible story! Have you ever looked around and wondered how everything started? The Bible tells us that God is the Creator of all things.

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Who can tell me what God did to create everything? Look at verse 3. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud **Genesis 1:3**.] God didn't just combine or rearrange existing things to make something new; God made everything from nothing. He spoke and it happened. God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light!

God separated the light from the darkness, the sky from the water, and the land from the oceans. Then He filled His creation—with plants and trees, the moon and stars, and all kinds of animals.

Now, there was something all of God's creation had in common. Did you notice what it was? [Choose volunteers to read **Gen. 1:4,10,12,18,20,24**.] God saw that everything He made was good.

When God created the world, it was just how He wanted it. God rules over all He has made. He is King, and He is good. **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.**

Now, wait a second. After God created animals, He wasn't finished creating. We left out a very important part of creation. Do you know what it is? [Allow kids to respond.] That's right—people! God also made people on the sixth day. We will hear more about that the next time we meet. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ This is the first story in the Bible. Every Bible story fits together to tell one big story about God's plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus. We will see how each story in the Bible points to Jesus. As you think of the story of creation, remember that 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.

God made us to bring Him glory, but as we will see as we read the Bible, sin has ruined the perfect world He created. We all sin, and that's why Jesus came to die for us and rise again. ”

(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.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ How do we know there is a God? ”

Invite kids to share their thoughts. Lead them to discuss how all of creation points to its Creator. Encourage kids to think about God when they see a colorful sunset or the intricate details of a leaf.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 1:20.)

| **SAY** “ If you were to create a new world, what would it be like? How would you create it? ”

Encourage kids to describe an ideal world. Remind them that when God created the world, it was perfect. Explain that the world is not perfect now because of sin. But one day Jesus will come and make all things new.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 21:5.)

| **SAY** “ In what ways are we like God the Creator? How are we different from Him? ”

Allow kids to discuss their ideas. Encourage them to think about what they learned about God from the Bible story. Point out how God created; He also gives us skills, intelligence, and knowledge to create and bring beauty into the world through things like art and music. Remind kids that unlike God, people are limited to create with existing things. God is the ultimate Creator, and everything—including people—depends on Him for life and purpose.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 35:31-32.)