




God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Children this age love God’s creation. They enjoy chasing a butterfly or looking at clouds in the sky. They’re in awe of animals and can easily name any animals they see as they tell you all about them. Use this lesson to capture their inherent interest and help them see that God made all the things they enjoy in creation.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	God Made It All Learn that God created the heavens and earth.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what an empty box has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Hide the empty Surprise Box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: God Creates the World Arrange the “Creation” cards to learn about the days of Creation.	Bible, CD player, washable markers Teacher Pack: CD, “Creation” cards, and “God’s Creation” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Separate the “Creation” cards, and lay them in random order on the floor where the children will sit.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **Bible Point**
God made everything.

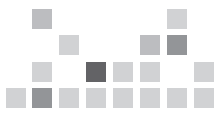
Key Verse
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will thank God for his beautiful creation.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Colorful World Paint a picture of a colorful world.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable watercolor paints (including green and blue), paper towels, cups of water, 1 paintbrush per child Teacher Pack: eyedroppers</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Edible World Make an edible creation scene.</p>	<p>paper plates, small bowls, black and white sandwich cookies, small marshmallows, pretzel sticks, fish-shaped crackers, animal crackers, small round snack crackers, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Place some of each of the snack items in a small bowl for each child.</p>
	<p>Center 3: Days of the First Week Think of ways to act out what happened on each day of Creation.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Creation" cards </p>	
	<p>Center 4: Creative Creations Make creations using building blocks.</p>	<p>Bible, building blocks</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>"Wonderful Creation" Prayer Thank God for their favorite creations.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	<p>Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



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Genesis 1:1–2:3

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God’s Beginnings With Humans

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Nor is it just the beginning of our world. It’s the beginnings of God’s working with humans. In fact, “beginning” is the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new season than at the beginning!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It’s interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was unified.

God’s Creation Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus isn’t so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read “God said” and then some variation of “and it was so.” God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated “good” here is a common Hebrew word that, like our word *good*, can have several meanings. Here, it likely has no moral connotation but means “just as it should be.” God looked at what he had done and knew it was right.

After Creating, God Rested

God was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he created last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but “seed-bearing plants and trees...according to their various kinds”; not just one star, but “lights in the expanse of the sky”; not just one fish, but “every living and moving thing with which the water teems.” God

prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy. And then God created humans. We’re a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth “in all their vast array,” he rested. Why? God wasn’t tired. God didn’t need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. The seventh day became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.

The Jesus Connection

God’s creation is inspiring, and the gift of his Son is lifesaving. Thank God for the beauty of life in nature and in our hearts through a relationship with Jesus! Show love for God’s creation during the lesson this week, and help others see that the Creator has given them new life through Jesus as well.

What in nature amazes you? Oceans of beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God’s design, and consider how God has designed your life, too. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Learning and
Laughing” (track 2),
“Genesis 1:1” (track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tips Don’t know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children’s songs.

Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in doing the actions and singing “Learning and Laughing” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Boom, Boom, Ain’t It Great to Be Crazy?”



Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Learning and laughing with all my friends! (*twist in place*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **The Bible says that God made the entire world and everything in it. Let’s sing a song to help us remember that ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING.**

Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing and doing the motions to “Genesis 1:1” (track 3 on the CD).



Genesis 1:1, (*hold up an index finger for each “1”*)

It’s a whole lotta fun (*smile big*)

’Cause that’s where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted, (*put hands together; then move apart*)

Before God told Noah (*cup hands around mouth*)

To build a big boat, (*stretch arms wide*)

Way before Joshua

Marched around Jericho. (*march in place*)



(Chorus)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah! *(spread arms toward the sky)*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah! *(spread arms toward the sky)*

Genesis 1:1, *(hold up an index finger for each "1")*

It's a whole lotta fun *(smile big)*

'Cause that's where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted, *(put hands together; then move apart)*

Before God told Abraham *(cup hands around mouth)*

He'd be the father of nations, *(fold arms and rock like you're holding a baby)*

Way before Jesus *(extend arms like Jesus on the cross)*

Came to redeem us. Yeah! *(hug self)*

(Sing chorus.)

Genesis 1:1, *(hold up an index finger for each "1")*

It's a whole lotta fun *(smile big)*

'Cause that's where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted. *(put hands together; then move apart)*

Before God told David *(cup hands around mouth)*

That he could slay a giant, *(make a throwing motion)*

Way before me *(point to self)*

And everything I see. Yeah! *(point to eyes)*

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1!

"Genesis 1:1" by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **I'm so glad you've come to church today where we'll learn about how**

► GOD MADE EVERYTHING.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

God Made It All

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.



God Made It All
Supplies

Bible





Say: Today we'll look at the beginning of the Bible to learn how ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. Our Key Verse from the Bible, Genesis 1:1, says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Let's say the Key Verse together. Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you.

Say: **Way back in the very beginning of time, there was nothing but darkness**. Have the kids close their eyes and keep them closed.

Ask:

- What do you like or not like about the dark?

Say: **God changed the darkness by creating light and life**. Have children open their eyes. ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. God created the heavens and the earth, plants and animals, and people—everything!

Let's say our Key Verse one more time. Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Ask a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the empty box around the circle so the rest of the children can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what's in the box?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: What can we do with *nothing*? *(Pause.)* Theo, why is the Surprise Box empty?

Theo: Well, we can't do much of anything with nothing!

Teacher: That's right, Theo, but in the Bible today, we'll find out ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING** at the beginning of time when there was *nothing*! Friends, let's read the Bible to find out what happened!

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

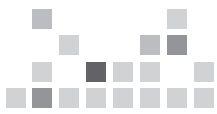
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Hide the empty Surprise Box where it's easily accessible.



Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.


Bible Time: God Creates the World

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 1, and show the children the words. Tell children the Bible is God's special book.

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING. The Bible tells us that in the beginning there was nothing, just like there was nothing in our Surprise Box. The Bible also tells us that it was very dark. You can make it dark by closing your eyes again. Pause while the kids close their eyes. Now put your hands over your eyes to make it even darker. Keep your eyes closed and listen while I play some sounds. Open your eyes when you hear the first words, and find each card as the song mentions the picture on it.**

Play "It Was Good" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The track begins with sounds of water. When the words to the song begin, have the kids open their eyes and choose the card they hear about. Then have them arrange the cards in order.

 **On the first day, God made light!
And on the first day, God made night.
On the first day, God made light.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the second day, God made the sky,
Way above our heads, oh so high!
On the second day, God made the sky.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the third day, God made the land
And trees and plants, just as he'd planned!
On the third day, God made the land.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the fourth day, God made the sun
And the moon and stars...he made every one!
On the fourth day, God made the sun.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the fifth day, God made fish and birds,
The little swimming fishies and the flying birds.
On the fifth day, God made fish and birds!
And God saw it was good!**



Bible Time: God Creates the World Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- washable markers
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "It Was Good" (track 6)
- "Creation" cards
- "God's Creation" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: God Creates the World Easy Prep

Separate the "Creation" cards, and lay them in random order on the floor where the children will sit.





**On the sixth day, God made man
And all the animals on the land.
On the sixth day, God made man.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the seventh day, God took a rest.
He looked around and called it blessed.
On the seventh day, God took a rest.
And God saw it was good!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Set out the “God’s Creation” poster and washable markers. Encourage kids to draw their favorite things on the poster. For example, if a child loves penguins, he or she might want to draw a penguin on the poster, or another child might want to draw his or her pet on the poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Which day of Creation is the most exciting for you? Why?**
- Hold up the “Creation” cards one by one and give children time to respond to the following question for each card: **Why is everything God made on this day of Creation good?**
- **What are some ways we can enjoy these good things God created?**

Set the “Creation” cards aside for use later in the lesson.

Center 1: Colorful World Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable watercolor
paints (including green
and blue)
paper towels
cups of water
1 paintbrush per child
Teacher Pack
eyedroppers

Center 1: Colorful World Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 1
pages from each My
Bible Playground book.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

■ **CENTER 1:** **Colorful World**

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on





their papers. Invite a child to help you demonstrate the activity on one of the pages. Use an eyedropper to place four to five drops of green and blue watercolor paint in the white circle. Pick up the paper and carefully move it side to side and in a circular motion to allow the watercolor to move on the paper. Then have the child place the page back down and lay folded paper towels on top to absorb excess liquid. A small amount of the watercolor paint design will remain on the page. Let the other children try the experiment on their own pages, and then have them use watercolors to finish creating their colorful worlds.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like most about making your colorful page?
- Tell about the things you painted onto your colorful world.
- What can we do to thank God for creating our world with so many beautiful colors?

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING** in the heavens and on the beautiful earth. Let's remember to thank God for all of the good things he has made.

■ **CENTER 2:**

Edible World

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands.

Review the events of Creation as told in the Bible passage, reminding kids of the things God made on each day. Pause after each day to let kids create something from that particular day using the snack items in their bowls. For example, on their paper plates they might place a sandwich cookie that has been separated into two parts, showing how God separated the light from the darkness. The marshmallows can be added to represent clouds in the sky. The snack crackers can represent land. The pretzel sticks can be trees or stick people. Let kids be creative and only make suggestions as needed. After each step of Creation, remind children that everything God made is good.

When all of the items are arranged, have kids pause to thank God for the amazing things he made. Then encourage children to enjoy eating their way through their edible world.

Say: **We enjoy our snack because it's yummy and tastes good. Everything God made is good, too.**



Center 2: Edible World Supplies

-
- paper plates
 - small bowls
 - black and white sandwich cookies
 - small marshmallows
 - pretzel sticks
 - fish-shaped crackers
 - animal crackers
 - small round snack crackers
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

! **ALLERGY ALERT**

Center 2: Edible World Easy Prep

Place some of each of the snack items in a small bowl for each child.





Center 3: Days of the
First Week
Supplies

Teacher Pack
“Creation” cards

Center 4: Creative
Creations
Supplies

Bible
building blocks

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s good about your edible creation?
- What other tasty things has God created for our world?
- What can you do to remember to thank God for his creation when you’re enjoying a good meal or treat?

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**, and God wants us to enjoy the world he made. We can thank God for good food, and enjoy mealtimes with our families. There are lots of ways we can enjoy the world God made!

■ CENTER 3:

Days of the First Week

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Set out the “Creation” cards. Have children think of ways to act out each day. For example, for the first day, kids might close and open their eyes; and for the second day, kids might jump up high with their hands pointed to the sky. Have the kids take turns leading one another in the motions for each card.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like most about the world God created?
- What can you tell someone about that thing?

Say: It’s fun to talk about how ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. We thank God when we talk about his wonderful creation.

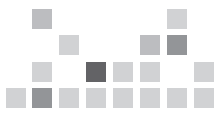
■ CENTER 4:

Creative Creations

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When God made the world, he started with nothing but he still made everything in our world. God is very creative! We can be creative, too.** Have kids form trios, and give each group building blocks. **We’re going to make examples of what God made on each day of Creation using only building blocks. With your group, you can be creative and think of ways to use your blocks to quickly make an example of the things I read about from the Bible.**





Read aloud from Genesis about each day of Creation. Pause after you read what was created and allow kids one minute to build an example of something created on that day.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it hard or easy to create objects using only the blocks?
- What do you think about God creating the whole world out of nothing?

Say: **God was able to make the sky and the land and every living thing without any supplies or anyone’s help. God didn’t need any blocks—or anything at all. God simply spoke and the world was created. Only God is able to do such wonderful things. ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING, including you and me. Let’s thank him for his creative creation.**

Pray: **God, thank you for creating everything. We love your creation! In Jesus’ name, amen.**



5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING. I’d like each of you to choose a way to thank God for his creation this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- Ask your mom or dad to let you take pictures of things you love in God’s creation. Then say a prayer of thanks for what’s in each picture.
- Go outside with a family member or friend. Point out something that God made on each day of Creation.
- Ask your mom or dad to help you visit kids.nationalgeographic.com on the Internet and look at all the wonderful animals God created! Tell what you like most about the way God made each animal.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Playground





Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“Wonderful Creation” Prayer

What You'll Do

Ask kids each to think of one thing from creation they want to thank God for. Tell them to shout the name of that thing when you count to three. Count to three, and have kids shout their thanks. Calm the kids after their shouts of thanks, and then say the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for all the wonderful things you made. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Playground

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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