



God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to see that a world exists beyond their neighborhood or town. They begin to understand that there are delights of God’s creation they haven’t yet experienced. Continuing to introduce them to unusual wonders of God’s world is a way to overcome the typical preadolescent apathy toward Sunday school. Use this lesson to show kids the captivating wonder of God’s creation.



► **Bible Point**
God made the world.

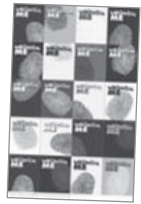
Key Verse
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Preteens will thank God for creating them in his image.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Create-a-World <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create their own worlds, and discuss God’s creation of our world.	Bible Buzz; CD player; a variety of art supplies such as glitter glue, yarn, and markers; construction paper Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Creation Descriptions <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Look closely at one day of Creation, and prepare a presentation.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, markers, paper Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	A Wonderful Event <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play Creation Tag, and talk about God creating the universe.	Bible, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Image of God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Stamp fingerprints on cards, and discuss being created in God's image.	Bible, wet wipes, colored pencils Teacher Pack: stamp pads, "Uniquely Me" cards 	Separate the "Uniquely Me" cards.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Creates the World

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.





Create-a-World Supplies

Bible Buzz
CD player
a variety of art supplies
such as glitter glue,
yarn, and markers
construction paper
Teacher Pack
CD: "Construction
Noises" (track 2)

Create-a-World Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

Creation Descriptions Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
markers
paper
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

1 GETTING STARTED

Create-a-World

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have children form three equal groups, and distribute this week's Bible Buzz page. Say: **Find the "Create-a-World" section on your Bible Buzz page. Read the instructions in your groups, and then create your worlds using any of the art supplies provided. You'll have eight minutes to create your world and prepare to present it to the rest of the group.** Play "Construction Noises" (track 2 on the CD) while kids work.

When time is up, have groups present their creations and explain how and why they created what they did.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

When everyone has presented, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like using your imagination to create a world of your own?
- What did you discover about the joys and difficulties of creation?
- What's amazing about watching something new being made out of a mixture of other things?

Say: **This activity gave us a glimpse of what's involved in creating something. Today we're going to explore God's incredible creation of our world. Let's begin by exploring some of the amazing things God included when ► GOD MADE THE WORLD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Creation Descriptions

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the Bible Timeline, and point to the "Creation" picture.

Say: **Today we'll be looking way back in time to the very beginning, when ► GOD MADE THE WORLD.**



Direct kids to the “Amazing Facts About the Earth” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Invite willing children to take turns reading the facts until all are read aloud.

Ask:

- Which of those facts provided new discoveries for you? What amazed you about those facts?
- What do you think of a God who could create an amazing world like ours?

Have children form six groups. (A group can be one person.) Give each group a Bible, paper, and several markers, and assign each group one day of Creation to research using the following verses in Genesis:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Group 1/Day 1—Genesis 1:1-5 | Group 2/Day 2—Genesis 1:6-8 |
| Group 3/Day 3—Genesis 1:9-13 | Group 4/Day 4—Genesis 1:14-19 |
| Group 5/Day 5—Genesis 1:20-23 | Group 6/Day 6—Genesis 1:24-31 |

Say: **After reading your Bible passage with your group, draw a cartoon of what happened on the day of Creation you read about. Be as detailed as possible. You’ll have 10 minutes to create your cartoons.**

When groups have finished, have them present their cartoons for everyone to see. Begin with the group presenting Day One, and continue through each of the following days. Invite a representative from each group to stay up front holding that group’s cartoon as others present and add to the visual progress of the days of Creation.

Talk With Kids

When all the groups have presented, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What differences do you see between the world God created and the cartoons you created?
- When you consider the amazing facts of Creation, how do your cartoons compare to God’s work?
- What’s your reaction to everything God’s made—the world and everything in it?

Say: **It may seem strange to talk about how you react to God’s creation. But it’s hard to look at everything that God did without having a feeling about it. When you step back and look at what God did when ► GOD MADE THE WORLD, it’s incredible to think about the work and emotion that God put into it. God shows us how much he loves us by creating this amazing world for us to live in.**





A Wonderful Event Supplies

Bible

copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Genesis 1:1"
(track 3)

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Wonderful Event

What You'll Do

Read this week's Key Verse, Genesis 1:1, to the group: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).**

Say: **That's a short verse with a *big* meaning! What do you think this verse tells us about God?** Allow time. **Let's sing "Genesis 1:1" to help us better understand the Key Verse.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Genesis 1:1" (track 3 on the CD). Sing along with the kids, and refer to the lyrics page for the words.



Genesis 1:1:

It's a whole lotta fun,
'Cause that's where it all started,
Before the Red Sea parted,
Before God told Noah
To build a big boat,
Way before Joshua
Marched around Jericho.

(Chorus)

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah!
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah!**

Genesis 1:1:

It's a whole lotta fun,
'Cause that's where it all started,
Before the Red Sea parted,
Before God told Abraham
He'd be the father of nations,
Way before Jesus
Came to redeem us.

(Sing chorus.)

Genesis 1:1:

It's a whole lotta fun,
'Cause that's where it all started,
Before the Red Sea parted.
Before God told David
That he could slay a giant,



**Way before me
And everything I see. Yeah!**

(Sing 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: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD** and everything in it. He had to think of all the different things that are in nature! Let’s see how quickly we can recall some of the things God created. We’re going to play a game of Creation Tag. When you get tagged, you have to shout out something God created—and it can’t be something someone already named. If you pause before you answer, you’re out! Select a child to be the first Tagger. Be prepared to judge whether a child answers quickly enough and whether there’s a repeat answer. You may also have to judge whether something is truly God-made versus man-made.

After a couple of minutes, appoint a new Tagger. The longer the game goes on, the harder it will be for kids to quickly think of things that haven’t been named.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like trying to quickly name different things God created?**
- **How does that change your perspective on what it was like for God to create everything out of nothing?**
- **Of all the things you named, which is most amazing to you? Why?**
- **What can you do to appreciate the many things God made?**

Say: **When we simply say that ► GOD MADE THE WORLD**, it might not seem that extraordinary. But when we think about all the details that went into making the world, it’s pretty amazing to think of the kind of creative God we serve! And you can continue to break things down into more and more detail when you think about all the microscopic parts that make trees grow leaves and animals able to run. God made us with a lot of detail, too. In fact, we’re his most precious creation!





Image of God Supplies

Bible
wet wipes
colored pencils
Teacher Pack
stamp pads
“Uniquely Me” cards

Image of God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather kids together, and read Genesis 1:26-27 aloud.

Say: **The greatest thing about God's creation is that God created you and me. And it's incredible to know that God loved the work he did in creating us.**

Give each child a “Uniquely Me” card, and set out the stamp pads.

Say: **Take turns using a stamp pad to stamp your thumbprint or fingerprint on the back of your “Uniquely Me” card. You can clean your hands with a wet wipe after you've made your fingerprint. Allow time. Then turn your fingerprint into a person doing something that describes you—you might turn your print into a head and draw a body playing soccer, piano, or anything that shows something you like to do. Allow time, and then have kids find partners and compare fingerprints.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you discover about your fingerprint as you compared it with others' fingerprints?**

Again read Genesis 1:26-27 aloud.

Ask:

- **What does being made in the image of God mean to you?**
- **Why does that make each person special?**
- **What can you do with the interests and talents God gave you to take care of the world he made?**

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD—and each one of us—incredibly unique. The fingerprint on your card is the only one like it in the entire world. You're truly one-of-a-kind. Even though we're all different, God's image is in all of us. Because God's image lives in each of us, we can strive to represent God's image in positive ways in our lives. We can thank God for his creation by treating each other and the world God gave us with respect and care. Let's talk about how we can do that this week.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can thank God this week for the awesome way**

▶ **GOD MADE THE WORLD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Do one thing you don't normally do to take care of God's creation.**
- **Spend time outside thanking God for his wonderful creation.**
- **Write a letter to God telling him what you're thankful for in his creation.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: **Remember, treating others and our world with respect is a great way to thank God for his creation. Let's remember that ▶ GOD MADE THE WORLD as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

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.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's creation. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids form pairs and share one thing they're thankful for about God's creation. For example, kids might respond, "I'm thankful that God created fruit because I really like oranges." When kids have shared, have them hold their "Uniquely Me" cards and thank God for creating them in God's image. Close your prayer with, **"Thank you, God, for the way you made the world and each one of us. In Jesus' name, amen."**



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Buzz

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Buzz

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Buzz student book.





Lyrics ■■■■

Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1:
 It's a whole lotta fun,
 'Cause that's where it all started,
 Before the Red Sea parted,
 Before God told Noah
 To build a big boat,
 Way before Joshua
 Marched around Jericho.

(Chorus)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah!
 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah!

Genesis 1:1:
 It's a whole lotta fun,
 'Cause that's where it all started,
 Before the Red Sea parted,
 Before God told Abraham
 He'd be the father of nations,
 Way before Jesus
 Came to redeem us.

(Sing chorus.)

Genesis 1:1:
 It's a whole lotta fun,
 'Cause that's where it all started,
 Before the Red Sea parted.
 Before God told David
 That he could slay a giant,
 Way before me
 And everything I see. Yeah!

(Sing 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.

