

# LESSON 1

## GOD CREATES THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### What the Bible Tells Us—God Does Exist

The Bible tells us that God, a living being, is the one who created life. The best explanation for the reality we experience is an all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing, and loving God. The Bible also tells us that God commanded each living thing to reproduce its own kind. Our universe is filled with awesome wonders. There are billions of galaxies, each containing billions of stars, each one named by the Creator (Isa 40:26). Even the configurations of the stars in the heavens have a purpose (Job 38:31-33). Everywhere from microscopic elements to the unfathomable recesses of the universe, the Creator speaks to us through the things that He has made.

#### What's Covered in This Lesson

This lesson covers the first four days of creation.

First day: God creates light—God divides the light from the darkness, and names “Day” and “Night.”

Second day: God creates Heaven and the sky to divide the waters above from the waters below.

Third day: God commands the waters under the heavens to be gathered together in one place and dry land to appear; “Earth” and “Seas” are named. God commands the earth to bring forth grass, plants, and fruit-bearing trees.

Fourth day: God creates the sun, moon and stars.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Since even adults have difficulty grasping the greatness of God's power and wisdom, consider how much more difficult it must be for your young students. Even though most children at this age will readily accept that God created all things for us, some students may still ask, “But did God create that table? Did He make our homes and my bed? Did He make the spaghetti that I had for dinner last night?” You can help them understand that God did not personally make all these things, but He did provide the resources: the wood for the table and house, the cotton for the mattress, and the wheat, tomatoes, and spices for the spaghetti. Although it may seem like humans also have the power to create, we are actually only manipulating the raw materials and resources that God has provided. Only God can create something out of nothing. He is the almighty God who created the universe and all that is in it.

#### BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 1:1-19

#### BIBLE TRUTH

God created the universe and all that is in it.

#### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand God's almighty power by acknowledging that God created the heavens and earth from a formless state.
2. To be able to articulate the order of creation from the first to fourth day.
3. To recognize that God is a loving God.

#### MEMORY VERSE

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

(Genesis 1:1)

#### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Dear Lord, we gather here at the start of the new quarter to learn about Your glory and power. Please let us understand that You are the almighty God and that You created the universe out of nothing. From the world around us, we can see how much You love and care for us. May Your Spirit be with us now as we learn more about You! Hallelujah! Amen.

## VOCABULARY

- create:** to make something out of nothing  
**firmament:** the space between the water on earth and the water in the atmosphere, i.e., the sky/heavens  
**vegetation:** plants and trees

## TEACHING IDEAS

The story of creation is one that is visually appealing. Bring in pictures or draw on the white board in order to illustrate and simulate the creation process during the storytelling. If possible, deliver the lesson outdoors, or take the students out for a nature walk after the class. For a fellowship, consider a trip to the local zoo.

Ask the students if they have ever experienced a blackout or power outage. If they haven't, ask them to imagine what it would be like to be in complete darkness. To illustrate this, you can turn off the lights in the classroom, but warn the students ahead of time before you do it. While the lights are off, ask the students to close their eyes to experience what total darkness feels like.

You can also give each student craft materials: clay, paper and crayons, scissors and cardboard, etc. Tell each student to create something in two minutes. Point out that it takes people a long time to make something meaningful, but it only took God six days to create the world. Take away the craft materials after the two minutes are up. Now, tell the students to make something again, with no materials in front of them. When they ask how, emphasize that God made everything from nothing. This is something that we cannot do. All the raw materials we use to build skyscrapers, sculpt art, and even cook dinner, He made from nothing. Can we speak things into existence? No, but God can.

## BIBLE STORY

### In the Beginning

Now, let's find out how God created everything. Who knows where this story is recorded in the Bible? It is recorded in the first chapter of the first book. Let's all turn to Genesis chapter 1! [Ask a student—or students in unison—to read the first verse.] That's our memory verse for today! In the very beginning, the world did not look like it does now. There weren't any trees, animals, or people. There was nothing but darkness. However, even though there were no animals or people there, God was there. The Spirit of God hovered over the waters. In other words, God's spirit was everywhere in the beginning just as God's spirit is everywhere right now. God created the heavens and the earth for us in six days. In this lesson, we will be covering the first four days and we will learn about the last two days in the next lesson.

### Day One: Light

How did God create the heavens and the earth? On the first day, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw the light and that it was good. God called the light "Day," and He separated it from the darkness, which He called "Night."

Why do you think God made light first? Well, if there weren't any light, we would all be living in darkness right now. Are any of you afraid of the dark? Why do you think we are afraid of the dark? [Allow students to discuss.] Usually it is because we are not able to see what is around

us. Let's all close our eyes and imagine what kinds of things we wouldn't be able to see if the world didn't have light. [Ask students for answers.] God gave us light because He knew we needed it. He is a loving God. But that was just the first day. He wasn't finished creating yet.

### Day Two: The Sky

On the second day, God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." What does it mean to separate water from water? Well, some water went up above the earth and some stayed on the earth. After the waters were separated, there was a big space between the waters on the earth and the clouds. God called this space "Heaven," but today we call it the sky. So, God spent the second day creating the sky.

### Day Three

#### I. The Seas and Dry Land

On the third day, God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." Remember how God separated the waters on the second day? Now, God made the water under the sky into smaller bodies of water. All the water on the earth gathered and God called the gatherings "Seas." And where there was no water, dry land appeared. God called the dry land "Earth." Some of the land formed plains, and the rest either formed mountains

or valleys. God looked at all the things He had made. He was happy with the day and the night, with the sky and the seas, and with the land. Everything God had made was good!

## II. The Trees and Plants

Now, God was ready to make things grow on the land. So God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind." All kinds of vegetation like plants and trees that bore fruit and vegetables appeared. There were apples, carrots, and bananas, too. Can you name some plants and vegetables? [Allow students to answer.] Yes, God created all those at the beginning. All the plants and fruits that we have now were there when God first created the earth. All plants and trees have seeds. When the seeds are planted in the ground, they grow into more plants and trees. Have you ever planted seeds and seen them sprout? [Allow them to share their experiences.] The growth of seeds and plants is God's wonderful creation. Today, much of what we eat comes from plants. [Help the students figure out the origins of the foods we eat. For example, bread and pasta are from grains, salads consist of a variety of vegetables, nuts are from trees, etc.] Why do we need all these kinds of foods? We need to eat food to live. And we are not the only ones who depend on vegetation for food; many animals and insects also depend on it. But animals and humans hadn't been made yet. God was getting things ready for us. Isn't that wonderful? Our God is a

caring and loving God. He thinks about the things we will need, even before we are there. Therefore, on the third day, God separated the water on the earth to form land, and He caused all kinds of plants and trees to grow on it.

## Day Four: The Sun, Moon, and Stars

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years." God made two great lights—the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. What do you think these lights in the sky were? Right! They were the sun and moon. God made the sun to give light during the day and the moon to give light during the night. God also made the stars. From the stars, we can tell if it is spring, summer, fall, or winter. In different seasons, different stars appear. God saw the sun, moon, stars, and all that He created on the fourth day and said that it was good.

Have you ever gazed up at the stars? Have you ever stopped to look at the beautiful flowers or the tall trees? Have you ever marveled at the shining sun or the glowing moon? If you have, then you have seen the beauty and wonder of God's creation. God created everything that we see now. He created them for us to enjoy and to take care of. The world that God made is indeed a good one. In the next lesson, we will continue to learn about God's creation.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

**1. In the beginning, there were no animals, no trees, and no humans. What was the only thing there?**

The Spirit of God.

**2. What did God think of all that He made?** He thought that it was good.

**3. a. What did God create on the 1st day?** God created light.

**b. What did God create on the 2nd day?** God created a firmament, the sky, to divide the waters.

**c. What did God create on the 3rd day?** God created land, seas, and vegetation—grass, plants, fruits.

**d. What did God create on the 4th day?** God created the sun, moon, and stars.

**4. Why do you think God created light and water before He created plants?**

Plants cannot live and grow without light and water.

**5. When people create things, how is it different from the way God created things?**

God created something out of nothing. We make things out of the resources God has given us.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

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

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**SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION**

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**Be aware of God's almighty power.**

1. How powerful do you think God really is? Do you think of God as your hero? How is God like a hero? Describe how powerful God is to you.
2. Since we know very well that God made everything for us, what should our attitude be toward Him? (We should be very thankful all the time.)
3. What do you say when you pray to God? Does your prayer talk about how mighty and powerful He is?
4. Read the following verses.
  - Isaiah 40:25-26
  - Psalm 8:1-8
  - Psalm 136:4-6
  - James 1:17-18

What do these verses say about the greatness of God?

Some answers are: God created all things; God, by wisdom, made the heavens and the earth; He calls them by name and by the greatness of His might, not one is missing; every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

5. Every night this week, write down one thing God has made that is amazing to you. Be ready to share and explain your answers to your teachers next week.

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**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

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1. Spirit, God
2. To create means to make something out of nothing.
3. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)
4. He created the world from nothing.
5. By speaking them into existence; He used the word of God.
6. He thought that it was good.
7. Day 1: Light; Day 2: Sky/Heaven; Day 3: Seas, land, plants; Day 4: Sun, moon, stars
8. False; He spoke it into existence.
9. True
10. Answers may vary.

## ACTIVITIES

# 1

### Creation Scene

**Objective:** To reinforce the students' knowledge of the order of creation.

#### Materials

- Light blue, dark blue, green, red, yellow, and brown 8 1/2" x 11" construction paper
- White 12" x 18" construction paper
- Glue
- Crayons

#### Optional Materials

- Blue craft tissue (for more realistic waves)
- Cotton balls (for clouds)
- Sand (sprinkled over a layer of glue for realistic effect)
- Floral stickers (for flowers)

#### Instructions

Note: The "ask" and "say" instructions are for the teacher only.

1. Except for the white one, cut the colored construction paper into strips.
2. Give each student a sheet of the white construction paper, and strips of the light blue, dark blue, yellow, red, green, and brown construction paper.
3. **Ask:** "What did God create on the first day?" [Light.]  
**Say:** "We are not going to cut or glue the light yet. Do you know why? It is because God made the light into smaller lights later."
4. **Ask:** "What did God create on the second day?" [Sky.]  
**Say:** "Yes, the sky. The Bible called it the firmament; it is a big space in between the waters above and the waters below."  
 Glue light blue strips on the top two-thirds of the white construction paper for the sky. Cut out a few white clouds and glue at the top.
5. **Ask:** "What did God create on the third day?" [Seas, land, and plants.]  
**Say:** "God moved the water and made dry land come out. God called the waters 'seas,' and the dry land 'earth.' Then He made plants to grow from the land."  
 Glue some dark blue at one bottom corner for the sea, and glue some brown for the land. Cut and glue tree trunks, leaves, and plants.
6. **Ask:** "What did God create on the fourth day?" [Sun, moon, and stars.]  
**Say:** "God made the light He created on the first day into two big lights, the sun and moon, and into smaller lights, the stars."  
 Cut out a big yellow sun, a small yellow moon, and a few stars, and then glue them at the top. Explain to them that even though we don't usually see the moon in the morning, it's still there. Sometimes when the sky isn't that bright, we can see both the sun and moon at the same time.
7. If there's still space on the front, print the memory verse on colored construction paper and glue. If there's no available space, glue it on the back.
8. Have the students take turns holding up their scene to share while reading the memory verse to the whole class.



**2****Guess the Fruits and Veggies!**

- Objectives:** 1. To recognize the love of God through His creation of fruits and vegetables.  
2. To reinforce that it was God who created trees and fruits in their kind.

**Materials**

- Five or six different types of fruits and vegetables that can be eaten raw
- Paper bags, one for each fruit/vegetable
- Paring knife

Note: When choosing which fruits and vegetables to bring, be sure to consider any food allergies the students might have. The week before, the teacher should send a parent consent form to ask parents whether the students are allergic to any fruits or vegetables.

**Preparation**

The teacher should prepare enough fruits and vegetables for the activity. One of each kind will be reserved for the guessing portion and the rest will be cut for the students to enjoy. The teacher should cut up the fruits and vegetables before class to save time and to minimize any accidents. Keep the seeds to show to the students in class later.

All the fruits and vegetables reserved for the guessing portion should be cleaned and put into separate paper bags prior to class (the students should not see you put them in).

**Instructions**

Before you start the activity, lead a short discussion on why the students think God created plants and trees.

- a. What did God create on the third day? (Seas, dry land, trees, fruits, and seeds.)
- b. Why did God create land? (So that plants and trees could grow on it.)
- c. Why did God create trees? (So that fruit could grow on them.)
- d. Why did God create fruit? (God created fruit for us to eat; He didn't need the fruit.)
- e. Why did God create seeds? (So that the seeds could grow into trees and humans would never run out of fruit.)
- f. What does all this tell you about God? (He created all these with us in mind. He really loves us, wants to take good care of us, and makes sure we have everything we need.)

1. Bring out the paper bags with the fruits and vegetables. Place one in the front and set the others aside so that only one fruit can be seen at a time. Ask one student to come up and reach into the bag. Before pulling it out, ask the student to guess what it is by feeling it. The student can describe it for the other students while feeling it ("It's smooth and small."), or the student can peek into the bag and describe the fruit for the other students to guess.
2. Let each student have a turn until all the fruits and vegetables have been correctly guessed.
3. Bring out the pre-cut fruits and vegetables for the students to enjoy.
4. As the students are eating, hold up one of the seeds and ask them what fruit that seed will grow into. Ask them, "Can an apple seed grow into an orange tree? How about in 100 years? Will it change into a grapevine?" Explain to them that when God created fruit on the third day, it was already according to its kind.

## 3

**Little Book of Creation / Part 1**

**Objective:** To let the students learn about the days of creation in an interactive way.

Teachers may choose to incorporate this project with the storytelling, or to have the students make it at the end of the lesson. Part one will cover the first to fourth days and part two will cover the rest.

**Materials**

- White construction paper; 2 sheets per book
- Markers or colored pencils to decorate the book
- Stapler
- Scissors

To make the book: Fold two sheets of construction paper in half to resemble a book and staple the center. The resulting book will have four physical pages, but eight pages when counted front and back. Teachers should prepare the books for the students before class to give them more time to work on the contents.

**Instructions**

As you cover each day of creation, instruct the students to work on their little books according to the following instructions:

- Cover – Write in the center: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Add your name and decorate.
- Page 1 – Write: “Let there be light!” Decorate the page.
- Page 2 – Write: “God made the sky.” Decorate the page.
- Page 3 – Write: “God made the land, seas, and vegetation.” Decorate the page.
- Page 4 – Write: “God created the sun, moon, and stars.” Decorate the page.

## 4

**The Majesty of Our God**

**Objective:** To let students reflect on the glory of God.

For second and third grade students, read this poem and create your own poem on a separate sheet of paper. Or, write a prayer to praise God's power and thank Him for His creation. Share your thoughts about the greatness and power of God.

For first graders, have your parents read this to you and talk about how amazing God is. Write down what you shared on a piece of paper. Be ready to share your answers next week.

**The Majesty of Our God**

Can anyone truly look at a sunset  
and say that there is no God.  
Or gaze into the heavens on a starry  
night and not know that we have been blessed  
by the Presence of an Almighty Creator.  
And then there are those billowing cloud  
formations we lay staring at as a child.  
Could this be an act of chance?  
Or listen to the melodious tune of a babbling  
brook as it sings on its merry journey.  
God's handiwork is all around us and His  
signature is on each of His masterpieces.  
And the greatest masterpiece He ever  
created was YOU and ME!

-Author Unknown

E1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 1—God Creates the Heavens and the Earth

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God created the universe and all that is in it.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To understand God's almighty power by acknowledging that God created the heavens and earth from a formless state.
  2. To be able to articulate the order of creation from the first to fourth day.
  3. To recognize that God is a loving God.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Genesis 1:1)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

## Fill In the Blanks

1. In the beginning, there were no trees, no animals, and no people. There was only the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Short Answer

2. What does it mean to create?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write down this week's memory verse without looking.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did God create the world from? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did God create things? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did God think of all that He had made? \_\_\_\_\_

## Matching

7. Draw a line to match the things that God created to the day on which He created them.

Stars	Day One
Light	
Plants	Day Two
Sun	
Seas	Day Three
Sky/Heaven	
Moon	Day Four
Land	

## True or False

8. God formed the world by hand. \_\_\_\_\_
9. God was pleased with His creation. \_\_\_\_\_

## Life Application

10. Each night, before you go to sleep, think about something that God has made. Write it down on a separate piece of paper or in your notebook. How is each of those things amazing? Be ready to share your answers next week.