



God Made the World

BIBLE STUDY AIMS

Children will:

- realize that God is the Creator of everything.
- understand that everything belongs to God.
- desire to worship God as the Creator.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 1:1

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear God, renew my wonder and awe for Your awesome creative power and work. Please help the kids recognize You as their Creator and develop a desire in them to worship You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Leader Preparation

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

God exists outside of time and always has. In His goodness and power, He created the heavens and the earth. He is the one true God, the Creator of all things, and continues to care for and sustain the universe He had designed perfectly. On Day 1, God created light and separated light from darkness, giving us day and night. On Day 2, God made the waters and separated the seas and the sky.

On Day 3 of Creation, God made dry ground appear and filled the earth with plants. He gave each kind of plant its own seeds and fruit. On Day 4, God filled the heavens He had made with the sun, moon, and stars—establishing seasons and weather. These acts of creation show us that God set up weather and time under His control, creating a system of order and making the world a sustainable place to live.

On Days 5 and 6 of Creation, God filled the environments He had made. He filled the seas with fish and other animals that live in the water, the air with birds, and the land with creatures! Like the plants God made on Day 3, animals were created to reproduce according to their own kind. God continued to display His creative power by making a wide variety of animals. Everything God made was good and perfect.

God's incredible work of creating the heavens and the earth was now complete. He rested and blessed the seventh day and made it holy. God is all-powerful, and did not need rest in the same way that we do after work, because He never grows weary (Isaiah 40:28). In this case, resting meant that He did not work that day, because His creation was finished. This also set an example of a pattern of work and rest that we can follow.



Welcome Time Activities

ARRIVAL

Follow your church's safety procedures as you welcome and greet kids.

BLOCK CENTER

Option #1: Tangram Blocks

Set out tangram blocks or shapes, and various outlines of completed tangram puzzles in the shapes of a variety of animals, plants, etc. Kids will work to fit the tangram pieces into the completed shapes or create their own. **You did a wonderful job making these puzzles! Today, we are going to learn about everything God made.**

Option #2: Match Habitats

Set out some green and brown construction paper to represent land, and blue construction paper to represent water. Set animal figures nearby so kids can play with animals in their habitats. **Today, we are going to learn about how God made all kinds of creatures—animals that walk on land, swim in the sea, and fly in the sky.**

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Option #1: Animals

Set out stuffed animals for kids to play with. **Today, we are going to learn about how God made all kinds of creatures—animals that walk on land, swim in the sea, and fly in the sky.**

LEARNING CENTER

Option #1: Globe

Set out globe(s) for the kids to examine. **This is called a globe. It's a model of the planet we live on. The world hasn't always looked like this. Today, we're going to learn about how the world was formed.**

Option #2: Trace Shadows

Set out some paper, pencils/markers, flashlights, shoe-boxes and smaller objects. Kids will place a piece of paper in the box, with an object on top of the paper. Shine a flashlight on the object to create a shadow. Kids will use the markers/pencils to trace the shadows. **Today, we are going to learn about how God made light—it was the first thing God created!**

Option #3: Sort Seeds

Empty seed packets into a larger, shallow bowl. For younger preschoolers, you will only want 2-3 kinds of seeds. For older preschoolers, you may want to include 4-6 kinds of seeds. Set a couple pairs of tweezers near this bowl. Then, set out additional small bowls (1 per kind of seed) for kids to sort the seeds into. **In our Bible story today, we'll learn about how God made seeds and plants.**

Option #4: Books

Provide books for kids to look through related to Creation and the things God has made, such as animals, plants, etc. As they look at the books, keep asking the question: "Who made this?" or "Who made that?" **Today, we are going to learn who made everything!**

SENSORY CENTER

Option #1: Light Table

Set out a light table. On the table, place various manipulatives in different shapes and sizes that represent things God made during Creation. **Today, we are going to learn about how God made light—it was the first thing God created!**

Option #2: Water

Set out a plastic bin filled a third of the way with water. Lay the bin on some towels. Fill the bin with plastic sea creatures, and other water manipulatives, like funnels, cups, strainers, etc. **Today, we are going to learn about how God made the water and everything that lives in it.**

Option #3: Plant Discovery

Let kids use magnifying glasses to investigate seeds and plants. Help them cut open seeds and plant stems to look inside. **In our Bible story today, we'll learn about how God made seeds and plants.**

Option #4: God Made the Earth

Set out a plastic bin filled with gardening soil. Hide large dried beans in the soil. Children will dig through the soil with their hands or with spoons to find the seeds. **In our Bible story today, we'll learn about how God made seeds and plants.**

TRANSITION

Use a signal such as a flickering light, a simple call and response, or a song to clean up the centers and transition to the Bible story time.



Bible Story Time

OPENING ACTIVITY

Option #1: Day or Night? Game

Have the kids stand in the middle of the room. Designate one side of the room to be “Day” and the other side to be “Night” by taping yellow paper to one side and black paper to the opposite wall. Call out a variety of activities that kids might do daily. Kids will have to run to the side of the room that matches the time of day that they do that activity. Ideas: Eat breakfast; Go to school; Brush teeth; Sleep; Play with toys; Watch TV; etc. **Today, we’re going to learn about when God made day and night, and everything else He made.**

Option #2: “Simon Says” Game

Play a game of “Simon Says.” “Simon” will tell the children an action to do, such as jump up and down. If Simon says the phrase “Simon says,” the children will have to do the action. If Simon does not say the phrase, the kids should not do the action. If they do the action when they shouldn’t, or don’t do the action when they should, they may sit out for a round, or simply continue playing. Play a few rounds.

“Simon” spoke, and we had to follow “Simon’s” instructions. Today, we’re going to learn about what happened when God spoke. He made the world and everything in it, just by speaking!

PRAYER

Dear God, please help us to understand Your Word. May this story help us to love You more and want to praise You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Long, long ago, God made the heavens and the earth. There was a lot of water and a lot of darkness. Everything was dark. Our Bible says the earth had no shape. I wonder if it looked like a flat beach ball or a balloon without any air in it. Hold up a deflated ball or balloon for kids to see. But God was there. He was choosing what the world would look like.

Turn off the lights in the classroom. As you say light, turn on the light or shine a flashlight. First, God decided the earth needed light, so He said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. God liked what He had done—it was good. **God made day and night on the first day.** Add yellow and black pieces of felt or construction paper

to your board, along with the number “1.” So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) **on Day 1.**

But the world needed something else. God was just getting started with His creation work. So on the second day, He created the sky. Then, He separated the sky from the water. Add light blue and dark blue pieces of felt or construction paper (or pictures of water and clouds) to your board, along with the number “2.”

- **Name some things you use water for.** (Drinking; Washing; Cleaning; Swimming; etc.)
- **Name some places you see water.** (Rivers; Lakes; Oceans; Creeks; Rain; etc.)
- **What do you like about water?** (Take responses.)
- **Did you ever wonder how God could make the big oceans, lakes, and rivers? How powerful is God?** (Take responses.)
- **How do you feel about God, who made water for us?** (Take responses.)

So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) on Day 2.

On the third day, God made the dry land. Add brown and green pieces of felt or construction paper to your board, along with the number “3.” He called it “earth.” He called the water around the dry land “seas.” When God finished, He saw that it was good—just what He wanted.

But do you know what? God had more good ideas. “Let there be plants and trees,” He said. And suddenly there were plants and trees. God saw that the plants and trees were good, too. That was the end of the third day.

Don’t you wish you had been there to see all the plants and trees grow for the first time? Where there had been just water, now there was dirt, pretty plants, and plants to eat—lots of plants to make the earth look nice and give food for people and animals.

- **Can you name a plant God has made? Tell us your favorite kind of plant and why you like it.** (Take responses.) As kids name plants, add pictures or felt pieces of plants under the number “3” on the board.

So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) on Day 3.

On the fourth day, the Bible tells us God created the sun, moon, and stars. Add pictures or felt pieces of the sun, moon, and stars to your board, along with the num-



ber "4."

- **What do you like about the moon and stars?** (Take responses.)
- **What did God make to give us light during the day?** (The sun.)
- **How does God's sun help us?** (It helps things grow; Keeps us warm; etc.)

God had made light, water and sky, dry land and plants. He had made the sun, moon, and stars for the nighttime and daytime, and to make the seasons.

So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) **on Day 4.**

But God wasn't finished yet.

- **Can you think of something that God made that we haven't mentioned yet?** (Animals; People; etc.)

God wanted more living things for the earth, and He knew just what He wanted. He began by filling the water with fish. Then He made all kinds of birds to fly in the sky. He made all these creatures on the fifth day. Add pictures or felt pieces of birds and fish to your board, along with the number "5."

- **If you had to choose, would you rather be a bird that can fly in the sky or a fish that swims in the ocean?**
Flap your arms like wings if you would want to be a bird. Make a wave with your arms if you'd want to be a fish. (Take responses.)

So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) **on Day 5.**

There weren't any land animals yet, so God made them—everything from the lion to the kangaroo. He made all the forest animals—from the deer to the skunk. All the animals we have as pets—guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, cats, dogs—God created them all. What a lot of good ideas God had! Add pictures or felt pieces of land animals to your board, along with the number "6." God saw that everything He had made was good, and He was pleased with what He'd done.

- **Can you name some more of the animals God made?** (Take responses.)
- **What is your favorite animal?** (Take responses.)

Do you know what? Nobody needs to tell the birds to go somewhere warmer for the winter. Nobody tells the bears when to grow thicker fur or when to curl up in a cave for the winter—they just do it! The way God made them, they know what to do. God made fish,

birds, bugs, and animals, and He planned every detail just right.

But God wasn't finished yet. There was no one to take care of the beautiful world He had made. So God created people. He made a man and a woman. God blessed them, and He explained the job He had for them to do. We'll learn more about the people He made and how He made them special from the rest of His creation next week. Add pictures or felt pieces of two people to your board, under the number "6." Now God's creation was complete.

So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) **on Day 6.**

On the seventh day, God rested, because His work of creation was finished. And God called it, "very good!" Add "Z's" to your board, along with the number "7."

So there was evening (turn off the lights) and there was morning (turn on the lights) **on Day 7.**



Activity Time

SONG TIME

Sing songs about God as Creator and what He has made, such as the songs included below.

Option #1: God Creator Made the World

Sing the following to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”:

God Creator made the world. Yes, oh, yes, He did.
And for His world He made some cows. Yes, oh, yes,
He did.
With a moo, moo here (make milking motions), and
a moo, moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo, moo.
God Creator made the world. Yes, oh, yes, He did.

Other stanzas: pigs (oink oink, wrinkle nose); dogs (arf arf, make begging motions); owls (hoo hoo, hold fingers in circles around eyes); cats (meow meow, hold up hands as ears); sheep (baa baa, cavort around); birds (tweet tweet, flap arms); donkeys (hee haw, kick one leg back).

Option #2: God Made . . .

Sing the following to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”:

God made the chicken
God made the chicken
I’m so happy, very happy
God made the chicken.

For additional stanzas, replace “chicken” with other things God made. Ask kids for additional suggestions.

Option #3: Thank You, God, for Making Things

Sing the following to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

Thank You, God, for making grass, making grass,
making grass.
Thank You, God, for making grass, for our beautiful
world.

For additional stanzas, replace “grass” with other one-syllable things God made to fill the world He had made. Ask kids for additional suggestions (Plants; Trees; Stars; Fish; Birds; Bugs; Cats; Dogs; etc.).

Option #4: God Created

Sing the following to the tune of “Frère Jacques”:

God created! God created!
Night and day, night and day.
On the first day, on the first day.
And it was good! It was good!

God created! God created!
Sea and sky, sea and sky.
On the second day, on the second day.
And it was good! It was good.

God created! God created!
Land and plants, land and plants.
On the third day, on the third day.
And it was good! And it was good!

God created! God created!
Sun, moon and stars! Sun, moon and stars!
On the fourth day, on the fourth day.
And it was good! It was good!

God created! God created!
Fish and birds, fish and birds!
On the fifth day, on the fifth day.
And it was good! It was good!

God created! God created!
Animals and people! Animals and people!
On the sixth day, on the sixth day.
And it was good! It was good!

Then He rested. Then He rested.
From His work. From His work.
On the seventh day, on the seventh day.
And all was good! All was good!

Let’s sing thank You! Let’s sing thank You!
To our God! To our God!
Thank You for Creation! Thank You for Creation!
God is good! God is good!

**GAME TIME****Option #1: Where Do I Live?**

Name an animal, fish or bird. If it flies, kids can flap their arms and “fly.” If it lives in the water, kids can lie down and pretend to swim. If it lives on land, kids can move like that animal and make the animal’s noise.

- **On which day did God make wild animals that live on the land? (6)**
- **On which day did God create farm animals (like cows and sheep)? (6)**
- **On which day did God create birds? (5)**
- **On which day did God make creeping and crawling bugs? (6)**
- **On which day did God create the animals that live in the sea? (5)**
- **What are some animals God made that live in the water? (Fish; Dolphins; Octopus; Squids; Starfish; etc.)**
- **What are some animals God made that fly in the air? (Eagles; Hummingbirds; Woodpeckers; Cardinals; Bluebirds; etc.)**
- **What are some animals God made that live on the land? (Ants; Camels; Lions; Elephants; Cats; Dogs; etc.)**

Option #2: Sun, Moon, and Stars Tag

Point out the sun, moon, and stars on the walls. Have the kids stand in the center. Choose two kids to be IT. They will stand at the blank wall. When you call out, “God made the _____,” kids will run to the corresponding wall while the ones who are IT try to tag them. Whoever is tagged gets to be IT the next time.

- **On which day did God make seasons? (4)**
- **What are the seasons? (Spring; Summer; Winter; Fall.)**
- **On which day did God create stars? (4)**

Option #3: Nighty Night-Time

Line up kids in teams. When you say, “Nighty night,” help the first kid on each team put on a bathrobe. He or she runs to the finish line, lies down, gets up, runs back to the line, and gives the bathrobe to the second player, who repeats those actions. Demonstrate first. Repeat until all kids have had a turn.

- **What did God call the light? (Day.)**
- **What did God call the darkness? (Night.)**
- **What is the phrase that is repeated at the end of each day of creation? (There was evening, and there was morning.)**
- **What did God do on the seventh day? (Rest.)**

CRAFT TIME**Option #1: Flower Pots**

Pass out a small clay flower pot to each child. Have them draw pictures or designs (suggest they draw their favorite thing that God made) to decorate the flower pot using oil pastels (which will not wash off if the flower pot gets wet), or crayons or paint (you will need to put a finishing coat on the pots to keep the images from washing off).

Give each child a couple handfuls of potting soil to put in their flower pot, and a seed or two to plant. Spray the soil with water.

- **What day did God create plants? (3)**
- **Can you name some of the plants God has made? (Oak trees; Sunflowers; Tulips; Weeping willow trees; Tomato plants; Grape vines; etc.)**

**Option #2: Seven Days of Creation**

Ahead of time, print and cut out the numbers 1-7 from the Activity Printables (1 set per child) onto thick paper. If you have a shorter time frame, consider printing Day 1 on yellow paper, Days 2 and 5 on blue paper, Days 3 and 6 on green paper, and Days 4 and 7 on white paper.

As you pass out each number one at a time, help kids write their names on the back. Then, kids will decorate each number to help them remember what God created on that day.

- Day 1: Color half of the section black to represent night and half yellow to represent day.
- Day 2: Color the bottom half of the section dark blue to represent water and the top half light blue to represent the sky. Glue cotton balls into the sky.
- Day 3: Color the bottom half of the section green to represent land and the top half blue to represent sky. Glue on small nature items such as sticks, leaves, flowers, etc.
- Day 4: Draw the sun and moon. Add star stickers.
- Day 5: Color the bottom half of the section dark blue to represent water and the top half light blue to represent the sky. Add fish stickers to the water and bird stickers to the sky.
- Day 6: Color the bottom half of the section green for the land and the top half of the section blue. Add stickers of the land animals. Draw two stick figures to show that God made people.
- Day 7: Add “Z”s to help kids remember that God rested on the seventh day.

FINGERPLAY

Teach one verse at a time.

**In the beginning, God above (point up),
Looked all around and created with love (hug self),
God made the water (make ripple motions with hands),
God made the sky (reach above head).
He gave a smile (smile),
And not a sigh.**

**God made the dirt (stomp),
And some plants to grow (stretch arms up and out),
What a beautiful world (clap),
God made it just so!**

**God made the sun (make big circle with hands),
And God made the moon (make small circle with hands),
And He made the stars (wiggle fingers above head),
Not a moment too soon.**

**God made birds that sing (put hands to mouth for beak),
and fish that swim (wiggle hands forward).**

**All that God made (make sweeping motion with hand),
Gives praise to Him (clap).**

**Look at the animals (wiggle hands by head for ears)—
God made them, too.**

**And God made people (put hands on head)—
That's me and you (point to self and others).**

SNACK TIME

Have the kids wash their hands and sit down at a table. Encourage a volunteer to pray. Thank God for the snack.

Dear God,

Thank You for the food we eat.

Thank You for the world so sweet.

Thank You for the birds that sing.

Thank You for everything!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Serve animal crackers or goldfish.

Or, serve kids a small bowl of blueberries with whipped cream on top to represent what God made on Day 2 of creation. The blueberries would represent the seas, and the whipped cream would represent the clouds/sky.

As they eat, discuss these review questions:

- **How many days did God take to create the world? (6)**
- **What did God create on the first day of creation?** (Light—night and day.)
- **On what day of creation did God create people? (6)**
- **What was the first thing God created? (Light.)**
- **When did God create the heavens and the earth? (In the beginning.)**
- **How was everything made? (God spoke it into existence.)**
- **Finish this sentence. “God saw what He had made and it was . . .” (Good.)**
- **What did God give people for food? (Fruit from trees.)**

**BIBLE MEMORY**

Memorize Genesis 1:1. Repeat it several times together so the children become familiar with it. Then, have the group do hand motions while they say the verse.

- “In the beginning” (*make large circles with both arms*)
- “God” (*point up*)
- “created” (*use hands to motion words coming from mouth*)
- “the heavens” (*stretch hands high*)
- “and the earth” (*touch the ground*).
- “Genesis 1:1” (*hold up one finger on each hand*)

If you have young preschoolers, here is a simplified version:

- “God made” (*point up*)
- “the sky” (*shade eyes with one hand and look up*)
- “and the earth” (*point down*).
- “Genesis 1:1” (*hold up one finger on each hand*)

ACTIVITY PAGE

Kids will color and decorate each section of their Creation Spinner according to what God made each day.

- Day 1: Color half of the section black to represent night and half yellow/white to represent day.
- Day 2: Color the bottom half of the section dark blue to represent water and the top half light blue to represent the sky.
- Day 3: Color the plants. Then, color the bottom half of the section green for the land and the top half of the section blue.
- Day 4: Color the sun, moon and stars.
- Day 5: Color the sea animals. Then, color the bottom half of the section dark blue to represent water and the top half light blue to represent the sky.
- Day 6: Color the animals. Then, color the bottom half of the section green for the land and the top half of the section blue.
- Day 7: Free choice.

Cut out the two circles. Put the “God Created” page circle on top. Poke a metal brad through the center of both pages. Encourage kids to bring it home to review what God made on each day.

CLOSING PRAYER

- **What are some things that God created that you are thankful for?** (Allow each child to give you their answers.)

Those are some wonderful things God made! Let’s thank Him for each of your ideas right now. Before we pray make sure we bring our hands together, close our eyes, and bow our heads!

Dear God, thank You for having the best imagination, and creating things for us to enjoy and know You more! Thank You for creating (list the answers given by the children). **Most of all, thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross to save us from our sins. In Jesus’ name, Amen!**

DISMISSAL

Follow your church’s security procedures as you release kids to their families.



Supplies Needed

BLOCK CENTER #1: TANGRAM BLOCKS

- Pictures of completed tangram puzzles (printable)
- Tangram blocks

BLOCK CENTER #2: MATCH HABITATS

- Blue, brown, and green construction paper
- Toy animal figures (include both land and water animals)

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER #1: ANIMALS

- Stuffed animals

LEARNING CENTER #1: GLOBE

- Globe

LEARNING CENTER #2: TRACE SHADOWS

- Flashlights
- Markers or pencils
- Paper cut to fit in shoeboxes
- Scissors
- Shoeboxes
- Small objects

LEARNING CENTER #3: SORT SEEDS

- Bowls
- 4-6 Different kinds of seeds and beans mixed together
- Tweezers

LEARNING CENTER #4: BOOKS

- Books related to creation and the things God has made, such as animals, plants, etc.

SENSORY CENTER #1: LIGHT TABLE

- Light table
- Various manipulatives that represent things God made

SENSORY CENTER #2: WATER

- Plastic bin
- Plastic sea creatures
- Water
- Water manipulatives such as funnels, cups, strainers, etc.
- Towels

SENSORY CENTER #3: PLANT DISCOVERY

- Magnifying glasses
- Plants
- Seeds

SENSORY CENTER #4: GOD MADE THE EARTH

- Gardening soil
- Dried beans
- Plastic bin
- Spoons

OPENING ACTIVITY #1: DAY OR NIGHT? GAME

- Black construction paper
- Tape
- Yellow construction paper

OPENING ACTIVITY #2: "SIMON SAYS" GAME

- N/A

BIBLE STORY

- Bible
- Creation-themed flannelgraph felt pieces OR colored construction paper (black, yellow, light blue, dark blue, brown, green) and pictures of sun, moon, stars (printable), fish, birds, and land animals
- Deflated ball or balloon
- Felt board OR tape OR magnets
- Flashlight
- Lights
- Numbers 1-7, and several Zs, written on small pieces of felt OR index cards/construction paper

SONG TIME

- N/A

GAME #1: WHERE DO I LIVE?

- N/A

GAME #2: SUN, MOON AND STARS TAG

- Pictures of the sun, the moon, and stars (printable)
- Scissors
- Tape

GAME #3: NIGHTY NIGHT-TIME

- Child-size bathrobes (1 per team)
- Cones or tape to make a finish line

CRAFT #1: DECORATE A FLOWER POT

- Finishing spray
- Oil pastels
- Paint or crayons
- Potting soil
- Seeds
- Small clay pots (1 per child)
- Spray bottle of water

CRAFT #2: SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION

- Days of Creation Printable (1 set of numbers 1-7 per child)
- Coloring supplies
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Small nature items (twigs, seeds, leaves, flowers, etc.)
- Stickers (stars, fish, birds, land animals)

FINGERPLAY

- N/A

SNACK

- Animal crackers or goldfish
- Blueberries
- Cups
- Hand sanitizer
- Napkins
- Small bowls
- Spoons
- Water
- Whipped cream

BIBLE MEMORY

- Bible

ACTIVITY PAGE

- Coloring supplies
- Creation Spinner printable (1 per child)
- God Created circle printable (1 per child)
- Metal brads (1 per child)
- Scissors

CLOSING PRAYER

- N/A