



## Session 1

# GOD CREATED THE WORLD

FOR THE  
LEADER

## Genesis 1-2

*In the beginning God ...* These words, likely some of the most recognizable from the Bible, carry a lot of weight. The Bible's opening sentence already assumes the eternal preexistence of God. God existed before anything! God created everything from absolutely nothing. No human can create from nothing. People can invent new technologies and processes, but only God created from nothing. The existence of all that is around us can only be explained by the hand and work of God. God created the world and everything in it!

God's creation was carried out in an orderly fashion. God is a God of order, and it makes sense that He would fashion His creation in an orderly way. The "beginning" of Genesis 1:1 sets all time and history in motion. The concept of beginning also assumes an end. Ultimately, God will create a new heaven and new earth where those who receive the gift of salvation will be with God forever. God knows both the end and the beginning. Because God created everything, He rules over everything. God is sovereign!

The remaining words in Genesis 1:1 identify what God created—the heavens and the earth. These two terms coupled together identify everything that exists, from the furthest reaches of the cosmos far beyond our knowledge to the smallest single-celled organism. In verse 3, we begin to see the progression of God's creation. Initially, the earth had no shape and form, but systematically and orderly, creation took shape. Light and darkness define day and night. The separation of waters above the earth—the atmosphere—and on the earth—oceans, seas, and rivers—created an environment for plants, animals, and people to thrive.

As you share this wonderful story of creation with boys and girls this week, remember to highlight the truth that God is sovereign! Our eternal God created everything and reigns over it. Help children identify things God created and guide them to offer thanks that God created the world and everything in it!

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 1–2

**MEMORY VERSE:** Genesis 1:27

**BONUS VERSE:** Revelation 4:11

**TEXT TRUTH:** God created everything and rules over it.

**BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT:** Identify the names of the writers of specific Bible books. Know some of the books of the Bible in order, and pronounce names of some Bible books.

### BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “Objects: Manuscript Leaf of Creation” (Printables)
- Examine the Text:** Item 4: “Text Truth 1” (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location* video
- Memory Verse:** Item 1: “Genesis 1:27” (Poster Pack), strips of paper, marker
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens, colored pencils*
- Review:** Item 11: “Review Tree” (Poster Pack), green strips of paper, marker, painter’s tape

To order the *Explore the Bible: Books of the Bible Posters* (Print Item No. 005849118, Digital Item No. 005849119) and the *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* (Item No. 005841133), call Lifeway’s Customer Service at 1.800.458.2772 or order online at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

### ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** “Genesis” (*Books of the Bible Posters*), Bibles, Bible dictionaries
- Move:** Giant Inflatable Game Cube or a square-shaped box, “Days of Creation” (Printables)
- Make:** elastic cord; scissors; dark blue, yellow, royal blue, brown, green, white, orange, light blue, and pink pony beads
- Explore:** large sheets of craft foam, permanent markers or adhesive craft foam letters to spell Pray for Ohio for each kid, adhesive craft shapes (hearts, stars, animals, and so on), scissors, pencils, rulers, low-temperature glue gun, dowel sticks or large craft sticks

Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or visit [goexplorethebible.com/kids-training](http://goexplorethebible.com/kids-training).



## GOD CREATED THE WORLD

### Genesis 1–2

*In the very beginning, there was nothing except God. He is eternal and has always existed. Then God began to create the heavens and the earth.*

*God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light! God thought the light was good. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” This happened on the first day of creation.*

*The next day God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters.” So, God made the expanse. God called the expanse “sky” on the second day of creation.*

*On the third day of creation, God spoke and created dry land. He also created the seas. Next, God created plants and trees. God saw that everything He had created was good.*

*God said, “Let there be lights in the sky.” God made the sun to give light in the day and the moon and stars to give light at night. God saw that it was good and that was the end of the fourth day of creation.*

*Next, God created all kinds of sea creatures. Fish, dolphins, whales, stingrays, and more were created to swim through the seas. He created all types of birds to fly. Robins, cardinals, ravens, doves, and parrots were created to fly across everything God had created. That was the end of day five.*

*On day six, God created land animals. Cows, horses, lions, zebras, giraffes, and more were created by God’s words. God saw that His creation was good. God spoke again, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule over all the animals.”*

*God created man in His image by taking dust from the ground and breathing the breath of life into him. God planted a garden in Eden, and He placed man in the garden. God made many trees grow in the garden, including the tree of life. Another tree grew in the garden—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*God took the man and placed him in the garden to work the garden and watch over it. God gave man one command: “You may eat from any tree in the garden, but you may not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die.”*

*God made a helper for the man—a woman. The LORD caused Adam to sleep, and God took one of Adam’s ribs and made a woman. God saw everything that He had made, and it was good. God had created everything and ruled over it.*

*On the seventh day, God rested. God blessed the seventh day and called it holy because it was the day He rested from His work of creation.*

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God’s special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.



## TOOLS:

- Jump In: "Objects: Manuscript Leaf of Creation" (Printables)
- Examine the Text: Item 4: "Text Truth 1" (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: "Genesis 1:27" (Poster Pack), strips of paper, marker
- Prayer: Family Cards

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

### JUMP IN

- Ask: "Have you ever seen a work of art and didn't know who the artist was?" (*Allow kids to respond.*)
- Say: "Some works of art are done anonymously, meaning the artist intentionally didn't give their name. Sometimes the artist is unknown because they didn't put their name with their work of art, or over time their name has been forgotten."
- Display "Manuscript Leaf of Creation."
- Ask: "Does anyone know what is pictured in this illustration?" (*Allow the group to respond.*)
- Explain that this manuscript leaf shows the first chapter of Genesis.
- Continue explaining that the illustrations on the left make the letter I.
- Ask: "Does anyone know what the first word in Genesis 1:1 is?" (*In*)
- Say: "An artist went through a lot of work to make these illustrations."
- Ask: "Who do you think the artist of the manuscript leaf is?" (*Allow kids to respond.*)
- Explain that the artist is unknown.
- Ask: "Could you imagine creating a beautiful work of art like this and no one knowing that you created it?"
- Say: "Today, we're going to learn about the most amazing creation ever made. But unlike the manuscript leaf, the Creator of this artwork is very much known."

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to open their Bibles to the book of Genesis.
- Ask: "Does anyone know what the word *genre* means?" (*Allow kids to respond.*)
- Share that genre is a word used to describe the type of writing something is.
- Continue explaining that there are many types of genres in the Bible. For example, some books of the Bible are in the history genre and some are in the gospels genre.
- Say: "The book of Genesis is in the law genre."
- Continue: "Genesis was written by Moses to lay the foundation for history and theology for the entire Bible."
- Read Genesis 1:1 aloud to the group.
- Ask: "What are the first four words that you see in Genesis 1:1?" (*In the beginning God*)
- Explain that these first four words written by Moses help us to understand the starting point of not only the Bible but also of creation.

- Continue explaining that in the beginning, nothing existed except God. Then, God began to create.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words using the Bible story page as a guide.
- Ask: “What did God create?” (*Allow the group to respond.*)
- Display the Text Truth.
- Say: **“God created everything and rules over it.”**
- Continue: “God created the heavens, earth, light, sky, land, seas, plants, trees, sun, moon, stars, swimming creatures, flying creatures, land creatures, and people! After He created everything, God said that it was good. He has power over and rules over everything.”
- Say: “Genesis 1–2 reminds us that God is the ultimate Creator.”

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 1 video.
- Inquire: “Where did Joel go? What did he learn about? Why did he want to ride in a blimp? Name something God created that you wish you could see from way up high.”

### MEMORY VERSE

- Bonus Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Genesis 1:27. If kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week’s Bonus Verse is Revelation 4:11.*
- Write one word of the Memory Verse on each strip of paper. Make two sets.*
  - Display the “Genesis 1:27” poster.
  - Lead the group in reading the Memory Verse aloud.
  - Form two teams. Give each team a set of Memory Verse strips.
  - Ask: “After God created everything, what did He do on the seventh day?” (*He rested.*)
  - Say: “When I say ‘Go,’ work together as a team to put the verse in order. Once your team has the verse in order, everyone should sit down and rest.”
  - If the teams are struggling to put the verse in the correct order, consider leaving the Memory Verse poster displayed.
  - After the verse is in order and the teams have sat down, read the verse aloud.
  - Congratulate both teams on their hard work.

### PRAYER

- Ask: “What’s your favorite animal?” (*Allow the group to respond.*)
- Say: “From the smallest animal on the earth to the largest animal in the sea, **God created everything and rules over it.**”
- Distribute Family Cards.
- Challenge the kids to use their cards this week to tell someone about all the things that God created.
- Pray for the group, thanking God for creating and ruling over everything.

## APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens, colored pencils
- Review: Item 11: “Review Tree” (Poster Pack), green strips of paper, marker, painter’s tape

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today’s pages.
- Review this week’s object, the “Manuscript Leaf of Creation.”
- Help boys and girls complete the “Creation Matching” activity.
- Guide kids to examine each creation in “It’s a Jungle Out There.”
- Choose volunteers to read about “Nap Time.”
- Lead kids to draw a picture in “The Most Important Creation.”

### REVIEW

□ *Copy the questions below onto the green strips of paper. Using the painter’s tape, tape one end of the strips of paper to the “Review Tree” so that one end of the strip is loose. Display the “Review Tree.”*

- Ask: “What did God create on the third day?” (*dry land, seas, plants, and trees*)
- Remind the group that God placed many trees in the garden, including the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Display the “Review Tree.”
- Say: “We have our own tree today! The ‘Review Tree.’”
- Explain that one at a time, the kids will go to the tree and pick a strip of paper. Once they have the strip, they should read the question on the paper strip aloud.
- Allow the group to work together to answer the question, or allow the kid who chose the question to answer.
- Continue allowing the kids to pick a strip off the tree until all the questions have been answered.
  1. What did God call the light and darkness that He created? (day and night, Genesis 1:5)
  2. What did God create on the second day of creation? (sky, Genesis 1:8)
  3. What day did God create the sun, moon, and stars? (the fourth day, Genesis 1:14-19)
  4. What day did God create sea creatures and birds? (the fifth day, Genesis 1:20-23)
  5. Fill in the blank: “Let Us make man in Our \_\_\_\_\_.” Who said this? (image, God; Genesis 1:26)
  6. What did God think of everything He created? (It was very good, Genesis 1:31)
  7. What did God do on the seventh day? (He rested. Genesis 2:2)
  8. What did God call the seventh day? (holy, Genesis 2:3)
- Remind the kids that just like the trees, **God created everything and rules over it.**
- Congratulate the group on how much they learned from the book of Genesis.

## ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.



### THE 5 W'S

*Tools: "Genesis" (Books of the Bible Posters), Bibles, Bible dictionaries*

- Display the "Genesis" poster.
- Remind the group that Moses wrote the book of Genesis to lay the foundation for history and theology for the entire Bible.
- Ask: "What do you know about Moses?" (*Allow kids to respond.*)
- Find "Moses" in a Bible dictionary. Read the definition aloud.
- Say: "God used Moses to do a lot of amazing things, including writing some of the books in the Bible."
- Continue: "Aside from Genesis, Moses also wrote the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These first five books of the Bible are also called the Torah or the Pentateuch."
- Encourage the group to find the first five books of the Bible in order, saying each name aloud as they find it.
- Direct the kids to the "Genesis" poster.
- Read aloud or allow kids to take turns reading the five w's.
- Say: "Moses included important details about creation and God's chosen people. These details help us know that **God created everything and rules over it.**"
- Continue: "It's important to know details about the books and authors of the Bible."
- Conclude: "When we learn more about God's Word, we know Him more and can better understand His plan for us."



### ON THIS DAY, GOD CREATED

*Tools: Giant Inflatable Game Cube or a square-shaped box, "Days of Creation" (Printables)*

- *Print out the "Days of Creation" pages and insert one sheet into each pocket of the Game Cube.*
- Remind kids of the Text Truth: **God created everything and rules over it.**
- Say: "God created many different plants and animals."
- Continue: "He created roses and maple trees. He also created cardinals and elephants. He created dolphins and butterflies too!"
- Say: "Today, we're going to name some of God's amazing creations."
- Display the Game Cube.
- Explain that each kid will have a turn to gently toss the Game Cube into the air.
- Say: "Once the Game Cube lands, you should say the number of the side facing up aloud. Then say, 'On this day, God created...' and name something that God created on that day." (*For example: If the Game Cube lands on 5, the kids should name a sea creature or bird.*)
  - ▶ Day 1: light/day and dark/night
  - ▶ Day 2: sky
  - ▶ Day 3: dry land, seas, plants, trees
  - ▶ Day 4: sun, moon, stars
  - ▶ Day 5: sea creatures, birds
  - ▶ Day 6: land animals, man, woman
- Allow kids to duplicate answers for days that don't have several objects, such as light/day, dark/night for the first day.
- Continue playing until everyone has a turn or as time allows.





## BEGINNING BRACELETS

*Tools: elastic cord; scissors; dark blue, yellow, royal blue, brown, green, white, orange, light blue, and pink pony beads*

□ **Cut the cord into 9-inch sections.**

- Provide each kid with a section of cord and one of each colored bead.
- Review the Text Truth: **God created everything and rules over it.**
- Say: "We're going to make bracelets to remind us of everything that God created."
- Direct kids to string the beads onto the cord in the following order: dark blue, yellow, royal blue, brown, green, white, orange, light blue, and pink.
- Say: "On the first day, God created light. The dark blue bead represents night. The yellow represents light."
- Continue: "The royal blue bead is for the sky that God created on day two."
- Explain that on day three, God created the land, trees, and plants. The brown and green beads represent day three.
- Say: "On day four, God created the sun, moon, and stars. The white bead represents the lights in the sky."
- Continue: "The orange bead is for the sea, air, and land creatures that God created on days five and six."
- Ask: "What did God create last on day six of creation?" (*Adam and Eve*)
- Say: "Man and woman are represented in the light blue and pink beads."
- Tie the elastic ends together and encourage kids to wear their bracelets and share the creation story with others.



## PRAYER PENNANTS

*Tools: large sheets of craft foam, permanent markers or adhesive craft foam letters to spell Pray for Ohio for each kid, adhesive craft shapes (hearts, stars, animals, and so on), scissors, pencils, rulers, low-temperature glue gun, dowel sticks or large craft sticks*

□ **Use the craft foam to cut a triangle in the shape of a sports pennant for each kid.**

□ **Make a sample pennant to show kids.**

- Say: "Columbus is the city with the highest population in Ohio, and it is one of the 15 most populated cities in the United States. It is a college town, with the second largest number of college students in the world. The loyalty to the college football team is a significant part of life in the area. The young, hip, and innovative people of the area keep the city packed with energy and creativity year-round."
- The number of Southern Baptist churches in the Columbus, Ohio, area grew by more than 60 percent between 2005 to 2012, and new sections of the area were being reached for the first time. But just a little over 12 percent of the population is connected to a church, and there is only 1 Southern Baptist church for every 15,555 people.
- Provide the art supplies and foam pieces. Allow kids to use the foam letters or to write *Pray for Ohio* on the pennant. Then guide kids to decorate with the additional foam shapes.
- Ask an adult leader to turn the pennant over and attach the dowel rod or craft stick against the short end using the glue gun.
- Tell kids to use their pennants as a prayer reminder to pray for churches and missionaries telling people about Jesus in Columbus, Ohio.