



# Session 1

## GOD CREATED THE WORLD



### 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:** Our eternal God created everything and reigns over it.

**BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT:** Establish the discipline of daily Bible reading.

### BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “Objects: Manuscript Leaf of Creation” (Printables)
- Examine the Text:** Bibles, chenille stems, Item 4: “Text Truth 1” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location* video
- Memory Verse:** “People” (Printables), markers or crayons
- Prayer:** Family Cards

### APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens, colored pencils
- Review:** Item 11: “Creation” (Poster Pack), “On What Day?” (Printables), tape

To order the *Explore the Bible: Books of the Bible Posters* (Print Item No. 005849118, Digital Item No. 005849119), 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:** Bibles, dry erase board, dry erase marker, “Genesis” (Books of the Bible Posters)
- Move:** index cards, pencils, Bibles
- Make:** Item 12: “Let’s Read” (Poster Pack), tape, sticky notes, markers
- 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: Bibles, chenille stems, Item 4: "Text Truth 1" (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: "People" (Printables), markers or crayons
- Prayer: Family Cards

## TIP:

Giving kids chenille stems or wiki sticks to create things that they hear in the story is a great way to keep active learners engaged while learning.

## 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

- Greet the kids by name as they enter.
- Ask each boy and girl what their favorite bird or land animal is that God created. Ask the other leaders to share what their favorite sea creature is.
- Display the "Manuscript Leaf of Creation."
- Ask: "What do you notice about this object? Does your Bible look like this?"
- Say: "Our object is a beautiful piece of a Bible that shows the first chapter of Genesis."
- Ask: "Can anyone recite what the first sentence in Genesis says?" (*In the beginning God created the heavens [heaven, KJV] and the earth.*)
- Point out that the vertical design on the left side makes the letter *I* to begin the chapter with the word *In*.
- Continue: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth. We are going to read in our Bibles and find out what God created and in what order."

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask: "What is the first book of the Bible?" (*Genesis*) "What division is the book of Genesis in?" (*Law*)
- Remind boys and girls that the Bible has 10 divisions. Divisions describe how the books of the Bible are organized. All the books in a division have events or themes in common.
- 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. There are many types of genres in the Bible.
- Say: "The book of Genesis is in the law genre."
- Guide the group to open their Bibles to Genesis 1.
- Display the Text Truth and read it aloud: "**Our eternal God created everything and reigns over it.**"
- Give each boy and girl two or three chenille stems.
- Say: "It is important to know and believe that God was there in the very beginning. There was nothing except God. He created everything and reigns over it. As you listen to the story, use the chenille stems to create something that you hear God made. It could be a number to represent the day God made something, the sun, moon, Adam, or even a cow."
- Ask a volunteer or leader to read Genesis 1:1-5.
- Say: "Can you imagine if you were able to see God creating the world? Everything surrounding you was dark then God spoke and light appeared. God created day and night on day one. Listen as I tell the rest of the story."

- Continue telling the Bible story in your own words, using the Bible story page as a guide. Pause after the seventh paragraph.
- Ask: “Does anyone remember what day dry land was created?” (*day 3*) “What about land animals?” (*day 6*) “Let’s continue to see how God created people.”
- Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:27.
- Continue telling the Bible story.
- Say: “Wow! God is a marvelous Creator! God created everything and in a certain order. Can you imagine if God had created sea animals before the sea or daylight? Next week, we are going to learn more about the man and woman God created.”
- Give the group a few minutes to share their chenille stem creations. Praise each kid for their creativity.

### 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.*

*Print the “People” printable and cut them out. Provide markers for each kid.*

- Display the “Genesis 1:27” poster and say the verse together.
- Guide the group to write the verse on their people.
- As the group is creating, ask: “If you are a believer, when people see your actions and hear your words, do they see God?”
- Remind the group that God created each boy and girl uniquely. Tell them that God loves them and has a plan for their lives.

### PRAYER

- Say: “During our Bible time, each one of you created something unique. Our eternal God created everything, and it was good. Right now, we are not going to rest after our creations, like God; we are going to pray and praise Him for creating everything and ruling over it!”
- Ask a volunteer to close in prayer, praising God for His creations.
- Distribute Family Cards and encourage kids to review the information on the card with their families and to share their unique creations with them.

## APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens, colored pencils
- Review: Item 11: "Creation" (Poster Pack), "On What Day?" (Printables), tape

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages.
- Review this week's object, the "Manuscript Leaf of Creation."
- Help girls and boys recall today's Bible story as they complete the activity "Which Came First?" (*Answers are in bold: **day** or fish, **seas** or trees, stars or **night**, sun or **plants**, **moon** or whales, birds or **sky**, people or **fish**, cows or **land***)
- Select volunteers to read aloud "Take a Break."
- Guide kids to examine "Better Wash Your Hands."
- Lead boys and girls to draw a self-portrait in "Created in His Image."

### REVIEW

□ **Tape the "Creation" poster to a focal wall. Cut out the "On What Day?" cards and place tape loop on the back of them.**

- Ask: "Who can tell me what day God created land animals?" (*day 6*)
- Say: "Great answer! The review game today will help us remember what God made and on what day."
- Point to the "Creation" poster and then to the "On What Day?" cards.
- Explain: "As a group, tape the cards on what day you think God created it. When all the cards are on the poster, we will review and see what the group got right."
- Guide the boys and girls to each take a card of various things God made and tape them to the correct day while you reread the Bible story.
- Help the boys and girls if they need help.
- Reread the Bible story using the Bible story page. Guide the boys and girls to listen as you read. Pause the story to make corrections to the poster, if any. At the end, go over what the boys and girls put in each square and affirm the group for doing a great job working together.
- Ask each boy and girl what their favorite thing is that God created.

## ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

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



### BIBLE DIVISIONS MIX UP

Tools: Bibles, dry erase board, dry erase marker, "Genesis" (Books of the Bible Posters)

- Write the names of all the divisions in the Bible on the dry erase board. (Law, Old Testament History, Poetry and Wisdom, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets, Gospels, New Testament History, Paul's Letters, General Letters, Prophecy) Scramble up the letters of each division.
- Say: "The Bible has 66 books in it. Each book of the Bible is grouped into a division. Divisions describe how the books of the Bible are organized. All the books in a division have events or themes in common, so they are grouped next to each other in the Bible."
- Announce that you have written the names of each division on the dry erase board; but they are all mixed up.
- Challenge boys and girls to work together to unscramble the letters.
- If the boys and girls need help, give them a hint, if they can answer a review question from today's story or name a book of the Bible.
- Each time the group decodes a division, stop and read to the group what books are found in that division.
- Display the "Genesis" poster.
- Ask: "What Bible truth did we learn from Genesis today?" (**Our eternal God created everything and reigns over it.**)
- Invite a volunteer to read the poster and share what division Genesis is in. (Law)
- Review with the group the different divisions in the Bible. Remind them that the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books.



### CREATION CHARADES

Tools: index cards, pencils, Bibles

- Distribute the pencils and index cards to each boy and girl. Lead kids to draw or write one thing they heard in the Bible story that God created. Boys and girls can make multiple cards. Explain that they will have to act out what is on the card, so they should plan accordingly.
- Collect the cards and place them in a bowl facedown.
- Explain that each boy and girl will get a chance to draw a card, and they will have to act out what is on the card or describe it without saying the word on the card. The goal is to get the group to guess what it is. If you have a kid who is unable to act, try allowing them to draw what is on the card.
- Allow time for each kid to have a turn. Instruct leaders to assist boys and girls when they need help.
- Say: "Everyone did a great job! God was the only One at the beginning. He has always existed. The earth was empty and then God started to create everything."
- Invite a volunteer to read Revelation 4:11.
- Say: "God is worthy of our praise and honor because He created all things."
- Guide the group in saying the Text Truth: "**Our eternal God created everything and reigns over it.**"





## LET'S READ

Tools: Item 12: "Let's Read" (Poster Pack), tape, sticky notes, markers

□ **Tape the "Let's Read" poster to a focal wall. Give each boy and girl 10 sticky notes and markers. Make sure to have extra in case of mistakes.**

- Say: "In the beginning, the earth was dark and empty. There was no light or form. But God spoke and for six days, He created the world. God made light and stars, land and the seas. He filled it with fish, plants and animals and people. When God finished, He said it was very good. **Our eternal God created everything and reigns over it.**"
- Continue: "For six days, you are going to read Genesis 1-2. Before you begin to read, open with prayer, asking God to help you be free from distractions and to learn something new."
- Ask for a volunteer or leader to read the "Let's Read" poster.
- Guide the group to write each day's Bible reading and the additional questions on separate sticky notes. Encourage them to decorate each note.
- Say: "Establishing a habit of daily Bible reading is important in growing your faith and learning more about God and His Word. I can't wait to hear what answers you have to these questions."
- Be mindful of non-readers or second language readers in your group. Encourage them to make sticky notes for their family to read together! Communicate to the parents and guardians to make it a family activity.



## 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.