



Session

1

GOD'S WONDER-FILLED WORLD

FOR THE
LEADER

Genesis 1:1–2:3

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 farthest 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 children, 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 thank God for the world and everything in it!

SESSION FOCUS

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 1:1–2:3

BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 1:31

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

BIBLE SKILLS: Babies and toddlers will . . .

- Help open the Bible. Say the word *Bible*.
- Touch, hold, and turn pages of the Bible.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home (available on Ministry Grid)
- Diaper Bag Card
- Preschool Family Card



SESSION ACTIVITIES

BABIES EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Babies are sensory learners and they are relational. They learn best when teachers engage them through conversation and play. Prepare two or three activities for babies to enjoy as they explore the Bible.

First hour–

- Look in a Mirror
- See & Spin Pictures
- Roll “Nature Bottles”

Next hour–

- Repeat activities with babies in the next hour.

TODDLERS EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Toddlers are on the go and ready to learn. They learn best through playful exploration and discovery. Offer three or more multisensory activities to lead young preschoolers to discover and learn Bible truths.

First hour–

- Drop Pom-Poms in a Pan
- Draw on Mirrors
- Play with Farm Animals
- Match Creation Pictures

Next hour–

- Make a Sticker Picture
- Work Nature Puzzles
- Go on a Nature Walk

PLUS Circle Time!

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-2:3

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE

Everything God made was very good.
Genesis 1:31

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: God Created the World
- 15 September Bible Markers
- 16 Creation Pictures
- 17 Book: *God's Wonderful World*

PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign

LEADER TIP!

The Creation Pictures feature 12 things God made for His world. The 12 pictures are duplicated to provide 24 pictures.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1-2:3

- *God made the day and night. He made the sun, moon, and stars.*
- *God made plants and trees.*
- *God made animals, birds, and people.*
- *Everything God made was good.*

EXPLORATIONS

LOOK IN A MIRROR

Tools: Bible, Book: God's Wonderful World, board book featuring God's world, nonbreakable mirror, Diaper Bag Card, tape

- Tape the Diaper Bag Card to one end of the mirror. Lay the Bible and book near the mirror.
- As babies crawl or scoot to the mirror, say: "Look! I see my friends. You are special. God made you!" Name the babies you see reflected in the mirror. Thank God for each child.
- Show babies the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Say: "God made the whole world. God made you!"
- Picture-read the book to a baby as you hold her in your lap. Help the baby point to the pictures of things God made.
- Tap the Bible. Comment: "The Bible says that everything God made was very good. Thank You, God, for making the world."

SEE & SPIN PICTURES

Tools: 2 Bibles, Creation Pictures, large plastic straws, scissors, tape, yarn

- Use one set of the Creation Pictures to put in the Bible. Put six pictures in one Bible and the remaining pictures in the second Bible. Lay the Bibles on the floor near the babies' play area.
- Use the duplicate set of Creation Pictures to make a "toy" for babies. Cut the straws in half. Tape a straw horizontally to the back of each picture. Next, thread a long piece of yarn through the straws, then tie the ends of the yarn between the legs of a crib.

- Seat a baby on the floor and sit nearby. (Never leave a baby unattended near the yarn.) Help the baby flip and spin pictures on the yarn line. Describe the pictures. Say: “God made all things in the world. God made ____.” (Name something on the Creation Pictures.)
- Sing (tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb”): *Everything God made is good, it is good, it is good. Everything God made is good. It is very good.*
- Help another baby open the Bible to find the Creation Pictures.
- Turn to Genesis 1:31 and place a baby’s hand on the page as you say the Bible verse: “Everything God made was very good. Genesis 1:31”

LEADER TIP!

Use the tune “God Is So Good” to sing these words:
God made the world, God made the world, God made the world. It was very good.

ROLL “NATURE BOTTLES”

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Created the World, September Bible Markers, small clean water bottles, several nature items (flower, leaf, acorn, twig, berries), glue or tape, Allergy Sign

- Put a nature item in each bottle and seal the cap securely with glue or tape. Place today’s verse marker in the Bible at Genesis 1:31.
- Roll a bottle to a baby playing on the floor. The baby may try to roll the bottle or pick it up. Name the item in the bottle and comment that God made the item for His world. Say: “God made everything in the world. He made trees, the sky, animals, food, and people.”
- Hold the Story Picture for a baby to see as you tell the Bible story and repeat the Bible verse.

**NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR BABIES)**

- Continue and repeat activities from the first hour. Babies learn through repetition and practice.
- As you cuddle, rock, soothe, and tend to babies’ needs, talk about the Bible. Say Bible words and phrases.
- Use the Bible with babies. Let them see, touch, and turn Bible pages.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-2:3

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE

Everything God made was very good.
Genesis 1:31

PACK ITEMS

1 Story Picture: God Created the World
15 September Bible Markers
16 Creation Pictures
17 Book: *God's Wonderful World*

PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign

LEADER TIP!

Help toddlers begin to learn and understand that to create something means to make it. God created (made) the world.

Genesis 1:1-2:3

A long time ago the world was very dark. Then God made light. God made the bright sun for the daytime. He made the nighttime, too. God made the moon to give soft light at night. He made the twinkling stars for nighttime.

God made water. He made lakes and oceans and filled them with fish of all sizes. God made some very tiny fish, and He made big fish. God made food for the fish to eat.

God made the blue sky and the puffy white clouds. He made tall, tall trees, and scraggly bushes. God made beautiful flowers and plants of many colors.

God made a beautiful world. He said, "It is very good, very good indeed."

God made people. He made a man and a woman, and they were the very first people.

God finished making His world. Then God rested.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

DROP POM-POMS IN A PAN



Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Created the World, small craft pom-poms (6 colors), thick paper in the same colors, tape, scissors, muffin pan, basket

- Cut 6 circles from paper matching the colors of the pom-poms. Tape the paper circles in the cups of the muffin pan. Put the pom-poms in the basket and set it near the pan and Story Picture.
- Invite an interested toddler to drop pom-poms in the pan, matching the colors. Name the colors for the toddler.
- While the toddler plays, comment that God made all the colors we see. Say: "God made you and gave you eyes to see." Show the Story Picture and talk about the colors in the picture.
- Show Genesis 1:31. Say: "Everything God made was very good."

DRAW ON MIRRORS

Tools: Bible, Book: God's Wonderful World, nonbreakable hand mirrors, washable markers, damp paper towels or baby wipes, Diaper Bag Card

- Invite one or two children to draw on the mirrors.
- While the children draw, ask: "Who do you see in the mirror? That's right, YOU! God made you. God made people and loves them."
- Read the book to other toddlers waiting for turns to draw. Talk about the beautiful things we can see in God's world.
- Help a toddler open the Bible to the beginning of Genesis. Say: "Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Genesis tells us that God made the world."
- Show children the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Ask the children to identify things God made.
- Lead toddlers to say the Bible verse with you.

PLAY WITH FARM ANIMALS

Tools: Bible, plastic farm animals, cardboard blocks, toy barn, a few large toy trucks or tractors, Preschool Family Card

- Place the farm-related toys together near the block shelf. Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and lay the Family Card on the Bible.
- Invite toddlers to pretend to care for farm animals. Suggest that children build a fence for the animals.
- As toddlers play, comment that God made all the animals in the world. God made animals that walk, swim, fly, and crawl. Help toddlers name some animals.
- Show preschoolers the open Bible and remark that the Bible tells us that God made animals for His world. Read the words of Genesis 1:31.
- Lead toddlers to say the Bible verse together.
- Look at the picture on the Family Card. Thank God for His beautiful world.

MATCH CREATION PICTURES

Tools: Bible, September Bible Markers, Creation Pictures

- Separate the pictures into two sets. Arrange one set faceup on a table. Stack the other set facedown near the cards. Place today's verse marker in the Bible at Genesis 1:31.
- Invite a child to look at the pictures spread on the table. Ask: "Can you find pictures that are the same? Let's work together."
- Direct the child to get the top card from the stack and find its match on the table.
- Talk about the items pictured on the cards and remark that God made these things for His world.
- Invite a child to open the Bible to the marker. As you touch the words on the page, lead the child to repeat: "Everything God made was very good. Genesis 1:31."

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-2:3

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE

Everything God made was very good.
Genesis 1:31

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible

PACK ITEMS

1 Story Picture: God Created the World
15 September Bible Markers

CIRCLE TIME (2-5 MINUTES)

Your toddlers may be ready for a simple circle time. You decide when and how long to have a group experience.

GATHER

- Play music in the background as you gather items for Circle Time.
- Invite children to hop around the room with you to the Circle Time area. Direct children to be seated.
- Sit on the floor (or in chairs) with the preschoolers gathered around.
- Ask several children to name their favorite animals, favorite fruit (or other food), and favorite flower.
- Say: “Today we will hear that God made everything you named!”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and hold the Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Hold the Story Picture for all the children to see. Point to different things in the picture and ask preschoolers who made each item. Lead children to respond, “God!”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Hold up the Bible and say: “The Bible is the most important book we can read. The Bible tells about God and Jesus. We learn from the Bible that God made the world and everything in it.”
- Ask a toddler to stand or kneel beside you. Give him the Bible opened to Genesis 1:31.
- Say today’s Bible verse while the toddler holds the Bible. Lead other children to say the Bible verse with you.

PRAY

- Pray, thanking God for His wonderful world. Thank God for making people and loving them.
- Sing these words to the tune “God Is So Good”:
God made the world. God made the world. God made the world, and He made me, too.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS)

Continue activities from the first hour or offer these additional activities to help toddlers explore the Bible.

MAKE A STICKER PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, nature stickers, copy paper, marker

- Place paper and stickers on a table. Write today's Text Truth across each paper.
- Invite a toddler to choose stickers to place on his paper. Read the words written on the paper.
- Summarize today's Bible story as the child decorates his paper. Say: "God made a beautiful world. Everything God made was good. We can thank God for making the world." Show the child Genesis 1:31 in the Bible.
- Hold the Diaper Bag Card for the child to see as you tell more about God's world.

WORK NATURE PUZZLES

Tools: Bible; Story Picture: God Created the World (Pack Item 1); wooden puzzles featuring food, animals, flowers or plants, people; Creation Pictures (Pack Item 16)

- Invite a child to choose a puzzle to work. As he fits pieces into a frame or matches Creation Pictures, remark that God made the world and everything in it.
- Show the preschooler today's Story Picture and summarize the creation of the world from Genesis 1. Say: "We read in the Bible that God made everything and it was very good."
- Make up a tune to sing: *Very good, very good, God's world is very good. Everything, everything, God made everything.*

GO ON A NATURE WALK

Tools: Bible, Book: God's Wonderful World (Pack Item 17)

- Leave a sign on the door to inform families of where you are walking with children and when you will return to the room.
- Take two toddlers outdoors for a brief nature walk. Take the Bible and book with you.
- As you walk, point out flowers, trees, birds, and insects you see. Comment that God made everything in His world.
- Look for a safe, shaded place to sit down and read the book together. After reading, open the Bible to Genesis 1 and say: "This is where we read that God made everything in the world, and it was all very good." Thank God for His world.
- Return to the room and invite two more toddlers to walk.

*Look for printable
Next Hour helps in
Music & Print Extras.*