



Session 1



GOD'S WONDER-FILLED WORLD

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: Preschoolers will . . .

- Begin to recognize names of books in the Bible. Open the Bible to a marked (*specific*) verse or passage.
- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story or Bible fact.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

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

- Explore the Bible at Home (available on Ministry Grid)
- Preschool Activity Page
- Preschool Family Card

MISSIONS ACTIVITY: CLEAN UP GOD’S WORLD



Tools: Bible, small paper bags, baby wipes or hand sanitizer

- Distribute paper bags to the children. Go outdoors if possible, or walk to places within the church where children can help clean.
- As children find trash and put it in their bags, thank them for helping. Suggest that God told people to take care of His world.
- Comment: “Often missionaries go to places where people’s homes have been flooded or damaged. The missionaries help pick up trash and broken furniture. They sweep and clean the people’s homes and wash windows. The missionaries find many things they can do to help the people. While they help clean, the missionaries often talk about Jesus.”
- Wipe the children’s hands as you encourage them to name other ways to help people and tell them about Jesus.

LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

God Created the World
Genesis 1:1–2:3

BIBLE VERSE

God saw all that He had made,
and it was very good indeed.
Genesis 1:31

LEADER TIP!

Though this story is very familiar to adults, it may be the first time a preschooler hears about God, the Creator. Tell the story with enthusiasm and appreciation for God's wonder-filled world.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Everything in the world began with God. God started His creation with the heavens and the earth. For six days God worked to make everything.

In the beginning, the earth was covered with darkness. God said, “Let there be light.” God then made morning and evening, and this became the first day.

After that, God made more for His world. On Day 2, God made the sky. On Day 3, He made dry land and oceans. God made plants and trees. God saw that these things were good.

Day 4 is when God placed lights in the sky—the sun, the moon, and the stars. These creations were good.

Then God said for living things to swim in the water and birds to fly in the sky. This happened on the fifth day. God saw that this was good.

On Day 6, God made land animals—animals to walk, crawl, hop, run, and jump. All the animals were just the kind God planned.

Finally, God decided the world needed people. God wanted the people to live in His world and take care of it. So, God made a man and a woman.

After six days, God was finished creating His world. God rested on the seventh day.

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. The world God created was beautiful, perfect, and good.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Genesis 1:31

Paraphrase:

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good indeed. Genesis 1:31



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

GATHER

- Play music and invite preschoolers to go with you to Circle Time. Encourage children to move like animals.
- Direct children to be seated. Ask each child to name a favorite animal. Say: “God made animals! Today we will learn that God made the world and everything in it.”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and hold the Bible in your lap.
- Tell the creation story in your words. Express awe and admiration for God’s beautiful world as you tell the story. Show children the Story Picture.
- After the story, help preschoolers recall the things God made each day of the creation week. Ask each child in turn to toss the Days of Creation Cube and describe the picture(s) facing up. Remark that after God made His world, He rested on the seventh day.
- Move to the Fall Text Truths Poster on the wall. Remark that each week the children will learn something important from the Bible. Say: “This week’s important truth is ‘God created the world and everything in it.’”
- Name a preschooler to tape today’s Poster Add-on to the poster.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the group. Explain to preschoolers that the Bible is God’s Word, and it helps us know more about God.
- Say: “Today’s Bible story is from the book of Genesis. It is the first book of the Bible. Let’s find the book of Genesis in your Bibles.”
- Guide preschoolers to open the Bible to Genesis 1. Then help children move their fingers to verse 31. Say today’s Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Give thanks to God for the beautiful world He created.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Music & Print Extras
- clear tape

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: God Created the World
- 15 Fall Text Truths Poster
- 16 Text Truths Poster Add-ons
- 18 Days of Creation Cube

LEADER TIP!

Show preschoolers where the book of Genesis is located on the Bible Timeline for Kids.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

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

BIBLE VERSE

God saw all that He had made,
and it was very good indeed.
Genesis 1:31

PACK ITEMS

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

PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign

LEADER TIP!

If the weather is not agreeable for a walk outdoors, look out from a window or door. Lead children to tell what they see. Thank God for everything He made.

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers. Use the Bible in every exploration.

MAKE A NATURE POSTER

Tools: Bible, poster board, washable marker, assorted picture cutouts of nature items and scenes, glue sticks, preschool book featuring God's world

- Draw six large circles on the poster board. Label each circle *Day 1*, *Day 2*, and so on in order.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 1. Lay a picture on the page.
- Show children the poster and explain that the circles represent the days of creation. Say: "Let's make a poster showing the things God made each day."
- As children choose pictures to glue on the poster, help them place pictures in the appropriate circles.
- Picture-read the book to the children, noting that God made everything in the world, and it was very good.

WALK IN GOD'S WORLD

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, September Bible Markers

- Invite a few children at a time to go on a brief walk outdoors to explore God's world.
- As you walk, encourage children to point out things that God created. Recall on what day of creation these things were made by God.
- After a while, find a shady spot to sit down and talk about God's world. Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and tell the Bible story. Show children the picture on the Activity Page.
- As you walk back to the room, lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse together a few times.

READ ABOUT GOD'S WORLD

Tools: Bible, green or blue towel, 3 or 4 nature books, a few pictures of God's world, magnetic letter tiles to spell the word Genesis, magnet board

- Arrange the books and pictures on the towel. Lay the magnet board and letters nearby.
- Invite a child to choose a book to read. Talk with the child about things he can see, touch, hear, smell, feel, and enjoy in God's world. Say: "God made the world, and He made us."
- Turn to Genesis 1 in the Bible. Say: "Genesis is the name of the first book in the Bible. The word *Genesis* means 'beginnings.' Everything began with God."
- Point to the word *Genesis* on a Bible page. Show the preschooler the letter tiles and help him place letters in order on the board to spell the word *Genesis*.

WASH VEGGIES & FRUIT

Tools: Bible; shallow dishpan with small amount of water; vegetable scrubber; foods such as potato, carrot, bell pepper, squash, eggplant, mango, apple, lemon; 2 towels; Allergy Sign

- Spread one towel on a table and put the dishpan on it.
- Invite a child to wash one or two food items. As she works, ask her which foods she likes to eat. Comment on the wide variety of foods God planned for people and animals. Say: "The Bible tells us that God made plants with seed. Has your family planted a garden before?"
- Turn to Genesis 1. Say: "In the very first book of the Bible, we learn that God made water. You are washing the foods in the cool water. God planned for people and animals to have water to drink. Isn't God good?"
- Tell the Bible story, then thank God for His world.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, toy people figures, Story Picture: God Created the World, toy cars and trucks, masking tape

- Put the items in the block center and prop the Story Picture nearby. Open the Bible to Genesis 1.
- As children enjoy playing with the blocks and figures, talk about families. Say: "God made people, and He planned for families. God loves people."
- Use the tape to make a few roads on the floor. Ask children their destinations and what they "see" on their driving routes. Say: "God gave you eyes and ears to enjoy His world."
- Show the Story Picture and tell a child to name something in the picture. Remark: "God made the trees. He made everything that grows." Thank God for His world.

LEADER TIP!

Provide any fresh vegetables and fruit that can be washed. Post a sign on the door to let parents know about the foods you have in the room today.

TEXT TRUTH

God created the world and everything in it.

BIBLE STORY

God Created the World

Genesis 1:1-2:3

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good indeed.
Genesis 1:31

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: God Created the World
- 18 Days of Creation Cube
- 19 Can You? Cards
- 20 Animal Match Cards

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in Music & Print Extras.

CUT SHAPES FROM PLAY DOUGH

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, plastic people and animal cookie cutters, small rolling pins, Preschool Family Card

- Use the Family Card to mark Genesis 1:31 in the Bible. Put the Bible and play dough tools on a table.
- Invite a few children at a time to play with dough. Encourage preschoolers to take turns with the rolling pins and cutters. As children cut shapes, associate the cutouts with God's creation of people and animals.
- Ask a preschooler to open the Bible to the card. Show the picture on the Family Card and describe what is shown. Lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse a few times with you.

CATCH A BALL & MOVE

Tools: Bible; Can You? Cards; small handled gift bag; small beach ball or play ball; Activity Page

- Put the Can You? Cards in the bag and set it on a chair seat. Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and lay the Activity Page on the Bible.
- Hold the ball. When a few children join you, invite them to play a game. Say: "I will bounce the ball to you. When you get the ball, you may take a card from the bag and do what the instruction says to do."
- Read a child's card aloud and encourage the preschooler to do the movement. Give other children turns to receive the ball and move.
- After a while, sit down together and look at the Activity Page. Recall that God made the world—sky, land, water, animals, and people. Say: "God made you able to do so many things."

MATCH CARDS & WORK PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Animal Match Cards, 2 or 3 puzzles featuring things in God's world

- Put the puzzles on a table with the Match Cards and Bible.
- As children approach the table, give them each a Match Card. Lead the children to describe the animal shown on their cards. Encourage

preschoolers to find a friend with the same animal picture. When all matches are made, invite preschoolers to choose puzzles to work.

- As children play, remark that the picture cards and puzzles help you think about the world God made. Say: “God created the world in six days. God looked at His world, and He knew it was very good indeed.”
- Thank God for His wonderful world.

MAKE A BIBLE VERSE MARKER

Tools: Bible, wide strips of thick paper, washable markers, nature stickers, Story Picture: God Created the World

- Cut the paper into wide strips and write today’s Bible verse and reference on them. Leave space for children to decorate the strips.
- Invite a few children at a time to choose stickers to place on their paper strips. Some children may want to draw with the markers.
- As children work, read the words on the paper strips. Say: “These words are in the Bible. The Bible tells us that God made the world and everything in it. God made you and gave you eyes to see His world.” Lead children to tell how they use their other senses to enjoy the amazing world God made.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 1:31 and point to the Bible verse.
- Show the Story Picture and summarize the Bible story.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music and invite preschoolers to clap their hands as you walk together to the Circle Time area.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You listened with your ears. God gave you ears to hear. He gave you eyes to see His world. Let’s talk about the things God made.”
- Toss the Days of Creation Cube to children and direct them to describe the pictures. Thank God for making the thing(s) described.
- Say: “God made the world.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass a Bible around the group as music plays.
- Stop the music and ask the child holding the Bible to stand. Lead the child to say today’s Bible verse.
- Give every child a turn.

PRAY

- Say a simple prayer to thank God for His amazing creation and for making us so that we can know God and love Him.