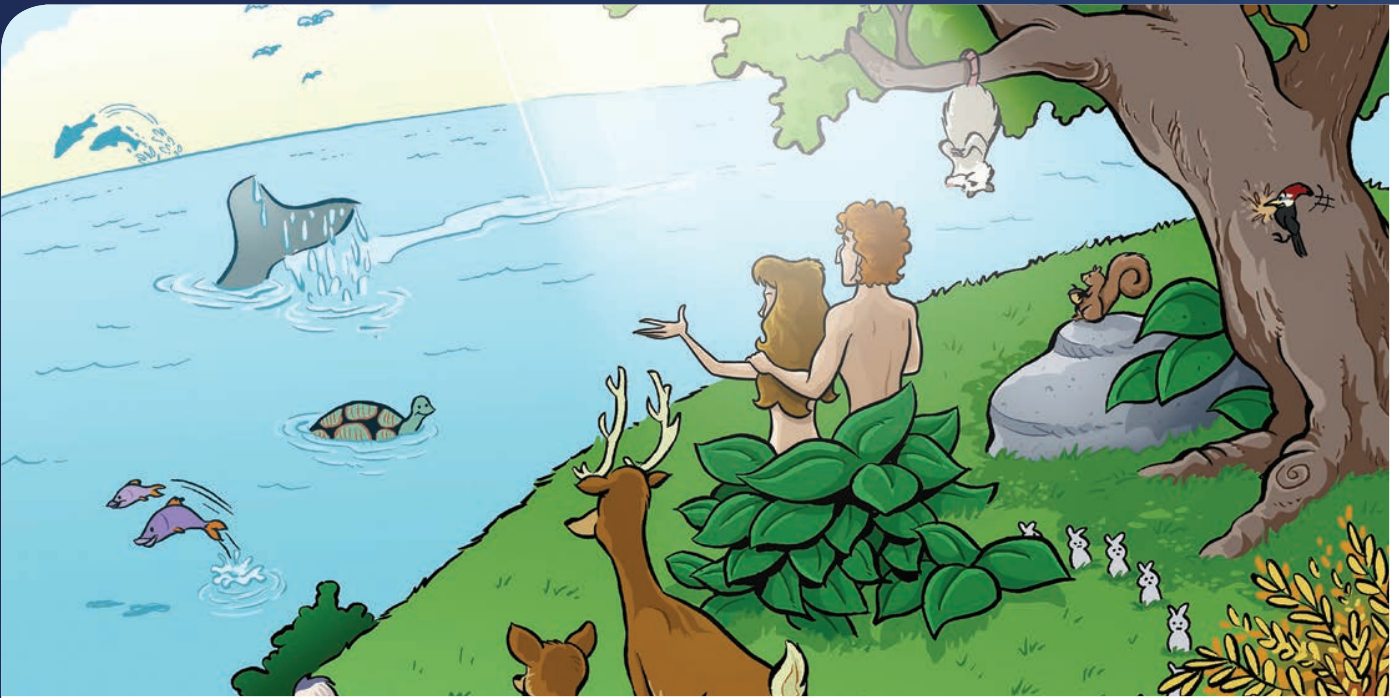




## LESSON 1

*God creates the heavens and the earth*

GENESIS 1:1-2:3



**God created a perfect world and ruled over it.**



***“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen 1:1).***

## Supporting Truths

1. God created everything.
2. God created everything with the power of His words.
3. God’s creation was very good.
4. God existed before anything was created.
5. God rules over His creation.

## Objectives

1. List several things God created.
2. Tell someone in your family about the power of God.
3. Find three times Gen 1 calls creation good.
4. Discuss how God is different from everything else in creation.
5. Explain why God has the right to rule over His creation.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

*God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3*



## Lesson Summary

In the beginning God created everything. From the tiniest ant to the largest elephant, God spoke everything into existence. But nobody created God. He was alive before anything was created because He has always existed. When God finished creating He said that His creation was very good. God created everything exactly as He wanted and ruled over His perfect creation.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

God created a perfect world and ruled over it as King. Yet even in this perfect world man did not obey God. Man sinned against God by disobeying His command (Gen 2:17). Man has been in rebellion against the rule of God ever since. Only the salvation provided through Jesus Christ, who was the only one to perfectly obey God's commands, can restore man to God.

THIS WEEK



God creates the heavens  
and the earth  
*Genesis 1:1-2:3*

NEXT WEEK



God creates man  
and woman  
*Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-24*

IN TWO WEEKS



Man rebels against God  
*Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24*

CREATION

FALL

## Lesson Commentary

*God created a perfect world and ruled over it.*

Everything that exists, in both the spiritual and physical worlds, owes its existence to God (Gen 1:1). Nothing has been created apart from Him. Therefore, all things can be properly understood through the knowledge of, and a relationship with, the One who created all things.

### God existed before creation (1:1–2)

In the beginning, before the creation of the heavens and the earth, there was God. This is because God always exists. Nobody created God. He is eternal, without a beginning or an end. He existed before creation and everything in creation owes its existence to Him (Col 1:16).

Genesis 1:2 indicates that the earth was empty before God created everything. This was the situation on earth before it was touched by the creative hand of God. Everything that we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch has been created by God. Even things we can't identify with our senses—things we can't see or touch like angels—all of these things have been created by God too!



#### THINK ABOUT IT

We can make things with our hands, but only God can create with His words.

### God created everything (1:3–30)

The heavens and earth and all things in them were **created** or made through the power of God's spoken word. Creation was not the result of physical processes

or universal laws. Rather, the existence of all things came as the result of God's divine command.

#### DAY ONE (1:3–5)

God called for light and separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. By giving names to the light and the darkness, God was declaring His right to rule over them. God is **sovereign** or in control of everything.

everywhere, all the time. He is king. To name something or someone in ancient times implied dominion or ownership (2 Kgs 23:34; 24:17). Day and night belong to the Lord (Ps 74:16).

#### DAY TWO (1:6–8)

God created the sky. God made the sky, or visible atmosphere, with the power of His words. God spoke and the sky appeared!

Consider the great expanse of the sky. Now consider the God who spoke it into existence. What a powerful God!

#### DAY THREE (1:9–13)

The water below the sky (Gen 1:9) was gathered together, and God created dry land, seas, and plants. The plants were to reproduce within categories ("kinds") that were carefully distinguished from one another. The creativity of God is also seen in the variety of His creation. Even today we are still discovering and identifying new kinds of plants and animals.

#### DAY FOUR (1:14–19)

God created the sun and the moon. Why are the sun and the moon called the "two great lights" in Genesis 1:16? Perhaps the words sun and moon are deliberately avoided here since in ancient times pagan nations deified them and worshiped them under those names. Moses, the author of Genesis, may have wanted his readers to understand that the lights are light-bearers to be appreciated, not gods to be worshiped. It is the one true God who made both the sun and the moon.

Verse 16 also mentions the fact that God created the stars. In reading the verse, the mention of the stars seems almost an afterthought, probably because of the emphasis on the specific functions of the sun and moon. Can you number the stars? God can. He has even given names to all of them (Ps 147:4).

**THINK ABOUT IT**  
Naming something shows personal ownership.



# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1–2:3



## DAY FIVE (1:20–23)

God created sea creatures and flying things (birds and flying insects). God showed gracious and loving concern to the animals by blessing them and telling them to fill the waters and the sky (Gen 1:22).

## DAY SIX (1:24–30)

God created land animals and man. Verses 24 and 25 describe God's creation of animals that filled the land. Large and small animals, cattle, and creeping things (worms, creeping insects, and reptiles) were brought forth from the earth. From the enormous elephant to the crawling caterpillar we see God's power and wisdom on display in creation.



### THINK ABOUT IT

Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we were made to reflect God's glory as His image bearers.

Included in the sixth day of creation is God's special creation—man and woman. Verse 26 reveals that man was created in the "image of God". Being created in the **image of God** means that God made man to be like Him. Think of a

picture or copy of something. Though man is not exactly like God, he is unlike the rest of creation because God created man with the ability to know Him and to have a relationship with Him.

God exalted man above the rest of creation and has "crowned man with glory and honor" and "made him to have dominion" or rule over the rest of His creation (Gen 1:26; Ps 8:5–8). Man was created by God (Gen 2:7) and is not a product of natural evolution.

Genesis 1:28 depicts God as man's provider. It is in this role that we first see His love. God provided for man's physical needs. He brought food (1:29; 2:9) and shelter (2:15) to man. (Note: 1:29–30 indicates that both people and animals were vegetarian before the flood.

See also 9:3.) God is also the provider of work (2:15, 19–20), giving man the job of cultivating the garden and naming and classifying the animals.

God also provided man with standards of right and wrong, telling man which trees in the garden he could eat from (2:16–17). God even provided relationships for man. Man was not left alone (2:21–23). The joys of friendship, the blessings of teamwork, marriage, and the family are all products of God's love. Finally, God provided mankind with purpose and hope. Ultimately, man's purpose is to glorify God by acting, thinking, and speaking in a way that praises God, pleases God, and accurately portrays God (2 Cor 5:9).

### THINK ABOUT IT

God gave us life so that we would glorify Him with our lives.



## Everything God created was very good (1:31–2:3)

### DAY SEVEN (1:31–2:3)

God saw everything He created and said that it was "very good". God made everything exactly the way He wanted it. There were no mistakes and nothing was missing. His creation was perfect. The entire universe is a testimony to the power of God. He is **omnipotent** or all powerful. God is able to do anything He desires because His power is unlimited.

Then on the seventh day, God rested. God did not need to rest (He never gets tired), but stopped creating on the seventh day to set a pattern of work and rest for man to follow. The world God made was perfect. There was nothing missing or broken. Everything was just as God wanted it to be and everything obeyed God's rule.

# Lesson Outline

*God created a perfect world and ruled over it.*

## AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God created everything (1:1–13).
2. God created everything by speaking (1:14–30).
3. Everything God created was very good (1:31–2:3).

## AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. **God existed before creation (1:1–2).**
  - In the beginning of time God spoke and created everything out of nothing (1:1).
  - The earth was formless and empty (1:2).
2. **God created everything (1:3–30)**
  - Day 1: God created light. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night” (1:3–5).
  - Day 2: God made an expanse in the midst of the waters. The atmosphere was created (1:6–8).
  - Day 3: God gathered the waters to let dry land appear. God caused the earth to yield plants (1:9–13).
  - Day 4: God created the sun, moon, and stars (1:14–19).
  - Day 5: God created the sea creatures and birds (1:20–23).
  - Day 6: God created land animals and man (1:24–30).
3. **Everything God created was very good (1:31–2:3).**
  - God saw all that He had created and said it was very good (1:31).
  - God rested on the seventh day and blessed it (2:1–3).



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

*God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3*



## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3-5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who created the heavens and the earth?**  
God created the heavens and the earth.
- 2. How did God create the heavens and the earth?**  
God created with His words.
- 3. Was God's creation good or bad?**  
God's creation was very good.
- 4. How do we know that God is a powerful God?**  
We see God's power in His creation.



### Ages 6-11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What existed "in the beginning"?**  
The Bible says, "In the beginning, God." Before all creation, God existed.
- 2. If God existed before the creation, where did He come from? When was God created?**  
No one created God, nor did He just appear. God is eternal, without a beginning or an end.
- 3. What does Genesis 1:1 say that God created?**  
"God created the heavens and the earth." This means God created everything.
- 4. How long did God take to complete the creation?**  
He took six, 24 hour days of actual creation and one day in which He rested.
- 5. Do you think that God needed six days to complete the creation?**  
Why or why not? No. God is all powerful and could have created the world instantly.
- 6. What did God create on each day of creation?**  
Day one: light; day two: sky; day three: land, plants, and trees; day four: sun, moon and stars; day five: birds and fish; day six: animals and people.
- 7. What was special about day seven?**  
On day seven, God completed His creation and rested. He set it apart (made it special) and blessed it.
- 8. What did God think of the work that He saw on each of the days of creation?**  
On days one, three, four, and five, the Bible says that God saw that it was "good." But on day six, God saw that it was "very good."

## Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



### CIRCLE TIME

Ask children the following questions about God's creation. Using their answers, explain how all of creation shows the greatness of God.

1. What is your favorite kind of animal?
2. What is the biggest animal you can think of?
3. What is the smallest animal you can think of?
4. What is the fastest animal you think of?
5. If you could have any pet in the world what would it be?

### SHOW AND TELL

Bring in various stuffed animals from home. Show each stuffed animal one at a time and tell the children how each different animal shows the greatness of God.



### PICTURE CARDS

Use the following poster size picture cards produced by A Beka Book to create interest and improve retention (see [www.abeka.com](http://www.abeka.com) for more information).

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

Turn the light off when you talk about the darkness of the earth. Turn the light on when you talk about God saying, "Let there be light." Let the children say, "Let there be light" as the lights are turned on. You may also turn the lights off during the "evening" and on during the "morning." Instead of using lights, you may ask children to open or close their eyes whenever "morning" or "evening" is mentioned.



### CREATION DIAL

See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.

**Materials:** White cardstock, crayons or markers, scissors, and metal fasteners (brads).

**Directions:** Use the "Creation Dial" craft pages in craft book as a tool to help children see the days of creation. Copy the two circles onto cardstock and cut out the circles, and give a set to each child. Tell the children to color the pictures. Help children assemble the dial by placing a metal fastener (brad) in the center of the two circles. The children can rotate the bottom circle to see what God created on each day of creation.

Creation Dial  
See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3



AGES 6-8



INTRODUCE

## THE DAYS OF CREATION

Bring in various objects that represent each day of creation. Reveal the objects one at a time to children in random order, and ask children if they know on which day of the week God created each object. Explain that in today's lesson they will learn what God created on each day of creation and how each object shows God's greatness. For example, for day one bring in a flashlight, light bulb, or laser pointer.

## VERY GOOD

Using Play-Doh, ask children to create various objects (a tree, a dog, a person, etc.). After the completion of each object, ask children how their work turned out. Did their objects turn out exactly how they wanted? Explain that when God was done creating He said that His creation was "very good." Tell the children that in today's lesson they will see the greatness of God through His ability to create exactly what He wanted exactly how He wanted to create it.



ILLUSTRATE

## CLOCKS

Use the hour hand on an analog clock to demonstrate that our great God created everything in six 24-hour days. Have the children watch as you rotate the hour hand once for the evening and once for the morning. Explain that this is the amount of time it took for God to create the heavens and the earth. Rotate the hour hand twice for each of the remaining days of creation.

## REVEALING GOD'S CREATION

Number six paper bags 1 through 6. These bags will correspond to the days of creation. Place an item for each day of creation into the corresponding bag. As you work through the Bible lesson, choose different children to pull items out of the bags. Be ready to explain how each item represents what God made on each day of creation.



APPLY

## CREATION CUBE

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.

**Materials:** White copy paper, scissors, crayons, glue.

**Directions:** Pass out a craft page to each child. Tell the children to color each picture of the days of creation. After coloring, tell the children to cut around the outside of the cube pattern on the solid lines. Model how to fold the cube on the dotted lines and then help children make the correct folds and glue the tabs to assemble the cube.



Creation Cube  
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.

Ages 9–11



INTRODUCE

**A CLOSER LOOK**

Bring to class some magnifying glasses and some things that God has created (a flower, a pine cone, some grass, a jar of water, bark from a tree, an earthworm, or some bugs). Set up different stations and have the children look at the items through the magnifying glasses. Ask the children how all these different things were created? Explain that God is the creator of the universe, and that He created everything. Tell the children that today we will look at how our world began.

**BEGINNINGS**

There are many ideas of how the world came into existence and how life began. Ask the children to tell you about some they have heard. List the ideas on the board. What do the children think about each one? Tell the children that in today's lesson, we will learn the truth about how life began.



ILLUSTRATE

**IDENTIFYING GOD'S CREATION**

Put the following items in separate bags: sand, seashells, leaves, a flower, grass, and a light bulb. Have the children close their eyes, reach in the bag, and try to identify things God made. Ask the children to describe what they feel to the rest of the class so that everyone can help identify what God created.

**GOD SAID SO**

Ask the children to identify some different things you can command with your voice (some examples might be certain kinds of lights, voice activated cell phones, dogs). Tell the children that God created the heavens and the earth with His words. Explain that Genesis 1 repeats the phrase "and God said" many times as it recounts the beginning of history. The universe was created simply because God said so! What a powerful God!



APPLY

**DAYS OF CREATION GAME**

On a marker board write the number one. Instruct children to raise their hand if they want to name something God created on that day of creation. Do the same for the following days of creation. Try going through the days out of order once the children begin to master the days of creation.

