

UNIT 1 | SESSION 1

# GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GENESIS 1-2



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God made the whole world just by speaking. Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. God the Son has always existed, and He rules over everything.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 104:24

**STORY POINT:** God made all things good.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

In Genesis 1–2, we encounter one of Scripture’s most well-known passages: the creation story. This account is foundational to recognizing God as Creator and King over everything. Yet, as foundational as this account may be, faith is still a necessary component of understanding this biblical account and in trusting the goodness of the triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—whose good creation makes known His glory and His purposes.

So, how do we find Jesus within the creation account?

To understand Jesus within the context of Genesis 1–2, we must focus on how God chose to create the heavens and the earth. He did not simply point at the formless void and silently fashion it into existence; rather, He used His voice to speak. Hebrews 11:3 declares, “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” As God spoke, everything was created out of nothing (*ex nihilo*).

In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as “the Word” to specifically demonstrate that God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus. Just as God spoke creation into existence, making His glory and will known through His words, so did He also make Himself known by the Word of God coming to earth. In fact, John 1:1 teaches us that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus is God in flesh who came to dwell in the very creation He created. Within the first three verses of Genesis 1, we read that all three Persons of the Trinity were present and involved in the creation of the world. (Genesis 1:1-3)

The apostle Paul later wrote in Colossians 1:16-17 that everything was created by Jesus, through Jesus, and for Jesus. He was before creation, and by Him all things are held together; the Word has been present since the beginning.

As you prepare to teach this session, pray that God reveals His glory in the person of Jesus Christ to the preschoolers’ hearts and minds. Ask for clarity in your words as you proclaim His truths. May God grant faith to the hearers of this story, helping them trust the truth of His Word.



#### PREPARE

##### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



#### WELCOME

##### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel





## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, Allergy Alert, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, tape, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map, snacks, paper cups, napkins.



### WELCOME

#### Welcome

- ☐ "How Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "God Is My Creator" activity page, 1 per child

#### Make play dough

- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ large bowl
- ☐ mixing spoons
- ☐ 1 cup flour
- ☐ ½ cup salt
- ☐ ½ cup warm water
- ☐ measuring cups
- ☐ ziplock bags, 1 per child
- ☐ permanent marker

#### Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Play "Creation Bingo"

- ☐ "Creation Bingo" printable
- ☐ small paper bowls
- ☐ construction paper cut into 1-inch squares



### LIVE

#### Plant seeds

- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ clear plastic cups, 1 per child
- ☐ grass seed
- ☐ shallow plastic container
- ☐ potting soil
- ☐ plastic spoons
- ☐ small watering can

#### Toss a beanbag

- ☐ beanbag
- ☐ tape

#### Tend a garden

- ☐ brown sheet or blanket
- ☐ toy vegetables
- ☐ toy shovel (optional)
- ☐ empty watering can (optional)
- ☐ small basket (optional)

#### Transition

- ☐ coloring page, 1 per child
- ☐ "How Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



### LEARN

#### Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ "God Created the World" video (optional)
- ☐ storytelling tips props (optional)

#### Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "How Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song

#### Learn the Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- ☐ "All About the Americas" missions video



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "God Is My Creator" on the activity page.

**SAY** 🗨️ God is our Creator. God made all trees, flowers, animals, and people. **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** What is your favorite thing God made? 🗨️

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### BUILD A TREE



Invite preschoolers to join you in the block area or place children in groups of two or three and give the groups several blocks. Demonstrate how to lay blocks on the floor to make a tree trunk and branches. Consider adding toy fruit or torn paper to represent leaves to the tree's branches.

**SAY** 🗨️ Look at the trees we made with blocks! Where are some places you see trees? [Allow responses.] We can see trees in places like the park or maybe our backyard. God made tree trunks, branches, and leaves. God is the Creator of everything, and **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** 🗨️

#### MAKE PLAY DOUGH



Post an allergy alert. Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. In a mixing bowl, combine 1 cup of flour, ½ cup salt, and ½ cup warm water. Allow preschoolers to take turns stirring the mixture with a mixing spoon. When a dough begins to form, allow it to cool and then lead children to knead it with their hands. Divide the play dough into portions for preschoolers to play with. Place each portion in a labeled ziplock bag for preschoolers to take home. (Note: This recipe will make enough play dough for approximately four children, increase the recipe as needed.)

**SAY** 🗨️ We used our hands to mix flour, salt, and water to make play dough. God made the whole world by just speaking. Everything was created by Him and for Him. **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** 🗨️

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to count to seven as they transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Hold up the Bible story picture poster or pass it around the circle. Ask children to identify the different animals and other nature items they see in the picture.

**SAY** “I really like the flamingo in this picture. [Point to the flamingo.] Do you see the tiger? What sound does a tiger make? [Allow responses.] There are also two people in the picture—Adam and Eve. Today we will learn about when God created the different animals and people we see in our picture.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Genesis 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Our story today comes from the first book of the Bible: Genesis. The word Genesis means ‘beginning.’ We will learn how God made everything at the beginning and that He takes care of His creation.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### GOD CREATED THE WORLD

“In the beginning, there was nothing but God—no sun, no dirt, no animals, and no people! God did something that no person could ever do. He made the world out of nothing.

First, God created the heavens and the earth. Water covered the earth, and it was dark. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” That was the first day.

On the second day, God made the sky. On the third day, He gathered the water on earth into oceans. Now there was dry land. God made all kinds of plants and trees, and He saw that it was all good.

On the fourth day, God put the sun in the sky for daytime and the moon and stars for night. God looked at what He made, and God saw that it was good.

On the fifth day, God made animals that swim in the water. He made birds that fly in the sky. God saw that His creation was good.

On the sixth day, God made animals that live on earth. He made wild animals and animals that crawl and animals that can help people. God saw that what He made was good.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**The last thing God created was the most special of all. Finally, God made people.** The people would take care of the earth God made. They would take care of the plants and animals. **God took dust from the ground and made a man.** He breathed into the man, and the man became alive. **The man's name was Adam.**

**God made a garden and put the man there to work in the garden and take care of it.** God grew trees for the man to have food. But **God did not want Adam to be alone, so he** caused Adam to fall asleep. God took a rib from Adam and **made a woman to be his helper and wife. Her name was Eve.**

**God loved Adam and Eve, and He took care of them. God saw all He had made, and it was very good. On the seventh day, God rested. ”**

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Count to seven:** Ask children to hold up the corresponding finger as you mention that day of creation. Count to seven together after you tell the story.

**Show a prop:** Show a prop that corresponds with each day of creation: flashlight (day 1), cotton ball (day 2), artificial flowers (day 3), star cutout (day 4), toy bird or fish (day 5), mirror (day 6), small pillow (day 7).

#### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY ”** God made the whole world just by speaking. Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. God the Son has always existed, and He rules over everything. **”**

#### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY ”** God created the world out of nothing! God said, ‘Let there be light’ and what happened? (There was light.) God called the light good. That is what He created on the first day. On day two, God made the fluffy white things we see in the sky; what are those? (clouds) Excellent! On day three, God made oceans, plants, and trees. Show me how you can stretch your arms out like a big tree. On day four, God made the sun; when do we see the sun? (daytime) And the moon and stars; when do we see those? (at night) On day five, God made animals that swim in the water and birds that fly in the air. Can you flap your arms like a bird? On day six, God made all the other animals and His most special creation of all, people, that’s you and me! God saw all he made and said it was very good. **[Give a thumbs-up.] GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD. ”**

#### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 104:24. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

**SAY ”** Have you ever tried to count all the stars in the sky? It is impossible. God has made so many wonderful things; we cannot count them all! Everywhere we look we can see the amazing creatures, plants, and people God created. **”**

Sing the key passage song, “How Countless (Psalm 104:24).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Each time we meet, we will ask the big picture question and hear the answer. Our big picture question asks, **Who is God?** The answer is, **God is our Creator and King.** God is our creator, that means He made us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rule over creation as King. Jesus has always existed, and He rules over everything. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Point to Brazil on a world map. Explain to preschoolers that Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world. Show the “All About the Americas” missions video.

**SAY** “ **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** He made people in His own image, and He wants everyone to know and love Him. Many people in the world have never heard about God or Jesus. A man named Eric Reese lives in Brazil with his wife Ramona so they can tell people about God and Jesus. Eric and Ramona want everyone to know that God loves them and sent Jesus to rescue them from sin. ”

Pray for the safety of the Reese family and the other missionaries serving in Brazil. Pray that more people living in Brazil will want to learn more about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**



## LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “God, thank You for being my Creator and King. You made everything, and You are good. Thank You for taking care of us and for sending Jesus as Lord over all creation. Amen.”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK

Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did God call everything He made?”

**SAY** “Who is God? God is our Creator and King.”

### 3 PLAY “CREATION BINGO”

Before the session, cut construction paper into 1-inch squares and print and cut out the “Creation Bingo” printable cards and pieces. Distribute a bingo card and several paper squares to each child. Explain that when you hold up one of the game pieces, each child should look at his bingo card to see if he has a matching picture. If he has a match, he will place a paper square on the matching picture on his card. Continue showing pictures to children until everyone’s card is covered. Extend the game by asking preschoolers to switch cards and play again.

**SAY** “Look at your bingo card. Tell me some of the things you see. [Allow responses.] God made all those things by just speaking! God is our amazing Creator. **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** What do you think it would have been like to see God create things like the ocean, stars, and animals?”







## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### SING A CREATION SONG



Sing the following song to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”:

Pigs and butterflies, pigs and butterflies;  
stars and bees, stars and bees.  
They are God’s creation;  
They are God’s creation;  
Just like you, just like me.

Fish and monkeys, fish and monkeys;  
Flowers and trees, flowers and trees;  
They are God’s creation;  
They are God’s creation;  
Just like you, just like me.

**SAY** “ I love singing about our Creator, God. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.** Why should we sing songs to God? **[Allow answers.]** We sing songs to God to show Him we love Him and that we are thankful for what He is done for us, this is called worship. We can worship God because **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** ”

#### PLANT SEEDS



Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Pour potting soil into a shallow plastic container and place it on the table. Distribute spoons and clear plastic cups to each child. Use a permanent marker to label each child’s cup with their name. Assist preschoolers in spooning dirt into their cups until about a quarter of the way full. Guide the child to put some grass seeds in her cup and then spoon more dirt over the seeds until it is halfway full. Help children use a small watering can to sprinkle a small amount of water into their cups.

**SAY** “ You put soil, seeds, and water in a cup. It takes water, sunlight, and time for seeds to grow into a beautiful plant. But when God spoke there was instantly trees, flowers, and people! He created everything by just speaking. God is our Creator, and **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### TOSS A BEANBAG

Gather seven pieces of paper. Write the numbers 1–7 in large print on each page. Tape the pages to the floor. Lead children to take turns tossing a beanbag on different numbers. Review what God created on the corresponding day of creation that each beanbag lands on.

- Day 1: light
- Day 2: sky
- Day 3: oceans, dry land, trees, plants
- Day 4: sun, moon, stars
- Day 5: animals that swim in water, birds
- Day 6: animals that live on earth, people
- Day 7: God rested

**SAY** “God made everything in six days, and on the seventh day He rested. God did not rest because He was tired; He rested because was finished with all He created. **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.**”

### TEND A GARDEN

Lay a brown sheet or blanket on the floor to create a pretend garden area. Invite preschoolers to “plant” a vegetable garden by placing toy vegetables under the sheet or blanket. Encourage preschoolers to pretend to tend the garden by using an empty watering can, toy shovel, or basket to collect the harvest. If you have a large class, consider setting up a few garden stations.

**SAY** “God gave Adam and Eve the job to take care of the garden and all that was in it. Have you ever taken care of a garden? If you could plant fruits and vegetables in a garden, what would you plant?”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.