

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1-2



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness covered the ocean, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” There was an evening, and there was a morning. That was the first day.

God separated the waters that were on the surface of the earth from the waters that were above the earth. He called the space above the earth “sky.” Evening came and then morning: that was the second day.

God created dry land on the earth. He gathered the waters and called them “seas.” God commanded the earth to grow plants and trees. God saw that His creation was good. That was the third day. Next, God put lights in the sky—a sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God saw that His creation was good. Evening came and then morning: that was the fourth day. God created sea creatures and birds. This creation was good, too. God commanded them to multiply, to fill the seas and the earth. Evening came and then morning: that was the fifth day.

Then God created animals like livestock and wildlife. God saw that His creation was

good. Finally, God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.” God created people differently from everything else He created. People were God’s special creation because they were made in His image. God took dust from the ground and made a man. God breathed His very own breath into the man, and the man became alive. God made a garden and put the man there. He grew trees to give food for the man, and He told the man to work in the garden and take care of it. Then God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper for him.” God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. God took a rib from the man and created a woman to be the man’s helper and wife. God named the man and woman Adam and Eve. He blessed them and commanded them to multiply, fill the earth, and rule over creation.

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came and then morning: that was the sixth day. Creation was complete, so God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy. On that seventh day, God rested.

Christ Connection: By faith, we believe that God created the whole world by His word. (Hebrews 11:3) Jesus, the Word of God, is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together. (Colossians 1:16-17)



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **What's something in creation you find beautiful or amazing? Maybe you've seen tigers at the zoo or climbed a mountain for a great view.**
- **Why does it amaze you?**

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?



Tell kids that everything was created by God. Explain that God also created things with purpose. Lead kids to listen to different purposes you say and determine what in creation serves each purpose. Read the purposes below or consider creating your own. Offer hints as needed if kids have difficulty coming up with the answer.

- It provides warmth, light, and energy. Without it, life would not exist. (sun)
- They provide us with milk, cheese, and meat. (cows or goats)
- This determines the tides of the ocean and gives us light during the night. (moon)
- They produce oxygen, give us fruit, and provide shade. (trees)
- These provide us with drinking water, home to fish, and play an important role in the water cycle. (rivers or lakes)

SAY “ God created the things of the world to serve specific purposes. But there's one purpose all of creation has in common: **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.** Everything He created shows how great and wonderful He is! Today, we will learn how God made the world and how we can give Him praise as Creator and King. ”

OPTION 2: SHADOW PLAY

Form kids into groups of three or four kids. Provide each group with a flashlight. Turn off the lights. Then explain that kids will take turns holding the flashlight and trying to make different animal shadow shapes on a wall. Direct kids to hold their hands in front of the light to create the shadow. Invite kids to try and create a duck, wolf, butterfly, and so on. Allow several minutes for kids to practice their shadow displays.

SAY “ Using our hands, we were able to create an image of different animals on the wall. The shadows or images weren't actually the animal, but they did resemble these animals. This reminds me of how we were created to image God or show what God is like. Today, we will learn that when God made the world, He created people as His special creation made in His image. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about how God created the world. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Genesis 1:1–2:7,18-25.

•What does this story teach us about God?

In the beginning God created the whole world. God has always existed, and He is our King and Creator. God is King because He alone has the authority and power to not only create something but also to say why it is created. Like a great Artist, God designed the world and gave it order and purpose.

•Who were the special creations God made?

God made people—male and female—as His special creations. People are different from all other created things because they are made in the image of God. People were made to know, love, and reflect God. They were created to show others what God is like. People were also made to rule like God. He gave them a special job of taking care of creation and living to display God's glory.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Tell kids that **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.** Remind kids that God made people in His own image, and He wants everyone to know and love Him. Tell kids that's why Eric and Ramona Reese are serving as missionaries in Brazil. Explain that a missionary is a Christian chosen by God who obeys and goes to tell another group of people about Jesus. The Reeses tell others about God even when it is difficult.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

The Bible tells us that Jesus, the Word of God, created all things for His glory. Jesus is the Word of God, and He is the King who rules over creation. Has Jesus become the King of your life? Why or why not? [Allow responses.] I'd be happy to share more about how to trust in Jesus and how He can become your Lord and Savior.

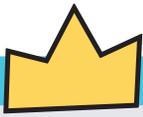
4 PRAY

Dear God, You are Creator and King. We praise You for all You have made. Thank You for creating us to know and love You. Help us reflect Your goodness to others and tell them about Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- How can one God make the whole world?
- How does creation show us God's glory?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Genesis 1. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 1:1. Remind preteens that the first words of the Bible tell us something very important: God is God. Discuss how in the beginning, only God existed because He is eternal. Tell kids that His words made the whole world. Share how Jesus, the Word of God, is Lord of creation. Tell kids that John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Bible reminds us that everything was made by Jesus and for Him. Tell kids that through faith in Jesus, we can know and love the God who made us.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Genesis 1:1 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Everything God created was good. What does this tell us about God?

Point out that God is good and all He does is good. Remind kids that God made a world free of sin. Tell kids that He created a garden for Adam and Eve as a place where they could be with Him and enjoy the good world He made. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:68.)

2. How did God create Adam and Eve, and all people, different than the rest of creation?

Emphasize how God created people in His image. Remind kids that people have worth, value, and dignity because they are created in the likeness of God. Discuss some of the practical implications of being made in God's image such as being able to commune with God, free choice, and fellowship. Point out that being made in God's image means we reflect Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gen. 1:26.)

3. How does creation show us the greatness of God?

Remind kids that **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY**. Discuss how we can see God's power, creativity, kindness, beauty, and goodness in creation. Allow kids to share some created things that help them see how great God is. Share how seeing the greatness of God in creation should lead us to worship and praise Him alone as Creator and King. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 19:1.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is God?

God is our Creator and the King of everything.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 104:24. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Remind kids that every part of creation is ruled by God because He created it all. Everything exists to bring Him glory.

Form kids into two large groups. Provide each kid with a sticky note and a Bible. Assign kids in each group a few words of the Bible verse. Then line up groups and explain that each team will race to a world map, place their sticky note on it, and run back to their team. Tell kids to place their sticky notes on their team's map in the correct order of the verse. The first team to complete their verse wins.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, praising God for His greatness and goodness as our Creator and King.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

SHINE THE LIGHT

Before the session, create a set of 10 index cards. On each card, write one of the following words: Good, Wise, Great, Powerful, Beautiful, Creator, King, Eternal, Truthful, Generous. Hide the cards around the room by taping them to walls or the floor. Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with a flashlight. Turn off the lights and tell kids that you have hidden 10 cards around the room. Instruct kids to take turns using their flashlights to shine the light on the hidden cards. Consider providing groups with paper and a pencil to write down the words they find.

Discuss how the cards kids found all had words that describe God. Tell kids that in Genesis 1, we learn that God exhibits all these words. **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY**, and He alone deserves the glory because of who He is. Discuss how shining the flashlight on the cards made the words visible. The light made the words stand out. When we give God glory, it is like shining a light on Him to show how great He is. God is most valuable and deserving of our worship.