

UNIT 1 | SESSION 1

# GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GENESIS 1-2



**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 104:24

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

**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)

**STORY POINT:** God created everything for His glory.



## 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 is the eternal God of creation.

As you prepare to teach this session, pray that God reveals His glory in the person of Jesus Christ to the kids’ 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 kids and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out 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, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- "Complete Creation" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- dry erase board
- dry erase marker

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- flashlights, 1 per group
- small compact mirrors, 1 per group



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- "Wonders of Creation" printable

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- dry erase board and marker
- play dough canisters, 1 per kid

#### Reflection and Prayer

- Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- "God Created the World" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- dry erase board and marker (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- "Unit 1, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- "All about the Americas" missions video

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- inflatable globe ball



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid 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.

**SAY** “What do you like about the world God made? Do you like looking at the stars or swimming in the ocean? What do you find amazing, interesting, or even silly about animals?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Complete Creation” activity page.

**SAY** “Your finished pictures show the creation God made. Today, we will learn that God, our King and Creator, made the whole world in six days and then rested on the seventh day.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: MADE FOR A PURPOSE



Before the session, draw the following pictures on a dry erase board: sun, tree, river, apple, honeybee, and a person. Form kids into groups of three or four. Allow groups two minutes to discuss what each picture is created to do. For example, the sun gives us light, warmth, and helps plants grow. A tree can grow fruit, provide shade, and be a home to animals. Honeybees make honey and pollinate. Then invite groups to share their responses.

**SAY** “Every picture is something God made and has a purpose for in this world. The sun gives us light and warmth, while a tree provides shade, fruit, and can be a home to animals. While all created things have different purposes, there is one purpose they all have in common: **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.** Today, we’ll learn how God created the world and everything in it to show how great He is because He is King over all.”

#### OPTION 2: REFLECT IT!

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with a flashlight and a small mirror. Lead kids in each group to take turns holding the mirror in one hand and the flashlight in the other. Tell kids to shine the flashlight onto the mirror while rotating the mirror around. Explain that the light reflects off the mirror and shines onto different parts of the room. Consider challenging kids to “hit” specific places of the room using the reflected light.

**SAY** “While your mirrors were not the source of the light, they were able to reflect the light and allow it to shine throughout the room. When God formed the world, He made a very special creation—people! Like the mirrors you used, people were created to reflect God. This doesn’t mean we look like God, but rather we show others what God is like. We can reflect His goodness, kindness, holiness, creativity, and so much more. Let’s learn more about how God made people.”





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

---

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so excited you are here. Together, we get to study true stories from the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. By reading our Bibles, we come to know who God is, how He loves us, and how He has made a way to save us through Jesus. The Bible also teaches us how the whole world was made. In fact, today we will be reading from Genesis 1 as we discover how **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY**. [Display the Story Point Poster.]

Did you bring your Bible with you? If so, please hold it up. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, as we learn about how God created the world, let’s prepare our hearts to hear from God’s Word. Pray with me: ‘Dear God, please open our ears to listen and our eyes to see the truth from your Word. Give us hearts to believe. Amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “ Each week, we will have a big picture question and answer we will learn together. [Display the Big Picture Question Poster.] Over the next few weeks, we will ask the question **Who is God?** Who do you think God is? [Allow responses.] The answer we will learn is, **God is our Creator and the King of everything**.

God has always existed. Before the world was created, there was God. He is the Creator because He made the world and everything in it. He is King because everything is made for Him, and He rules over it all. As Creator and King, **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY**. This means that all of creation was made to show how great, beautiful, good, and perfect God is. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ This week we start at the beginning of our timeline. [Point to the timeline.] Our timeline helps us understand how all the stories of the Bible fit together to tell one big story. As we read these stories, we’ll learn how all people have sinned because we all disobey God. But the timeline also reminds us of God’s promise to save people from sin and how He has been faithful to this promise.

The Bible says in Genesis 1:1, ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’ The beginning starts with God because He has always existed. Everything that was made was created by Him. Today, as we hear our Bible story, we can remember that we can trust that the world and everything in it was created by God. (Hebrews 11:3) ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1–2:7,18-25. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Created the World.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### GOD CREATED THE WORLD

**“ 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.

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use pictures:** On a dry erase board, draw pictures of what God created each day as you tell the story.

**Repeat it:** Lead kids to repeat that the creation God made was good by inviting them to say, “It was good!” after you say it in the Bible story.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**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) ”

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Before anything was created, only God existed. But then God did something amazing! He created the world and everything in it. God made created things just by speaking. God’s words hold power to create something from nothing. God made everything, and He is the boss of everything because He is King.

During the six days of creation, God made many things. What did God create? [Allow responses.] Yes, God made light, oceans, land, sky, the sun, all kinds of animals, and even people. Everything that exists in creation was made by God for His glory. This means that everything is made to show how great God is!

When God made people, He created them male and female in His image. God chose to make people special and different from the rest of creation. What does it mean to be made in God’s image? [Allow responses.] 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.

Finally, on the seventh day of creation, God rested. The seventh day was a special day for people to remember that God made everything and to focus their attention on Him. Everything He made was very good and displayed His glory. **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.**

By faith, we believe that God created the whole world by His command. (Hebrews 11:3) Jesus 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) ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ 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. Jesus is a good King who loves us and who laid down His life to save us. 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 1, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can one God make the whole world?
2. How does creation show us God’s glory?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “**GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.** He made people in His own image, and He wants everyone to know and love Him. That’s why Eric and Ramona Reese are serving as missionaries in Brazil. 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.”

Show the “All about the Americas” missions video. Then pray for Eric, Ramona, and their daughters—Gloria and Alicia. Ask God to bless their relationships in Brazil and to open the hearts of everyone who hears the good news about Jesus.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, obtain an inflatable globe ball and fill it with air. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 104:24 together.

**SAY** “Our key passage reminds us that God has made everything, and the whole earth is full of creatures that show His glory. From the tiny ant to the tallest mountain, everything exists because God made it.”

Lead kids to sit in a circle. Say the first word of the key passage and then toss the globe ball to a kid in the circle. Direct her to say the next word of the key passage and toss the ball to someone else. Continue tossing the ball and saying the key passage until it is complete.

Lead kids to sing “Countless (Psalm 104:24).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “Dear God, You are powerful and good. We praise You for all You have made. Thank You for creating a beautiful world for us to enjoy. Help us show others Your goodness and tell them about Your Son, Jesus. Amen.”





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 1. Explain that the Bible is God's Word to us and it helps us know Him. Remind kids that we were created to know God and bring Him glory. Consider explaining how God's Word is made up of the Old and New Testaments. Tell kids that the Old Testament has 39 books and the New Testament has 27 books.

Consider pointing out the location of the Euphrates River on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 1:26-28 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** “ Everything God made was good. But God made people special. People were made to know and love God. And we can know and love God because He made us in His image. God also gave people an important job. God told Adam and Eve, the first people created, to rule the earth and the creatures in it. They were made to be like the King who made them and to rule like Him.

Today, we have the same job. **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.** We glorify God when we show others what He is like and live in a way that points others to Him. We'll learn more next week about how we can't do this perfectly because of sin. But there's good news! God sent His Son, Jesus, who is the perfect image of God, to save us from sin. Through faith in Jesus, we can show others what God is like. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What is something in creation that helps you see how great God is? ”

Lead kids to understand how God created a world filled with amazing creatures and sights. From cute puppies to ferocious tigers, we can look at creation and see how it all shows us how God is powerful, creative, kind, good, and awesome. Discuss how the whole world declares the glory of God.

| **SAY** “ Why do you think God said that His creation was good? ”

Discuss how everything God does is good because He is a good God. Tell kids that everything God made was also good because it served the purpose He created it for and was not affected by sin. Tell kids that God alone has the authority to judge what is good and what is not because He is King and Creator.

| **SAY** “ John 1:3 tells us that Jesus created all things. How is Jesus the Creator? Is Jesus God? ”

Tell kids that Jesus is God. Explain that before Jesus came to earth as a man, He has always existed as God's Son. Discuss how God exists as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Remind kids that Jesus not only created everything, but that everything exists for Him.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: WONDERS OF CREATION



Before the session, tape the pictures from the “Wonders of Creation” printable on a wall. Provide kids with a piece of paper and a pencil. Invite kids to look at each picture and decide which ones they think are more amazing than others. Lead kids to write the number of each picture on their paper in order from most amazing to least amazing. Encourage kids to share how they ranked the pictures and why.

**SAY** “ The earth is full of God’s amazing works. From the beauty of outer space to the silliest looking bird, all of creation shows us how great God is! **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.** When we look at creation, we should be in awe of our great God. ”

##### OPTION 2: GOD MADE ...

On a dry erase board, write Days 1–6 as column titles. Under each column write things God created on that day. Provide each kid with a canister of play dough. Direct kids to listen for a day you will call out and then create something God made on that day using their play dough. For example, if you call out “Day 3,” kids could create a tree, a flower, a bush, etc. For Day 1, kids could spell out day or night using their play dough. Continue calling out different days until each day has been said. Repeat as time allows, encouraging kids to make a different creation than they did before.

**SAY** “ On each day of creation, God made something from nothing. Our big picture question is, **Who is God?** Do you remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **God is our Creator and the King of everything.** Learning about how God made the world and everything in it helps us understand that He rules over it too. We can praise Him and choose to know and love Him. God is a good King who sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin. ”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.