

A MIGHTY WONDER

Creation
Genesis 1:1–2:3
Beginning
of time

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God created the heavens and the earth.

BIBLE VERSE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

LEARNER GOAL

I know God created everything.

LAW & GOSPEL

We forget or even refuse to believe that God is our Creator and the giver of all good things.

God gives us faith to believe that He created the heavens and the earth and that He continues to provide us with all good things, especially life and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

“In the beginning, God created . . .” (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read “The Beginning,” “Genesis,” and “God Creates the World” on pages 8–13 of *Know the Bible Now*.

IN DEPTH Review the section “The First Article (Part 1)” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Nature items & bag
- Plastic animals, tub & rice
- Blocks, chocolate chips, art supplies & story bag
- Ball
- Animal pictures
- Fruit & skewers
- Lunch bags, yarn or pipe cleaners & hole punch
- Praise wavers

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Greet children at eye level, and tell them where to put their offerings. Help children get to know one another as they work on an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn in the lesson. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.

SENSORY Place items in a bag that children can touch (e.g., a pine cone, feather, leaf, flower, carrot, orange, banana, acorn, faux fur). Tell children to reach into the bag and try to guess what one thing is by feeling it. Take the item out of the bag. Ask, **What is it? God made the [banana].** Repeat with the other items. **Today you'll hear how God made everything!**

RICE Hide plastic animals in a tub of rice. Set out matching animals or pictures of them on the table. Have children look for the animals in the rice and match them to the ones on the table. Ask, **What animals did you find? How many are still hiding in the rice? God made all the animals. Today you'll hear how God made everything!**

JESUS TIME

SING “We Are in God’s House Today” (digital resource center) or “Happy Now We Gather” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

SAY **Who has gone to a zoo or farm? What animals did you see? What is your favorite animal? Today you'll learn God made the animals. God made everything!**

PRAY **Dear God,* help us use our ears* to listen* and to learn* that You made everything.* We pray* in Jesus' name.* Amen.***
*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Put items you use to make things (e.g., blocks, chocolate chips, and art supplies) in a story bag. Say, **Hi, friends! I'm glad to see you here today. I wonder . . . do you like to make things? What do you like to make?** Tell children you have things in your story bag that we use to make something. Take items out, one at a time, and talk about what you could make (a building, cookies, a picture or craft). **It's fun to make things, isn't it? Today you will hear how God made the whole world! When we make things, we start with something, like blocks or baking supplies or paper and markers. But when God made the world, He started with nothing! Let's listen and find out how God made everything!**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from Genesis 1:1. Have the children echo the words after you at each asterisk: **In the beginning,* God created* the heavens and the earth.***

Have children sit in a circle. Say the Bible Verse together as you roll a ball to a child. Say, **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** Ask a child to suggest something God made as you say, **God made [a lion], and God made it good. We praise You, God!** Roll ball to next child. Repeat phrase with new animal.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Try “Sort and Count.”



LEADER NOTE

Sing one of the suggested songs each week, as well as other favorites. Ask your coordinator how to access the digital resource center.



LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God’s Word are true. Read the Bible Verse from your Bible also, so children make the connection that the words they are learning come from God’s Word.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Use a three-hole punch to make holes along the left side of the first page. Send the page home with each child, or put it into a binder you have purchased for each child. Send this note home with it:

Dear Grown-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with the Bible story on it. Put these Bible story pages in a binder to make a Bible story book for your child.

Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Connect the dots and color the tree. Count the apples with the children. Review how God made the world. *Option:* Tell children to finish this picture at home or in church.

SIDE 2 Talk about how God gives all of us the job of taking care of His world. Give children stickers to show ways they can do this too. Reassure children that even when we fail to take care of His creation, God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Don't feel like you have to do them all, but choose the ones that work best for you and the children you teach. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Using animal pictures as prompts, have children act out animal movements or sounds.

□ SNACK

Make fruit kebabs to talk about God's care. Sing "Thank You for the World So Sweet" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 17) for your snack-time prayer.

□ CREATE

Help children make a happy-face litter bag to use in caring for God's creation.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Review the Learner Goal, and check for understanding by asking children to tell how God cares for them and ways they can care for His world. Assure them of Jesus' love and forgiveness for the times they fail to do this.

LEAVE

SING "God Made Them All" (digital resource center)
"God's a Father Kind and True" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 30)
Give the children colorful praise wavers to wave as they sing.

SAY Today we learned God made everything. God made us, too, and cares for us. He gives us the job of taking care of His world.

PRAY Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the beautiful world You made. Help us to take care of it. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for forgiving us when we don't take care of Your world as You want. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God made us and cares for us. He sent Jesus to be our friend and Savior.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Play the "Counting Game."



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make a "Bird Feeder" to teach about caring for God's creation.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

Show pictures of animals (e.g., a fish, bird, dog, elephant). Have the children act out animal sounds or behaviors—roar like a lion, move hands like a fish, hop or chirp like a bird, swing arm in front of face for an elephant, and the like.

After each pantomime, say, **God made the [lion], and God made it good. God made everything! We praise You, God!** Talk about how God wants us to care for the animals and the world He made and ways we can do this. Also talk about times we might not be kind or caring (e.g., we don't care for our pet). Assure children of Jesus' forgiveness and help to do better.

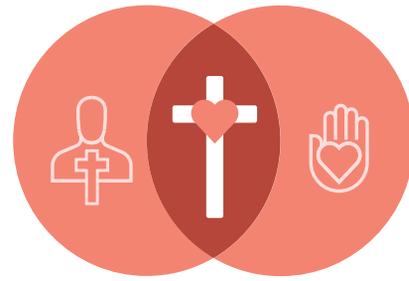
□ SNACK

Make fruit kebabs. Thread six to seven pieces of fruit on each skewer. Use three colors (e.g., banana slices, grape halves, and strawberries). Have children identify the colors and count the pieces of fruit. Talk about how God cares for us by giving us good things to eat. Ask, **What are other ways God cares for us?** (He gives us clothing, a home, etc.)

□ CREATE

Give each child a paper lunch bag and a face sticker to put on the front of the bag to make a happy-face litter bag. Children can add flower and heart stickers and color designs on their bags. Punch a hole on each side of the bag near the top. Thread a piece of yarn or a pipe cleaner through one hole. Thread the opposite end through the other hole. Knot or twist ends in place. Talk about how God wants us to care for His creation.

Encourage children to put pieces of trash in their bags to keep God's world clean. Talk about other things the children can do to care for God's world this week, such as watering plants or feeding pets.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshiping and praising God and taking care of His creation.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

YOUTH

I can identify examples of God's work in creation.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God created everything.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

SORT AND COUNT

15 minutes

Bring leaves, or go outside to gather leaves. Set out construction paper in "leaf" colors (green, yellow, red, orange, brown), and have the children sort leaves. If they are all green, sort them by size or texture. Ask, **Who made the leaves? What else did God make? Say, God made everything! God made it good.**

COUNTING GAME

10 minutes

Roll a die, and have children choose an action (e.g., if a child rolls a 5, children hop five times; if a child rolls a 3, children take three giant steps).

Relate the six numbers on the die to God's creation of the world in six days. Also point out how God made us special so we can hop, jump, crawl, sing, touch, and so forth.

BIRD FEEDER

10 minutes

Thread O-shaped cereal and blueberries (or two types of cereal) onto a pipe cleaner. Twist ends together, and thread with yarn for hanging. As the children work, talk about how God wants us to care for His creation.

This activity also gives young children practice in fine motor skills.