

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

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 through the “Challenges for Readers” section in the introduction to Genesis in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 9.

IN DEPTH Read *In the Beginning, God: Creation from God’s Perspective* by Joel Heck, especially part 1.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Blocks, Lego building blocks, or play dough
- Drawing supplies
- Poster paper or paper plates

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Give each student a handful of blocks, Lego building blocks, or play dough. Tell them to build whatever they can in two minutes. Then talk about how hard it is to build things even when you have something to start with. God made the world out of nothing.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 1.



LEADER NOTE

If you have confident readers, have them read this account directly from their Bibles.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Check “Make a Mural” on the back page for a fun way to reflect on the days of creation.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word today. Help us to learn how You created all things. Amen.

SING “Builder of Everything”
“God, Who Built This Wondrous Planet”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY **What kind of things do you like to build or make? Even when we make things from scratch, we start with some ingredients. Let’s see what God used to create the universe.**

LEARN

READ “A MIGHTY WONDER”

Read the Bible narrative aloud to your students, or ask volunteers to take turns reading sections. Fill in a chart in front of the class that records what was created each day.

DO SOMETHING

FOR A LARGER GROUP Review the Bible narrative by having students work in pairs or trios to develop an action to represent each day. Have an older student say the day number and what was created that day, and then have the other students do the actions.

FOR A SMALLER GROUP Use paper plates as your base and have students work in pairs to draw what was created on each day (one plate for each day). Have them hold up the corresponding plate as you reread or retell the creation story.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Through your group activity, help students identify what God created on each day.
- Help students see the orderly and amazing way that God made the universe and continues to keep it going.
- God spoke creation into being. It was not an accident.
- Note how God declared the work of each day “good.” God’s creation was made to work together in wonderful concert.
- The high point of this narrative is the creation of both male and female.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about God’s amazing work of creation.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ What is your favorite thing that God made?
- ▶ How do you think God could make all this?
- ▶ God didn’t stop giving us gifts when He finished creation on the sixth day. What other gifts does God continue to give us?
- ▶ What evidence do you see in our world or in your life of how God continues to keep His creation going?
- ▶ What are some ways we can care for God’s creation?

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Read **John 1:1** to consider creation and the Trinity.
- Help students to see that Jesus was with God in the beginning. The Word was Jesus (the Word made flesh)!
- Reread **Genesis 1:2**.
- Look who else was there at creation—the Holy Spirit! This is something that may really click for older students in your group. Younger students may not get it just yet.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

As you close for the day, check for understanding by asking students to review the creation events. Listen for the Bible Truth in their retelling.

LEAVE

SAY Praise God for He created the heavens and the earth.

Our verse for today reminds us of that: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

SING “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
“The Lord’s Prayer”

Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Thank You, heavenly Father, for creating such a wonderful world for us.
Help us to care for Your creation and share the love of Jesus with everyone.
In Your name we pray. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page, found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God built everything, but sometimes we forget that He still takes care of it! Even though we messed it up with our sin, God didn’t leave us on our own. He sent His Son to be our Savior.



LEADER NOTE

Remember to collect student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for use in class again next week.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page by accessing the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

Guide students as they draw simple figures in each box to help them remember what happened on each day of creation. Remind them that the drawings are to help them remember God's amazing work, not for judging their artwork.

Younger students can create simpler drawings, while older students may make more complex drawings. You can draw simple figures in each box along with your students to encourage them to make the artwork in their own style and to the best of their ability.

A MIGHTY WONDER—CREATION
Unit 1, Lesson 1

God Created the Heavens and the Earth

Directions: Draw simple figures or shapes in each box to help you remember what happened on each day of creation.

1 Light—day and night (Genesis 1:3–5)	2 Heaven (Genesis 1:6–8)	3 Earth and seas; plants (Genesis 1:9–10, 11–13)
4 Sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 1:4–19)	5 Sea creatures and birds (Genesis 1:20–23)	6 Earth creatures; man and woman (Genesis 1:24–25, 26–31)
7 God rested (Genesis 2:1–3)		



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

PICTURE IT

10 minutes

Use the picture book *God Made It for You!* by Charles Lehmann to tell the story. If you have more younger students, they might respond better to this method of presentation.

MAKE A MURAL

20–30 minutes

As a class, make a giant wall mural of the days of creation, or make seven posters. If you have a larger class, you could divide into groups and let each group make a poster for one day.

TAKE A TRIP

25–35 minutes

Take a nature walk. Point out all the things you see that God created. Students could try to name which day of creation the sights were created on.