

LESSON 1

God Creates the World

GENESIS 1



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD IS THE POWERFUL AND MAJESTIC MAKER OF ALL THINGS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Genesis 1 from the Scriptures or read story 1, “God Creates the World,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Ex nihilo
SUPPLIES:
✓ paper bag
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
In the Image of God
SUPPLIES:
✓ paper and pencils
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Our Solar System
SUPPLIES:
✓ crayons, colored pencils, and paper
✓ pictures of the solar system in an astronomy book or downloaded from the Internet (<http://hubblesite.org/>)
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 30 MIN**
Creation Movies
SUPPLIES:
✓ video camera and monitor to watch the final product

TOTAL 100 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God existed before all things—At the very beginning of the Bible, Genesis tells us that God existed before all things. It also tells us that he is the awesome Creator of everything—the whole universe and everything in it. Imagine what it would have been like to watch God form the universe by his mighty power! What amazing power God has that he can create the world and all of the heavens above!

God spoke creation into existence—God created all things, and most of the time he did so simply by speaking. All God had to do to make the planets and stars, the oceans and the mountains, and the trees and the animals was speak them into existence. He made them from nothing.

God made man in his image—After speaking everything else into existence, God made man in his own image. But this time, he didn't do it by speaking; instead, he formed man from the dust of the earth (see Genesis 2). Then, God put man in authority over everything on earth.

This makes man very different from the rest of creation, and shows God's intention to have a personal relationship with man. So, man was formed *by* God *into* God's image, and given some of God's authority and leadership over the earth.

Everything God made was good—When creation was complete, the Bible says it was very good. There was no death, no sin, and no imperfection in the creation.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Ex nihilo

The Latin phrase “ex nihilo,” which means “out of nothing,” is used by theologians to describe the way in which God created the universe. God didn't need anything apart from himself to create the whole world.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Colossians 1:15–17.

In Colossians 1:15–16, we read that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation and that all things were created by him and for him. The creation was made by the Lord, for the Lord.

In the very next verse, Colossians 1:17, we learn something very important. After Paul tells us that Jesus created all things in the beginning, he says Jesus is doing something else, even right now. Jesus is holding all things together. The stars continue to shine and plants continue to grow because Jesus holds everything together.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 1 from the Scriptures or read story 1, "God Creates the World," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Ex nihilo

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper bag

You can emphasize this amazing truth—that God created the world out of nothing at all—by bringing in a paper bag and pretending that you are passing out to each of the children a lump of clay. Ask them to hold out their hands and then mime taking something out of your empty bag and placing it in their hands. Explain to the class that you don't want them to get started with the project until you have had a chance to pass out the materials to everyone in the class.

When you have finally distributed a bit of “nothing” to everyone, reach in the bag and pull out some “nothing” for yourself. Then pretend to fashion it into an object (as though you were working with clay). Keep up the charade by asking different folks in the class questions about what they are making. End the illustration by teaching them the phrase *ex nihilo* from “A Little Bit More” and what it means.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

In the Image of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils

Pair the children up and have them sit opposite one another to draw a picture of each other. When they are finished have them show their drawing to their partner.

Ask the class how many of them think that the drawing of them matches the way they look. Pick out one of the better drawings. Ask the class what part of the drawing most resembles the person it is drawn to represent. Then ask them if they know how we, who are made in God’s image, represent him. Let them know that it is not in the way we look but rather in some of our other important characteristics. Here is a sampling of the ways we reflect the image of God: we can create, speak, love, serve, rule, and sacrifice.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Our Solar System

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils, and paper
- ✓ pictures of the solar system in an astronomy book or downloaded from the Internet (<http://hubblesite.org/>)

Have the children draw a picture of the solar system on a blank sheet of paper. They could start with the sun and then add planets and stars. You may want to share with the children that Earth is the only planet in our solar system that can support life. It is perfectly placed in relation to the sun to benefit from the warmth of the sun without becoming too hot. All of the other planets are either too hot or too cold. This is another sign of God's perfect design.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 30 MIN

Creation Movies

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ video camera and monitor to watch the final product

Divide the class into six groups and assign a day of creation to each. Give the groups ten minutes to choreograph their day of creation. Line up the class, the first day of creation on the left and each subsequent day next to them. Read through the text and have them act out their skits as you go. Videotape the skits and then play back the video to the class when they are all through.