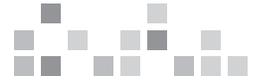


God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Adults caught up in the busyness and craziness of life often miss the beauty of God’s creation and don’t take the time to enjoy it. Call participants back to moments of reflection on all the things God made. Enable people to step back from their lives, take time to look at the things God has made that are all around them, and thank God for his role as creator of the universe.



► **Bible Point**
God made the world.

| LESSON | WHAT ADULTS DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 Getting Started | God’s Amazing Creation <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Reflect on God’s creative handiwork. | | |
| 2 Bible Exploration | Day by Day <i>(about 25 min.)</i> In groups, read Genesis 1:1–2:3 and discuss how they believe God formed the world. | Bibles, paper, pens | |

Key Verse
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Adults will reflect on everything God has made and consider how to respond to God as Creator.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

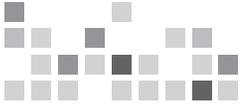




| LESSON | WHAT ADULTS DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| <p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p> | <p>Where Do You Stand? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore and discuss various theories about how the earth came to be, examining Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; and Colossians 1:17.</p> | Bibles, 3 sheets of paper, pens | |
| | <p>God Made the World, So... <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Complete a sentence in different ways to determine what the role of God as creator means for them.</p> | papers from the “Day by Day” activity, pens | |
| <p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p> | <p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Discuss how to apply God’s Word.</p> | Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the “Digging Deeper” handout (at the end of this lesson) | |
| | <p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to dig deeper into the lesson all week long.</p> | | |

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





1 GETTING STARTED

God's Amazing Creation

What You'll Do

Greet everyone warmly as they gather.

Have adults each find a partner. Then have pairs answer this question.

Ask: **What's the most creative thing you've ever done?**

Have adults each find a new partner. Then have pairs answer this question.

Ask: **Tell about the most scenic place you've ever been.**

Have adults each find a new partner. Then have pairs answer this question.

Ask: **Tell about the greatest example of nature's power you've seen.**

Have adults each find a new partner. Then have pairs answer this question.

Ask: **Tell about a time you felt awed by creation.**

Have adults each find one last partner. Then have pairs answer this question.

Ask: **What's something you've noticed this week that reminds you of the wonder of God's creation?**

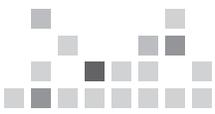
Talk With Adults

Gather everyone back in a group, and lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What stood out to you as you shared and listened to your partner?**
- **What's something God created that you're continually in awe of?**
- **What can you tell about God from the things you shared about?**

Say: Today we're going to look at Genesis 1, when ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD**. For many of us, this may be a passage we've heard so many times that it can become boring. But when we think about the things God created that have left us in awe at times, we can realize that God's creation is so intricate that it can leave us *continually* in awe of his power.



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Day by Day

What You'll Do

Hand out paper and pens, and make sure everyone has a Bible. Have adults draw a grid of six boxes on their papers, or have them find the grid on page 10 of their handbooks.

Say: **As we read through the account of creation, we're going to consider specific things God made on each day. We'll get past the general things like "land" and "seas" and consider what those categories include, such as the Grand Canyon or Cocoa Beach. Let's start with Day 1.**

Have someone read aloud Genesis 1:1-5. Say: **For Day 1, think of things that are included during day and night. For example, you may really enjoy sleeping at night, or running during the day. Write as many things as you can think of in your first box.** Allow two minutes.

Have someone read aloud Genesis 1:6-8. Say: **Now think of specific things included in the atmosphere. For example, you might write "cumulus clouds" or "fog." Write as many things as you can think of in your second box.** Allow two minutes.

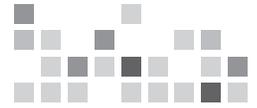
Have someone read aloud Genesis 1:9-13. Say: **Now it's getting easier. Write as many plants—trees, flowers, vegetables, fruits, and so on—as you can think of. Be specific! Don't write "trees"; write "oak trees." Write as many things as you can think of in your third box.** Allow two minutes.

Have someone read aloud Genesis 1:14-19. Say: **Now think of space. Maybe you've looked through a telescope and admired a specific constellation. Maybe you've always been fascinated by meteor showers. Write as many things as you can think of in your fourth box.** Allow two minutes.

Have someone read aloud Genesis 1:20-23. Say: **In your fifth box, write as many kinds of birds or water creatures as you can think of.** Allow two minutes.

Have someone read aloud Genesis 1:24-31. Say: **In your sixth box, name specific land animals and people God made. For example, you could give a type of animal, such as a dog, or you could give a dog's name. Also name specific humans from your family or circle of friends. In your sixth box, write as many people and animals as you can think of in two minutes.** Allow two minutes.

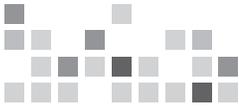
Say: **Now it's time for a Creation Extravaganza! I'm going to summarize each day, and then you'll have a chance to shout out one item from your list. Give other people some turns, and then share more items. Let's see how many different things we can name for each day.**



Day by Day Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens





- On Day 1, God made night and day. God made... (allow responses)
- On Day 2, God made the sky and waters. God made... (allow responses)
- On Day 3, God made plants. God made... (allow responses)
- On Day 4, God made the sun, moon, and stars. God made... (allow responses)
- On Day 5, God made fish and birds. God made... (allow responses)
- On Day 6, God made animals and people. God made... (allow responses)

Read aloud Genesis 2:1-3. Say: **After creating the world, God set an example for us by resting. Take two minutes to prayerfully rest. Close your eyes, get comfortable, and listen to what God is telling you about the world he created.** Allow two minutes of silence.

Talk With Adults

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- Genesis 1 sums up creation in broad categories. What did you discover about the creation process as you considered all the details of those categories?
- Tell about your experience resting and listening to God.
- Of all the things God created, what seems the most intricate? Explain.

Say: **When you break down the days of creation to all the kinds of things they included, it's even more amazing to think of all that God did. ► GOD MADE THE WORLD amazing, with all kinds of variety. But did it really take six days? Some Christians believe the days are literal 24-hour periods. Others believe that God measures time differently than we do (Psalm 90:4) and took longer to mold creation. Some believe creation may have begun with a God-ordained "big bang" that took many millennia to come to fruition. Let's discuss how people reach their conclusions about creation.** Have adults hold on to their papers for the "God Made the World, So..." activity.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Where Do You Stand?

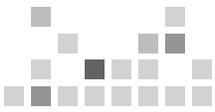
**Where Do You Stand?
Supplies**

- Bibles
- 3 sheets of paper
- pens

What You'll Do

Spread out three sheets of paper on the floor in the front of the room.

Say: **These pieces of paper are "position platforms." The one on your left is the platform for the argument that God created the universe in six 24-hour periods. The platform on your right is for the argument that God created the universe with a big bang and then took many years to complete the job. The platform in the middle is for seven longer spans of time that aren't literal 24-hour days.**



Say: **Let's get the arguments for each platform out in the open. Whether you agree with a platform or not, please step up and share what you know about arguments for and against the platforms. What are their points? Simply step onto the paper, and take your turn speaking.**

After adults have expressed their understanding of the platforms, have them form groups of four. Have each group read Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, and Colossians 1:17.

Talk With Adults

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What absolute truths about creation can we glean from these verses?**

Say: **Whatever position we take, we must be careful not to compromise at least three clear principles from the Bible:**

- 1. God exists and “created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).**
- 2. Without Jesus “nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3).**
- 3. Jesus sustains and supervises all that exists today (Colossians 1:17).**

Ask:

- **What's wrong with believing God launched creation with a big bang and hasn't been involved since?**
- **What's wrong with believing that humankind is an accidental byproduct of an evolutionary chain?**
- **Based on all these arguments, how did the world come to be?**
- **How does what you believe about God creating the world impact how you feel about yourself? about others?**

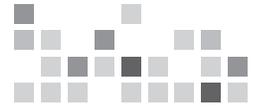
Say: **► GOD MADE THE WORLD deliberately and then declared his work “good.” Whether that was in 144 hours (plus 24 hours of resting) or a much longer span of time, we know that God is the creator of everything that we see around us. And we know that God continues to create and support life on earth. We serve a creator God. But so what? Let's think about that now.**

God Made the World, So...

What You'll Do

Have everyone turn to the back of their papers from the “Day by Day” activity. Say:

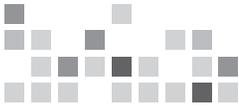
► GOD MADE THE WORLD. But what does that mean for us? On your paper, come up with as many endings to this sentence as you can think of. “God made the world, so...” You'll try to think of personal endings, such as, “I need to stop more and appreciate his creation” or “I need to take good care of his creation” or “he has power over my life.”



God Made the World,
So...
Supplies

.....
papers from the “Day
by Day” activity
pens





Allow two or three minutes for everyone to write some endings to the sentence.

Talk With Adults ■■■■

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- Share some of the endings you came up with.
- How much would you say you’re aware of the fact that ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD?**
- How much does your view of God as creator impact the way you live?

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD.** But sometimes, this fact becomes so commonplace that we take it for granted. We go about our lives, passing right on by his creation without a second thought. God is the creator and sustainer. He wants us to appreciate his creation and learn about him as we look at it. He wants us to live out our “so whats.”

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In this session, we’ve looked at how ► GOD MADE THE WORLD. Let’s look at how we can honor God for his creation this week.**

Have participants turn to the Daily Challenges section of their Adult Handbooks, or distribute the “Digging Deeper” handouts. Have everyone read the Daily Challenges and choose at least one to do this week. Have participants each turn to a partner and say what challenge they’ll do this coming week and share the specifics of how they plan to do it.

Weaving Faith at Home

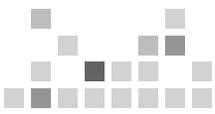
Say: **If you have kids in Sunday school, they should have a take-home paper from this week’s lesson to show you. It has their Daily Challenges for this week and ideas for weaving faith at home as a family. Please help your kids follow through with their Daily Challenges. If you don’t have kids in Sunday school, you can still use your own Digging Deeper page to further reflect on Creation this week.**

Finally, close in prayer, asking God to help people model a sense of wonder at God’s awesome creative power. Consider asking people to pray aloud about specific areas of need in their relationships or about specific principles they want to embrace.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the “Digging Deeper” handout (at the end of this lesson)





God Creates the World—Genesis 1:1–2:3

► **Bible Point**—God made the world.

Key Verse—“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

DIGGING
DEEPER



Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- Pick one or two of the sentence endings you wrote for the “God Made the World, So...” activity. Act on what you wrote.
- Set aside at least a half-hour this week to reflect on God’s power, and praise him simply for who he is. Read Psalm 19 or other Scripture passages such as Isaiah 40:28-31 or Philippians 4:12-13. Invite God further into your life, and ask how he wants his power to shine through your life.
- Go for a nature walk around your neighborhood. Take time to stand in awe of God’s creation. Consider how each created object you see reflects God’s power.

Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about God’s creation.

Monday—Job 38:4-7

- What do you picture when you think of God laying the earth’s foundations?

Tuesday—Job 38:16-18

- What are some new discoveries you’ve made about God’s creation in the past few years? Why do you think humans still haven’t discovered everything God made?

Wednesday—Job 38:22-25

- What’s a weather phenomenon that has shown you God’s power?

Thursday—Job 38:39-41

- What do these verses reveal about God’s role as sustainer of his creation?

Friday—Romans 1:20

- What does God’s creation show you about his invisible qualities?

Saturday—Psalm 148:7-10

- In what ways can non-human creation bring praise to God?

Talk Topics

- If money were no object, what’s the one place in nature you would most like to visit? Why? What has God done there that’s so impressive?
- If you could ask God to change one thing in creation, what would it be? Why did you choose this?
- Discuss environmental issues of local and national interest. How are we doing taking care of God’s creation? What could you do better?
- If God created everything, why is there poverty? evil? injustice? Do you think God created them? Why or why not?

! **OK**
■ **TO COPY**



