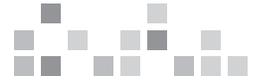


God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Many middle schoolers have studied theories that contradict the biblical account of Creation, and they may be confused about the beginning of the world. Therefore, understanding practically and personally how God created the world is extremely important for them. Throughout this study, concentrate your students' attention on God's amazing handiwork. Their grasp of God's awesome creative power will be something they'll keep with them their entire lives.



► **Bible Point**
God made the world.

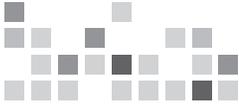
Key Verse
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"
(Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Students will spend time exploring God's creation and thanking him for the beauty of his world.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	Who Knows Everything? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Participate in a game show about Creation.	paper, pens	
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Watch a movie clip in which an unusual invention begins to work.	video player, movie <i>Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs</i>	Cue <i>Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs</i> to 00:18:08, when Sam introduces herself.
2 Bible Exploration	God's Creative Touch <i>(about 20 min.)</i> See how quickly they can name creations for each day of Creation.	Bibles, Bible Trek, ball, pens	Tear out the Study 1 pages from each Bible Trek student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

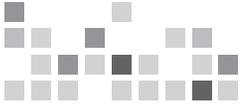




STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Choose Your Own Adventure <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Adventure 1: Greetings, Earthlings! Write an article as if they were visiting earth for the first time. Adventure 2: My Earth Creatively depict what happened during the creation of the world.	Bibles, Bible Trek, paper, pens Bibles, Bible Trek, modeling dough (many colors), newspaper or disposable tablecloth, several plastic knives	Set out the supplies for each adventure at different stations. At the Adventure 2 station, cover a table with newspaper or a disposable tablecloth.
	Tree of Thanks <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make a tree mural to express thanks for Creation, in a reflective prayer exercise.	Bible, brown construction paper (optional), scissors, tape, sticky notes, pens	Optionally, tape brown construction paper to the wall as a tree trunk, adding branches if you desire.
	4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Trek, pens
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Trek	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Trek student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Who Knows Everything? Supplies

paper
pens

1 FAITH CONNECTION

Who Knows Everything?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome your students, and have them sit facing one another, either on the floor or in chairs. Each student will need a pen and paper.

Say: **Hello, and welcome to the hit game show *Who Knows Everything!* Here's how it works: I'm going to read a few questions. Write your answers on your paper without sharing them with anyone else. If you don't know the answer, have fun guessing. Let's start!**

Ask each of the following questions, and pause for students to write answers.

Question 1: What kind of animal is an *Anas Platyrhynchos*? (Answer: mallard duck)

Question 2: How many different species of insects are there in the world? (Answer: about 900 thousand known; an estimated 2-30 million)

Question 3: What is a group of emus called? (Answer: a mob)

Question 4: What is the most common kind of tree in the United States? (Answer: red maple)

Question 5: What is a fossa? (Answer: a cat-like animal from Madagascar)

Question 6: What is the name of the star closest to the sun? (Answer: Alpha Centauri)

When you've finished, give your students the answers so they can see how they did. Although very few students will get the correct answers, encourage all the students who made an effort. Have each student keep his or her own personal score so there's no competition.

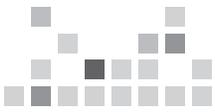
Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did you know all the answers? Why or why not?
- When you think about all the things you don't know about the world around you, how does that make you feel? Explain.
- Tell an interesting fact you know about creation.
- What are some animals or other things in our world that you think are funny or strange?





Say: **Our world is full of interesting creatures, things, and even people. And ► GOD MADE THE WORLD and all these interesting things. Let’s dig a little deeper.**

Media Connection (Option)



Tip In general, federal copyright laws do not allow you to use videos or DVDs (even ones you own) for any purpose other than home viewing. Your church can obtain a license from Christian Video Licensing International for a small fee. Just visit cvli.com or call 1-888-771-2854 for more information.

Many movie clips are available at youtube.com. This clip is also available at wingclips.com under the title “It Really Works.”

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of doing the “Who Knows Everything?” activity, use a clip from *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* to demonstrate human creativity. Start the clip at 00:18:08, when Sam introduces herself. In this clip, inventor Flint’s creation that makes weather systems produce food begins to work. Stop the clip at 00:21:16, when a little boy catches a burger and takes a big bite.

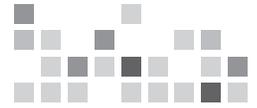
Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about Flint’s invention?**
- **In what ways have you seen real humans show amazing creativity?**
- **Explain whether or not you agree with this statement: Humans can make things that improve upon God’s creation.**

Say: **Flint’s invention was an amazing scientific feat (even if it was fictional). But—spoiler alert—problems arose! Nonetheless, humans have invented some real and wonderful things that have saved lives. And as amazing as those things may be, no human has ever made something out of nothing. Every man-made thing comes from the things God made. And every idea for a man-made thing comes from a brain God made. Human creativity simply points us to our Creator. So, let’s explore how ► GOD MADE THE WORLD.**



Media Connection Supplies

video player
movie *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*

Media Connection Easy Prep

Cue *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* to 00:18:08, when Sam introduces herself.





God's Creative Touch Supplies

Bibles
Bible Trek
ball
pens

God's Creative Touch Easy Prep

Tear out the Study 1 pages from each Bible Trek student book.

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

God's Creative Touch

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Genesis 1:1–2:3 gives us the awesome history of how ► GOD MADE THE WORLD. All he did was speak and things came into existence! That's not just amazing power—it's amazing that he could think of as many kinds of creations as he did. Let's see how quickly we can think of things related to God's creation.**

Choose seven students to each read one Bible passage from the list below. After each passage, have students toss a ball around and name something in the corresponding category listed below. If a student with the ball takes more than two seconds to answer or repeats an answer, he or she will sit down until everyone is sitting. Then move on to the next passage and have everyone stand up to play again.

- Genesis 1:3-5. Category: things that light up.
- Genesis 1:6-8. Category: names of lakes or oceans.
- Genesis 1:9-13. Category: kinds of plants.
- Genesis 1:14-19. Category: things that can be found in the sky.
- Genesis 1:20-23. Category: kinds of water animals OR birds.
- Genesis 1:24-31. Category: kinds of land animals.
- Genesis 2:1-3. Category: leisure activities. (For this category, slow the game down and allow as much time as students need, so that no one has to sit. End the game after everyone has shared one or two things.)

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion.

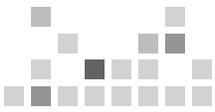
Ask:

- **What are some other views on how the earth was created?**
- **What evidence is there for Creation or for those other views?**
- **Why do you or don't you personally believe that ► GOD MADE THE WORLD?**
- **What stands out to you about the order in which God created things?**

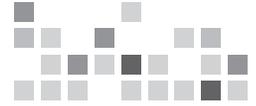
Say: **Isn't it amazing to think about how God created things we see every single day? Sometimes in our busy world, we don't slow down long enough to look at something and say, "Hey, God created that." But God showed us an example by resting to enjoy his creation. So let's do that now by answering the questions on our Bible Trek pages.** Have students turn to the "Think It Over" section of their Bible Trek pages and write answers to the questions.

Say: **God is the most creative force in the universe. God's seen and unseen power makes his creativity an amazing mystery. But isn't God's handiwork and plan for**





creation incredible? ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD** and everything in it—the birds, the trees, even you and me. And if God can do all that, what problem can't God solve creatively and powerfully in our lives?



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose Your Own Adventure

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In our adventures today, we have two activities you can choose from. Adventure 1 uses creative writing, and Adventure 2 uses sculpting. The directions are on your Bible Trek pages. Look them over and decide which activity you want to do. You can work with the others who choose the same activity.** Allow time for students to decide which adventure they want to do. Summaries of each adventure follow.

ADVENTURE 1—CREATIVE WRITING: GREETINGS, EARTHLINGS!

In this adventure, students will write an article imagining that they are seeing earth for the very first time.

ADVENTURE 2—SCULPTING: MY EARTH

In this adventure, students will use their own creativity to model God's creativity in forming the earth. Students will represent creation as a way of showing their appreciation and thanksgiving toward God for what they've learned.

Say: **After you finish your adventures, you'll present some of what you experienced, so keep that in mind. When everyone has finished, we'll talk about what we've learned. You have 15 minutes to complete your adventures.** While students are working, move between the stations and offer assistance as needed. Let groups know when they have about five minutes left so they can wrap up their work.

After 15 minutes, have your groups take turns presenting what they experienced.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion.

Ask:

- What new thoughts did you have about Creation?
- What elements of creation do you tend to take for granted? How can you show more appreciation?
- What elements of creation do you most rely on? Why?

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD**, and he put humans in charge of everything else.

Choose Your Own Adventure Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Trek
- Adventure 1**
- paper
- pens
- Adventure 2**
- modeling dough (many colors)
- newspaper or disposable tablecloth
- several plastic knives

Choose Your Own Adventure Easy Prep

Set out the supplies for each adventure at different stations.

At adventure station 2, station, cover a table with newspaper or a disposable tablecloth and set out plastic knives.





Tree of Thanks Supplies

Bible
brown construction
paper (optional)
scissors
tape
sticky notes
pens

Tree of Thanks Easy Prep

Optionally, tape brown construction paper to the wall as a tree trunk, adding branches if you desire.

He wants us to care for his earth and to appreciate the things he's given us. His creative work can draw us into deep awe and worship for our God who obviously cares about what he made. We can remind ourselves every day just how powerful and creative God is as we look at the world around us.

Tree of Thanks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God's creation is amazing, and it's something we can take time to thank him for. His amazing creation points us to an even more amazing creator.**

Point to the tree on the wall if you created one beforehand. Otherwise, students will use their sticky notes to make a tree trunk *and* leaves. Say: **We're going to create a tree of thanks, adding sticky-note leaves to show our appreciation for God.** Hand out four sticky notes to each student.

Say: **On one sticky note, write something God created. Then stick it on our tree, leaving room for more sticky notes around it.** Allow time.

Say: **Now come and look at our tree. Choose one thing someone wrote—you can choose your own if you want—and spend a few minutes talking to God about what that part of creation reveals about its Creator. Write any thoughts you have on a new sticky note, and stick it next to the original "leaf."** Allow time.

Repeat this prayer experience two more times or as time allows, having students each choose new creations each time.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did God show you about himself as you thanked him for his creation?**

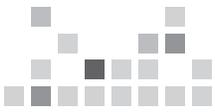
Read aloud Romans 1:20.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time you interacted with nature in a way that helped you learn something about God.**
- **How can you be more aware of seeing God through his creation?**

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE EARTH.** Despite what some people say, it didn't just happen. *God* made it. And he made things in such a way that, if we're paying attention, they can point us to him. This week, make an effort to see what God is showing you about himself through the things he created. And remember, these things are just a small glimpse of our amazing Creator!





4

LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Direct students to find this week's Daily Challenges in their Bible Trek pages and to choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Spend time outside praising God for the beauty of creation.
- Identify a tough situation, and ask God to bring light and hope, just as he created light when there was nothing.
- Pick one category of creation to focus on each day. As you see things in that category, ask God to reveal himself to you through what you can see in his creation.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, place, or other ideas.

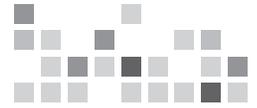
Say: ► **GOD MADE THE EARTH, and we can enjoy his creation and thank him for it! Let's do that this week as we follow through with our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Hand out the letter to parents from the Bible Trek student books, one to each student. Also encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Creation. Students can also do the activities on the "Bringing It Home" section of their Bible Trek pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

End the study with a prayer. Pray: **Thank you, God, for your entire creation. Thank you especially for...** Have students fill in the prayer with things they're glad God created.



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Trek
pens

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Trek

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Trek student book.



