



God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3


In this lesson, your preschoolers will learn that God made everything and everything God made is good. This lesson is exciting because the simplest evidence of God’s creation can fascinate young learners. Provide them with direct experiences to help them understand the world God made, and then link these experiences to the truth that God made everything. Use this lesson to continually remind children that God is responsible for creating everything they hear, see, touch, smell, and taste that is good.



► **Bible Point**
God made everything.


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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will recognize that God created everything.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Speak Out Discover that God created the world with words, and try to create things with their own words.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo wants to create animals just as God did.	CD player, Theo puppet, string Teacher Pack: CD, sheep’s wool, camel hair	Tie the sheep’s wool and camel hair to Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: God Created Everything Watch the Creation Wheel, and act out the things God created.	Bible Teacher Pack: Creation Wheel, paper fastener, “God’s Creation” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Follow the directions on the back of the Creation Wheel.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Creation Match and glue together a “peekaboo” page about the days of Creation.</p>	My Bible Hugs, glue sticks, scissors	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Yummy Creation Make a “dirty” snack, and talk about their favorite creations.</p>	granola, yogurt, cups, spoons, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: God Made Animals Enjoy a game with the animal cards.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: “Animal” matching cards</p> 	Separate the “Animal” matching cards.
	<p>Center 4: Creation Painting Draw pictures on white paper with crayons, and then paint over them with blue watercolor.</p>	crayons, water, blue watercolor, newspaper, white construction paper, paintbrushes	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Pray to God with motions, thanking him for things he made.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs	Tear out the letter to parents in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3



God’s Beginnings With Humans

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Nor is it just the beginning of our world. It’s the beginnings of God’s working with humans. In fact, “beginning” is the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new season than at the beginning!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It’s interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was unified.

God’s Creation Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus isn’t so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read “God said” and then some variation of “and it was so.” God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated “good” here is a common Hebrew word that, like our word *good*, can have several meanings. Here, it likely has no moral connotation but means “just as it should be.” God looked at what he had done and knew it was right.

After Creating, God Rested

God was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he created last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but “seed-bearing plants and trees...according to their various kinds”; not just one star, but “lights in the expanse of the sky”; not just one fish, but “every living and moving thing with which the water teems.” God

prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy. And then God created humans. We’re a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth “in all their vast array,” he rested. Why? God wasn’t tired. God didn’t need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. The seventh day became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.

The Jesus Connection

God’s creation is inspiring, and the gift of his Son is lifesaving. Thank God for the beauty of life in nature and in our hearts through a relationship with Jesus! Show love for God’s creation during the lesson this week, and help others see that the Creator has given them new life through Jesus as well.

What in nature amazes you? Oceans of beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God’s design, and consider how God has designed your life, too. You can write your prayer here.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Kids, Come Join Us" (track 2), "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Kids, Come Join Us" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Kids, come join us on the floor,** (*make "come over" hand motion*)

On the floor, on the floor. (*point down*)

Kids, come join us on the floor. (*make "come over" hand motion*)

We'll worship God today. (*wave hands in air*)

God is here with us right now, (*point up*)

Us right now, us right now. (*hug self*)

God is here with us right now. (*point up*)

We'll worship him today. (*wave hands in air*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING! Let's sing another song to praise God.**

Lead children in singing "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Are you going to praise the Lord?** (*hug self; then point up*)

I will praise him all the time. (*point to self; then point up*)

Remember all the things he has done. (*point to head*)

Jesus is a true friend of mine. (*shake hands with someone*)

(Chorus)

Praise, praise, praise the Lord. (*wave hands in air*)

Come on, come on, let's praise the Lord. (*make gathering motion*)

(Repeat.)





Praise him for his goodness to me. *(point up; then point to heart)*
 He is always loving and kind. *(hug self)*
 He died for me and forgave all my sins. *(spread arms to make a cross)*
 Jesus is a true friend of mine. *(shake hands with someone)*

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

Come on, come on, let's praise the Lord. *(make gathering motion)*
 Come on, come on, let's praise the Lord. *(make gathering motion)*

Say: I love praising God because ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING.** Today we get to hear about how God made you, me, and everything you see.



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Speak Out

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Genesis 1:1, says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This means that God made the ground we're standing on and the sky above. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).**

Say: **If God wants something to appear, God just speaks, and it happens! Let's try to create with our words as God does.** Give each child a chance to try to create something with words. For example, a child might say, "I want to create a horse." After each child says something, wait a few seconds to "see" if it appears. Encourage kids to try easy things, hard things, big things, and small things. Use different methods such as having two kids say it together, then three, then all the kids, or have kids whisper it, shout it, or say it with silly voices.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think it's not working for us?
- What does that tell you about God?

Say: **We can't create anything with our words the way God can. When we make something, we have to use things God made such as paper, crayons, or blocks.**

Speak Out Supplies

.....
Bible





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)
sheep's wool
camel hair

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the sheep's wool
and camel hair to
Theo's paw.

Anything we use to make something, God made first because ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING.** Let's say our Key Verse together again: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

Theo: This is some wool and camel hair.

Teacher: Why do you have wool and camel hair?

Theo: I want to make animals like God.

Teacher: Oh, I see. Well, Theo, only God can create plants and animals that are alive. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING.**)*

Teacher: Only God can make something out of nothing, and only God can give things life.

Theo: Oh, I guess I don't need this wool and camel hair then.

Teacher: Well, you don't need it to make a sheep or a camel, but you can use it to make a picture of a sheep and a camel. Then you can thank God for making sheep and camels!

Theo: That sounds like a great idea! I'm glad ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING!** I'm going to go home and make my picture right now.

Teacher: That sounds great, Theo! Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it funny that Theo was going to try to make a real animal?
- Tell about a time you tried to make something.
- Why do you think it's neat that ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING?**

Say: **God created sheep and camels. We can make a picture of sheep and camels, but only God can make the real animals because ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING. He made everything around us that's alive. Let's find out about all the living things God made.**



Bible Time: God Created Everything

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 1, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Genesis 1 tells us that ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING.** Place the Creation Wheel and "God's Creation" poster on the floor in the center of the circle.

Point to the "God's Creation" poster and say: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." He didn't do it all at once. He took seven days to create the world. Let's sing about what God created each day.** "Sing" the following phrases as you would say the ditty "A shave and a haircut: two bits."

Sing: **God created day and night: day one.** Hold up one finger.

Invite the children to find the "1" on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number. Help kids if no one knows the number "1."

Say: **On the first day, "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.'"** Have kids point to a light, and then have kids identify other places they see light. For example, the sun, light poles outside, car lights, and so on. Have them close their eyes to see dark.

Sing: **God created day and night: day one.** Hold up one finger. Then have a child point to something that symbolizes this on the "God's Creation" poster.

Invite the children to find the "2" on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number.

Say: **On the second day, God said there should be a big space between the waters below and the water above, and it was so. God called the big space "sky."** Have kids point to the sky (use a window, if possible). Then have them identify things they can see in the sky during the day and during the night.

Sing: **God created the sky: day two.** Hold up two fingers. Then have a child point to something that symbolizes this on the "God's Creation" poster.

Invite the children to find the "3" on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number.

Say: **On the third day, God said that the water on the earth should be gathered to one place so that dry ground could appear. "And it was so. God called the dry ground 'land,' and the gathered waters he called 'seas.'" Then God put trees, plants, and flowers on the land to grow. God made land.** Have kids stomp their feet. **God made water.** Have kids pretend to be floating in water by putting their arms out and swaying side to side. **God made plants.** Invite kids to tell all the plants they can name in 30 seconds. They can be general or specific.



Bible Time: God Created Everything Supplies

- Bible
- Teacher Pack**
- Creation Wheel
 - paper fastener
 - "God's Creation" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: God Created Everything Easy Prep

Follow the directions on the back of the Creation Wheel.





Sing: **God created land, water, and plants: day three.** Hold up three fingers. Then have a child point to something that symbolizes this on the “God’s Creation” poster.

Invite the children to find the “4” on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number.

Say: **On the fourth day, God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night...and give light on the earth.” God made the sun, moon, and stars.** With their fingers, have kids draw the shape of the sun in the air. Then have kids draw a star and the moon.

Sing: **God created the sun, moon, and stars: day four.** Hold up four fingers. Then have a child point to something that symbolizes this on the “God’s Creation” poster.

Invite the children to find the “5” on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number.

Say: **On the fifth day, God said that the oceans should be filled with fish and that other creatures and birds should fly across the sky. So God created all kinds of fish and birds.** Have each child decide whether he or she wants to pretend to be a fish or a bird. Designate an area for the “sky” and an area for the “ocean.” Have birds pretend to fly around the sky while fish pretend to swim around the ocean for 20 to 30 seconds.

Sing: **God created fish and birds: day five.** Hold up five fingers. Then have a child point to something that symbolizes this on the “God’s Creation” poster.

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING in just the right order. Our God loves us. Let’s find out what God created on day six.**

Invite the children to find the “6” on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number.

Say: **On the sixth day, God said animals should fill the land. And it happened. God made wild animals, farm animals, and animals that crawl along the ground. And all the animals made God happy.** Have each child think of his or her favorite animal. Then invite kids to pretend to act like those animals for 10 to 15 seconds. Point out the type of each animal you see kids acting out.

Say: **Also on the sixth day, God said that he would make a man. Then he made a woman to be the man’s helper. And God was very happy.** Have kids shake hands with each other and say, “God made you!”

Sing: **God created animals and people: day six.** Hold up six fingers. Then have a child point to something that symbolizes this on the “God’s Creation” poster.

Invite the children to find the “7” on the Creation Wheel and turn the dial to that number.

Say: **On day seven, God rested and enjoyed what he had made. He didn’t rest because he was tired but because he was finished.** Have kids lie on the floor and close their eyes, resting for about 5 to 10 seconds.

Sing: **God rested: day seven.** Hold up seven fingers.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about something God made that you're thankful for.
- What's something God made that you can use to show God you're thankful?

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**, and God loves the things he created. We can thank God for creation by spending time outside, by praying and thanking God, and by taking good care of our pets.



**4 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ **CENTER 1:**

Creation

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Hugs Lesson 1 page. Say: **In the Bible, it says ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING. Let's make a picture to show what God made each day.**

Supervise the children as they cut out the rectangles at the bottom of each page. Help the children find the corresponding pictures, and then help kids use glue sticks to apply glue where marked on the back and attach the flaps to the pictures. Read each flap to kids, and have them turn the flaps at the appropriate times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What thing that God made do you think would be the hardest to make?
- Tell about something that was really hard for you to make.
- What can you do to get God's help with something hard?

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. He can make anything he wants—and since he made everything, we know he can help us when we're making or doing hard things, too.

**Center 1: Creation
Supplies**

- My Bible Hugs
- glue sticks
- scissors

**Center 1: Creation
Easy Prep**

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.





Center 2: Yummy Creation Supplies

granola
yogurt
cups
spoons
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Center 3: God Made Animals Supplies

Teacher Pack
“Animal” matching
cards

Center 3: God Made Animals Easy Prep

Separate the “Animal”
matching cards.

■ CENTER 2:

Yummy Creation

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands, and then sit down for the snack. Say: **What are some things God made?** Allow time.

When kids mention land, say: **On the third day, God made the land! What are some things you know about land?** Help kids get started with examples such as grass.

When kids mention dirt or soil, say: **Let's make some dirt snacks.**

Distribute the snack supplies to the children. As kids spoon granola into their cups, put some yogurt in each child's cup. Let kids mix the yogurt and granola with their spoons.

Choose a child to thank God for providing the snack. As children eat their snacks, remind them that God loves them even more than God loves the little animals.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like best in your snack creation?
- What do you like best in God's creation?

Say: **Everything God made is wonderful! It's fun to think about the things in creation that we like and to thank God for those things. ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING, and everything God made is good.**

■ CENTER 3:

God Made Animals

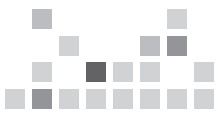
What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a large circle on the floor. Place the “Animal” matching cards in the middle of the circle. Show kids the pictures on the cards. Mix the pictures up, and place them facedown on the floor.

Say: **God made all the animals in the world on the sixth day.** Let kids name their favorite animals.

Say: **Let's play a game about animals. I'll start by turning over one card. I'll say the name of the animal and tell you what I know about it. Then we'll take turns around the circle until everyone has had a turn.** Let kids take turns picking up one card. Have kids say the name of the animal, make its sound, and say one thing they know or like about it. Continue until everyone has had a turn.





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like or not like about the animals God made?
- Why do you think it's good to take care of animals and everything God made?

Say: **Animals are wonderful! God made all the animals, and God wants us to take care of the animals. ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING.**

CENTER 4:

Creation Painting

What You'll Do

Put newspaper in front of each child to protect the surface kids will work on. Say:

► GOD MADE EVERYTHING. He made the land and the sky, the water and the animals, and he made us! He made everything you see! Let's make something today, too.

Give each child a sheet of white construction paper and crayons. Let kids use crayons to draw pictures of things they see in their world. Encourage children to press hard and fill in as much of the white space with color as they can. As kids work, write kids' names on their papers.

As each child finishes coloring, give him or her a paintbrush. Set out water and blue watercolor and encourage kids to paint over the entire paper with blue watercolor to represent the sky.

Place the pictures out of the way on newspaper, or hang them up to dry until it's time for children to go home.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about creating your picture?
- Tell about what you drew and why.
- Why do you think God made everything?

Say: **► GOD MADE EVERYTHING, and God wants us to like the things he made. When he finished making everything, he said that it was good. He was proud of what he made and he's proud of you and me!**



Center 4: Creation Painting Supplies

-
- crayons
 - water
 - blue watercolor
 - newspaper
 - white construction paper
 - paintbrushes





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING. I would like each of you to choose a way to thank God for his creation this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

- **Ask your mom or dad to take you on a walk outside. Show each other the beautiful things you see that God made.**
- **Collect some leaves or flowers from your yard, and glue them to a piece of paper. Hang the paper in your room to remind you of God's beautiful creation.**
- **Find a book about animals or plants in your house, or ask a parent to take you to the library. Thank God for making such a wonderful world.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!





Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids form a circle and sit down.

Say: **We've learned that ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING. Let's thank God for some of those things. Pray the words after me while we do the motions together.**

Lord, we thank you for the flowers. *(hold up fingers and wiggle them)*

Lord, we thank you for the trees. *(make a circle overhead with your arms)*

Lord, we thank you for spring showers, *(raise fingers high, and wiggle them as you lower them)*

And we thank you for the bees. *(on each hand, touch middle finger to thumb; make small, fluttering circular motions in the air)*

Lord, we thank you for the food we eat. *(lift closed hand to mouth as if eating with a spoon)*

Lord, we thank you for birds so sweet. *(hook thumbs together, and wiggle fingers while moving hands around)*

Lord, we thank you for the cows that moo, *(stretch neck as you say the "oo" sound)*

And we thank you for your love so true. *(cover heart with hands)*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

What You'll Do

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the letter to parents in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.



