

GOD MADE THE WORLD

STORY 1

Bible Basis:



Genesis 1:1-31

Supplies:

Bible, blank poster board, one piece of yellow paper, one piece of black paper, glue sticks, 5-10 cotton balls, 3-4 silk flowers, star stickers, markers, animal and people stickers

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Place the blank poster board on the floor in the center of the circle. Set the "creation items" you gathered before class on the floor beside you. Open your Bible to Genesis 1, and show the children the words.

SAY Today's Bible story teaches us that God made everything.

"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. We are going to 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.)*

Day
1

SAY On the first day, "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light... Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness 'night.'" God created light. Point to the poster, and have one child glue the yellow piece of paper to the poster and another child glue the black piece of paper to the poster. **Let's sing this together.**

SING God created day and night: day one. *(Hold up one finger.)*

Day
2

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." Point to the poster, and have one child glue the cotton ball clouds to the poster. **Let's sing that together.**

SING God created the sky: day two. *(Hold up two fingers.)*



Day
3

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 that is what happened. God called the dry ground 'land,' and the waters 'seas.'" Then God put trees, plants, and flowers on the land to grow. God made land, water, and plants. Point to the poster, and have several children glue the silk flowers to the poster. **Let's try to sing all that together.**

SING God created land, water, and plants: day three. *(Hold up three fingers.)*

Day
4

SAY God said, "Let great lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night...Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." God made the sun, moon, and stars. Point to the poster, and have children place the star stickers on the poster. **Let's sing together.**

SING God created the sun, moon, and stars: day four. *(Hold up four fingers.)*

SAY Let's find out what God created on day five.

Day
5

SAY 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. Point to the poster, and encourage a few children to use markers to draw simple fish or birds on the poster. **Let's sing together.**

SING God created fish and birds: day five. *(Hold up five fingers.)*

SAY God made everything in just the right order. Our God loves us. Let's find out what God created on day six.

Day
6

SAY 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. Then God said that he would make a man. Then he made a woman to be the man's helper. And God was very happy. God created animals and people.



Point to the poster, and have each child put an animal or person sticker on the poster. **Let's sing together.**

SING → **God created animals and people: day six.** *(Hold up six fingers.)*



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. God had created everything. One last time, let's sing.**

SING → **God created the world in seven days.** *(Hold up seven fingers.)*

ASK → • What are some things God created?

SAY → **In the beginning, God made everything. Jesus was with God in the beginning when God created everything. We can get to know Jesus better by spending time outside and by enjoying the things God made.**

BIBLE EXPERIENCES

Creation Walk

Supplies: sidewalk chalk

Take your class outdoors to a sidewalk or paved area. Review the days of creation, and then have each child use sidewalk chalk to draw a large circle. Beginning with the first day of creation, assign one or two children to each day. Encourage kids to draw a picture in their circle of the work God did on that day of creation. If your class is large and space is limited, draw the largest circle possible, then have kids gather around the circle and add their favorite part of God's creation.

Signs of the Seasons

Supplies: seasonal dress-up clothes

Bring in seasonal dress-up clothes for children to try on. Include items such as sunglasses, raincoats, umbrellas, winter coats and hats, mittens, and boots. As children try on the clothes, have them tell you what they like about each season and how they might need to dress for that time of year. Remind children that God made our world and God made each season different from the others.



Let There Be Light

Supplies: Bible, a sheet of black construction paper for each child, glow-in-the-dark star stickers

Before this activity, remove the glow-in-the-dark star stickers from their package. Set them in a place where they have direct exposure to a light source such as a window or lamp. This allows the stickers to absorb plenty of light so they'll glow brightly.

Hold up a sheet of black paper.

Say ➤ **Before God made our world, everything was completely dark, like this paper. There was nothing in the world—not a sun or a moon or stars. Let's close our eyes to see what that might have been like.**

Close your eyes, and direct the children to do the same. Tell children to keep their eyes closed until you say to open them. You might suggest that they put their hands over their eyes to make it "extra" dark. While their eyes are still closed,

ask ➤ • **What do you see?**

• **What would it be like if our world was like this all the time?**

Say ➤ **In the Bible, the first thing God said was "Let there be light." And the world became bright! Let's call out together, "Let there be light!" just as God did. Then we'll open our eyes and see what happens.**

Have the children call out with you, "Let there be light!" When they've opened their eyes,

ask ➤ • **Now what do you see?**

Say ➤ **Giving light to the whole world is something only God can do! Only God can make light as bright as the sun or as pretty as the stars.**

Give each child a sheet of black construction paper.

Say ➤ **Let's add something special to our dark pieces of paper to remember that when God made our world, God gave us light, too. You may each put one of these star stickers on your paper. When you place your sticker on your paper, say, "Thank you, God, for making our world."**

Distribute the glow-in-the-dark star stickers, and let children place stickers on their papers as they say, "Thank you, God, for making our world." When everyone has finished, **Say** ➤ **Now turn your paper over so you can't see your star. When I turn off the light, let's all call out, "Let there be light!" just as God did. Then we'll turn our papers over again, and we'll see a big surprise!**

Be sure the children have turned their papers star-side down before you turn off the lights. Then, when they've turned their papers back over to



show their stars, **Say** **Wow! Our papers look brighter now! Because God made light, our world looks brighter, too.**

Encourage the children to place their starry pictures next to their beds at home so they'll remember God's gift of light even when it's dark outside.

Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1, and show children the verse.

Say **The Bible tells us that God made the world. I'm glad God put lights in the sky so we could see all the wonderful things he has made.**



Fill the World

Supplies: newsprint, tempera paint, plastic spoons, bowls, cotton balls, seeds, paint shirts, tape, newspaper or vinyl tablecloth

Tape several large sheets of newsprint together, and lay them on a table. To protect the floor, cover it with newspapers or a vinyl tablecloth. Set out bowls of blue, yellow, green, and brown tempera paint, and have children put on paint shirts.

Gather children around the table. If you have more than 10 children in your class, you may want to set up two tables and make two murals.

Say **This paper is empty, just as our world was empty before God started creating things to live in it. Let's fill up this paper with the creations that God made. We're going to make lots of things to go on our picture, and everyone will get a turn to help.**

ask • What did God make for us to walk on?

Say **God made the ground. Let's put some dirt in our picture. I'll pass out spoons to paint with, and then I'll ask three people to paint some dirt at the bottom of our picture.**

Give plastic spoons to three children, and show them how to use the backs of the spoons to paint the brown paint onto the newsprint. Have children set their spoons in the brown paint bowl when they're through.

ask • What grows in the ground?

Say **God made plants to grow in the ground. Plants start out as little seeds. [Name] and [name], will you sprinkle some seeds on our ground?**

Give each of the two children a spoonful of seeds. Have them start at opposite ends of the newsprint and sprinkle their seeds in the "dirt."

ask • What kinds of plants should we put in our picture?

say **God made lots of different kinds of plants. He made trees, bushes, flowers, and grass. Let's put some grass in our picture first. I need three grass painters.** Give spoons to three children, and have them paint grass above the dirt. Then invite other children to add green bushes, brown tree trunks, green treetops, and blue or yellow flowers. Make sure each child gets a turn to paint. Have children return their spoons to the appropriate paint bowls when they're through.

What a beautiful picture of God's world! What should go at the top of our picture? (Sky; clouds; sun.) **God made the sun and put it up in the sky. Let's put a sky and a sun in our picture.** Choose two children to paint a blue sky and one child to paint a yellow sun. Distribute cotton balls, and let children stick "clouds" in the sky, then let all the children paint several raindrops.

ask • What else did God make that's missing in our picture?

say **God made our world and everything in it.** Leave the creation mural on the table for about an hour to dry. When the paint is no longer wet, you can hang it up in your classroom to remind children of God's creations.

Swirling Colors

Supplies: paint smocks, blank paper, milk, eyedropper, green and blue food coloring, dish soap, paper towels, watercolor paints, markers

Have the children put on paint smocks. Distribute a blank paper to each child, and have kids write their names on their papers. Ask a child to help you demonstrate on one of the papers what it might have looked like as God created the earth. Use the eyedropper to slowly make a 2- to 2½-inch puddle of milk on the center of the page (the milk will stay in a puddle without running if the surface is flat). Place one drop of green food coloring and one drop of blue food coloring about ¾-inch apart on the puddle of milk. Then have the child carefully put a single drop of dishwashing liquid between the drops of food coloring. Let everyone watch the swirling colors! Then have the child lay folded paper towels on the page to absorb the liquid. A small amount of the swirled design will remain on the page. Let the other children try the experiment on their pages, then have them use watercolors to finish creating their colorful worlds.

ask • What did you like most about making your colorful page?

• What's one thing that God created that you're thankful for? Why?

• How can we thank God for creating so many wonderful things?

say **God made everything in the heavens and on the beautiful earth. Let's remember to pray, sing, worship, and thank God for all of the good things he has made.**



PRAYERS

Wonderful Creation Prayer

Supplies: none

Ask the kids each to think of one thing from creation that they want to praise God for, then let the kids try to pantomime their ideas. For example, a child might get down on all fours and pretend to be a puppy or wiggle his or her fingers as the stars in the sky. Then say the following prayer, and have kids do their actions when indicated.

Dear God,

We praise you for... (Go around the circle and have the kids each pantomime their praise.)

We thank you, God, for everything you've made.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Action Prayer

Form a circle, and have the children 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. (*Touch middle finger to thumb on each hand. 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 "moo" sound*),

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

In Jesus' name, amen.



snacks

A Yummy Creation

Supplies: sandwich cookies, resealable sandwich bags, chocolate pudding, gummy worms, spoons, cups

Before beginning, have kids wash their hands. Distribute the snack supplies to the children. Have kids use their fists to crush their sandwich cookies inside the resealable bags. Fill 5-ounce cups about two-thirds full with chocolate pudding. Let kids mix their cookie crumbs and gummy worms into the pudding 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.

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.



SONGS

God Made the World

Supplies: none

Have children join you as you sing "God Made the World" (adapted from Genesis 1:1) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

**God made the world.
Oh, God made the world.
We thank him for creating it.
God made the world!**

**God made the light.
Oh, God made the light.
We thank him for creating it.
God made the light!**

**God made you and me.
Oh, God made you and me.
We thank him for creating us.
God made you and me!**



Everything Was Good

Supplies: none

Lead children in singing “Everything Was Good” to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.”

**Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.
God made light and day and night,
And everything was good.
Growing plants,
Stars, moon, sun—
Playing in God’s world is fun!
Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.**

**Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.
Animals and people, too.
And everything was good.
God made [name].
God made [name].
God made [name] and [name] and [name].
Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.**