

# God Creates the World

Lesson 1

Genesis 1:1–2:3



**Bible Point:**



God created the world.

**Key Verse:**

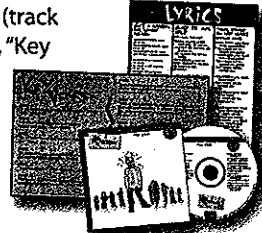


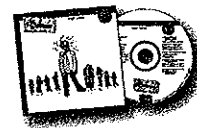


"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**



Children will thank God for his wonderful Creation by taking care of it in several ways.

Lesson Segment	What Students Will Do	Materials Needed	Teacher Prep/Supplies
1 Getting Started	<b>Human Sculptures</b> (about 10 min.) Play a game to create human sculptures.	CD player, tape	CD: "Genesis 1:1" (track 2), "Lyrics" poster, "Key Verses" poster 
2 Bible Story Exploration	<b>In the Beginning</b> (about 10 min.) Plan ways to artistically represent the days of Creation.	Bibles, scrap paper, pencils, tape, several lengths of butcher paper (see Easy Prep on p. 7)	Bible Timeline 
	<b>Creation Stations</b> (about 25 min.) Create a Bible Backdrop to "experience" the days of Creation.	Bibles, scissors, colored paper, markers, tape, staplers, CD player	Creation stencils; CD: "Genesis 1:1" (track 2), "This Is My Father's World" (track 3) 
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Thank-You Notes</b> (about 15 min.) Write notes to God to thank him for our world, pray, and close with a song.	Bible, pens, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player	CD: "This Is My Father's World" (track 3) 

# God Creates the World

## Genesis 1:1–2:3

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Note that this is not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Neither is it just the beginning of our world. It is, rather, the beginnings of God's working with humans. That's the meaning of the Greek word from which the name Genesis came. What better place to start a new Sunday school year than at the beginning of God's story!

*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 existed in three persons, the action of creating the universe was a unified action. One God, three persons, one plan.

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus is not 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 "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 means "just as it should be." God looked at what he had done and knew that it was right. He didn't mess up. God knew what he was doing.

What God was doing was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he would create 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"; not just one horse, but "all the creatures that move along the ground." God prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy.

And then God created humans. We are 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. It 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.

### Devotion for Teachers

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!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** What in nature amazes you? Oceans or beautifully colored fish or massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God's design and consider how God has designed your life as well. Show love for God's creation to your students and help them see that the Creator of nature and life has given them new life through Jesus as well.