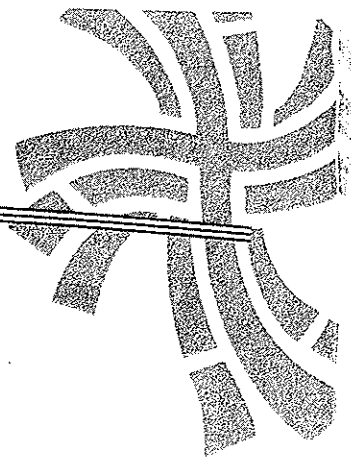


God Creates the World



Genesis 1:1–2:3

Bible Point:



God made everything.

Key Verse:



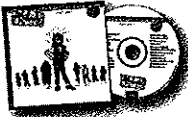
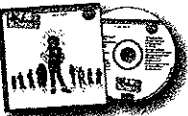
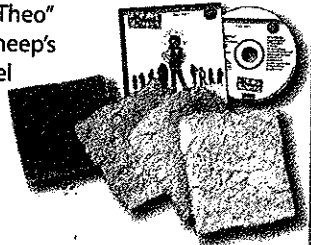
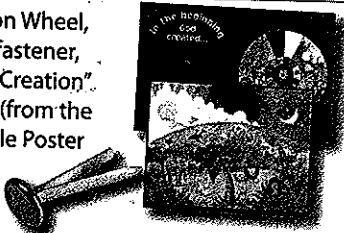
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).


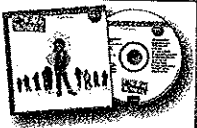
Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will recognize that God created everything, and they will thank God for his beautiful creation.



Lesson Sequence	What children will do	Classroom supplies	Teacher/Parent supplies
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Worship Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player	CD: "Kids, Come Join Us" (track 2); "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 6) 
2 FaithWeaver Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Speak Out Discover that God created the world with words, and sing about Genesis 1:1.	Bible, CD player	CD: "Genesis 1:1" (track 3) 
3 Bible Story Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo wants to create animals just as God did.	CD player, Theo puppet, string	CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4); sheep's wool; camel hair 
	Story Time: God Created Everything Watch the Creation Wheel, and glue items onto a poster of creation.	Bible, glue, scissors, markers, 1 piece each of yellow and dark blue construction paper, 2 to 3 cotton balls, 2 to 3 silk flowers, 1 star sticker and 1 animal or person sticker per child	Creation Wheel, paper fastener, "God's Creation" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 

Lesson Sections	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Teacher Pack Supplies
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Creation Story Match and glue together a "peekaboo" story page about the days of Creation.</p>	<p>Lesson 1 from My Bible Hugs, glue sticks, scissors</p>	
	<p>Center 2: A Yummy Creation Make a "dirty" snack, and talk about their favorite creations.</p>	<p>1 chocolate sandwich cookie, 3 ounces chocolate pudding, one 5-ounce cup, 1 gummy worm, 1 resealable plastic bag, and 1 spoon per child</p>	
	<p>Center 3: God Made Animals Enjoy an animal matching game.</p>		<p>"Animal" matching cards</p> 
	<p>Center 4: Creation Painting Draw pictures on white paper with crayons, then paint over them with blue watercolor.</p>	<p>Crayons, water, blue watercolor, newspaper, 1 piece of white construction paper and 1 paintbrush per child</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Be a FaithWeaver Make a challenge for the week ahead.</p>		
	<p>Action Prayer Do an action prayer about creation.</p>	<p>CD player</p>	<p>CD: "Nature Sounds" (track 8)</p> 

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 beginning of God's working with humans. That's the meaning of the Greek word from which the word 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, 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.