

God Made the Sky and Earth

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Bible Focus: Genesis 1:1-19

Bible Memory: Genesis 1:1, 31

“In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. . . . and it was very good.” (ICB)

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. . . . and, behold, it was very good.” (KJV)

Life Focus: ♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Heart to Heart

Your children may know that God created the world, but this lesson can add sight, touch, taste, and feel to God’s creation. Take the time to wonder at the shape of a cloud, the feel of a raindrop, the sound of the rustling wind, and the smell and sight of a perfect flower. You will be ready to pass on to your children the amazing fact that God created our world *ex nihilo*, out of nothing!

Bible Background

The Hebrew word for God in Genesis 1:1, *Elohim* (El oh *heem*) implies God’s power and glory. Verse two describes the earth as it first appeared when it was called into existence—formless, empty, dark. Then God spoke! He had a plan and a purpose for everything He was about to make. The Bible says that God’s Word was carried out instantaneously. God himself named the day and night, the sky, the land and the seas. He is ruler of all.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

Step 1

Getting Started

Use one or more of these activities to help children *explore things God made on Days 1–4.*

 **Quick Step**
It Fits Together



Creation Clues Search



Seeds of Creation



HeartShaper Materials

• *Resources* Sheet 2 photo puzzles

• Scout puppet, *Make-n-Share* pp. 3 and 4

Other Materials

- tray
- dog biscuits, tape
- apple and seed, corn and kernel, flower and seed

Step 2

Bible Discovery

Use all of these activities to help children *tell what God made on Days 1–4.*

Sing and Pray



Bible Time



Bible Review

Bible Memory

• *Resources* CD, Sheet 2 spyglass, Sheet 1 “I Spy” poster

• CD player, Bibles, Bible with Bible Memory highlighted

Step 3

Grow and Go

Use one or more of these activities to help children *thank God for making the sky and the earth.*

 **Quick Step**
Creation Clue Cards



Creation Grab Bag



Memory Motions



Closing the Hour

• Scout puppet, *Make-n-Share* pp. 3 and 4 and stickers

• crayons or markers, blunt-tip scissors

• *Teaching Picture* 1

• paper bags; creation items (rock, small stick, nut, potato, apple, etc.)

• *Heart Tugs* Issue 1

• Bible with Bible Memory highlighted

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

Life Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Step 1 • Use one or more of these activities to help children explore things God made on Days 1–4.

Welcome

- Use your Scout puppet to greet the children. Introduce Scout to the children.
- Place an identification tag on each child and gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child to class.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.
- Guide each child to an activity center.



Quick Step It Fits Together

Before class, punch apart the puzzle pieces, mix them up, and spread them on a tray or tabletop. **The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. We're going to look at some things God made on the first four days.**

Ask children to work together to match picture pieces. Encourage them to try silly combinations before they correctly match the pieces.

• **What would it look like if the trees were on top of the sky? Or if the sun was in the ocean?**

God put everything in our world together in the right order so that we would have a perfect place to live!

Especially for 4s!

Have 4s put together one picture at a time. They can try silly combinations after all the pictures have been matched.

Creation Clues Search

Before class, tape a dog biscuit on each of the Creation Clue Cards. (Use real biscuits or cutout paper biscuits using the pattern on page 117.) Hide the Creation Clue Cards and some extra dog biscuits around the room.

The Bible tells us ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let's look around the room for some hidden dog biscuits. Two of the biscuits are taped to special Creation Clue Cards. Scout will help us find the biscuits and cards by barking loudly or softly.

Allow children to look around the room. Scout can bark louder if a child is near a biscuit and softer if farther away. When all the biscuits have been found, show both sides of the two Creation Clue Cards.

- **What are some things God made that you see on these cards?**
- **What color is that thing? How does it smell? Taste? Sound?** (Ask appropriate questions for each item the children name.)
- **What is your favorite thing God made?**

Seeds of Creation

The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let's look at some things that God made on the third day.

Show children the seeds and plants and ask them to match each seed with its grown counterpart. Add other seeds and their grown plants as available. Allow children to touch and smell the seeds and plants.

- **Why do you think that plant matches that seed?**
- **Does a seed always grow the same kind of plant?**
- **What other kinds of trees, flowers, vegetables, or fruits can you name?**

Materials

Resources Sheet 2
photo puzzles, tray



Materials

Scout puppet, one prepared set of *Make-n-Share* cards pp. 3 and 4, dog biscuits (real or paper cut-outs), tape



Materials

apple and apple seed, ear and kernel of corn, flower (real or artificial) and flower seed



Cleanup

Encourage each child to help by assigning specific cleanup tasks.



Life Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

Step 2 • Use all of these activities to help children tell what God made on Days 1–4.

Materials

Resources CD Tracks 1 and 4, Sheet 2
spyglass; CD player



Materials

Resources Sheet 1 “I Spy” poster, Sheet 2 spyglass; Bibles



Expert Tip

Make sure children can easily see and hear you as you tell your story. It'll help them pay attention and remember the story.

—Steven James

Materials

“I Spy” poster and spyglass used in Bible Time

Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted

Sing and Pray

Sing: “Thank You, God” (verse 1) and “In the Beginning”

Pray, **Dear God, thank You for making the sky and the earth. We are so glad to learn from the Bible how You made our world. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the **Resources** spyglass. Have you ever wanted to be a detective, looking for clues about how something happened? Today we’re going to look at some clues to find out what happened when ♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Bible Time

(Display the Resources “I Spy” poster.) For our first clue, we need to look in our Bibles. *(Help children open their Bibles to the book of Genesis. Point out the word “Genesis.”)* The Bible tells us what it was like before anything was on the earth. In the book of Genesis, it says there was nothing on the earth. There was no air, or land, or light. Everything was dark and without any kind of shape.

But then something happened! God spoke. On the first day, God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Just like that! *(Clap your hands together once. Have children do so too.)*

On the second day, God made the sky and the air we breathe. *(Have everyone take a deep breath and let it out.)* Raise your hand if you spy the sky on our poster. *(Place the spyglass over the sky.)*

On the third day, God made the dry ground appear. Then God said, “Let the land have plants!” Trees and vegetables and flowers and grass appeared on the ground. Which of these creations do you spy on our poster? *(Place the spyglass over each item as the children name it.)* God saw that the land and the plants were good.

On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Do you spy any of these things on our poster? *(Place the spyglass over the sun, moon, and stars.)* God saw that the sun, moon, and twinkling stars were good.

In just four days God had created a world that was beautiful and light!

Bible Review

Allow children to take turns placing the spyglass over various items on the poster. The children can say together on what day God made that item.

- **On what day did God make light?** (Day 1)
- **When did God make the sky?** (Day 2)
- **When did God make the dry ground and plants?** (Day 3)
- **When did God make the sun? The moon? The stars?** (Day 4)

Bible Memory

In Genesis, the very first book of our Bibles, we learn about the time when ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Open your Bible to the first page of the book of Genesis and find Genesis 1:1, 31. Read aloud the unit Bible Memory words. Ask children to say the Bible Memory with you.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

Life Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Step 3 • Use one or more of these activities to help children thank God for making the sky and the earth.

Quick Step Creation Clue Cards

Scout is thankful that ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Nod puppet's head. We can thank God too. Every time you name something to thank God for, Scout will give you a dog biscuit sticker to put on one of your Creation Clue Cards.

Help children cut out the cards. As they complete the cards, guide them to name things God created on each day. Have Scout give each child a sticker for each day they name something to thank God for. Help children print their names on their cards.

- Do you remember what God made on the very first day? (light)
- What is something in the sky that you can thank God for?
- What is a plant that God made on Day 3?

Creation Grab Bag

We can be thankful because ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Let's take turns discovering some things we can thank God for.

Have children sit in a circle. Take a bag around the circle and let children take turns touching the object in the bag without seeing it. After everyone has had a turn, let children guess the object. They can thank God by naming something special about that object—how it feels, looks, smells, or tastes.

- How does an apple taste that makes you thankful?
- I'm so thankful God made smooth, cold rocks! What are you thankful God made? Take time to pray with the children.

Memory Motions

Let's learn the words in our Bibles that tell us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Then we'll thank God for what He made.

Show children the words in your Bible as you read them aloud. Say the words together. Say the Bible Memory again, adding motions: **In the beginning** (hold up one finger) **God** (point open hand upward) **created the sky** (raise arms above head and wave them back and forth) **and the earth** (spread arms in front of you), **and it was very good** (point thumbs up).

Between times of saying the Bible Memory, ask children to name things they are thankful God made. They can look at the teaching picture for ideas.

- Why are you thankful God made the sun?
 - What will you say to thank God for making splishy, splashy water?
- Allow each child to say a thank-You prayer to God.

Especially for 4s!

Teach only the first part of the Bible Memory today and choose fewer motions. Point to items on the teaching picture that children can thank God for.

Closing the Hour

- Be sure children who are leaving now have their activity projects.
- Give each child a copy of today's *Heart Tugs*.

Materials

Scout puppet, *Make-n-Share* pp. 3 and 4 and stickers for each child, crayons or markers, blunt-tip scissors



Teaching Tip

Use resealable bags to store each child's cards. Print names in permanent marker on each bag. More cards will be added throughout the unit.

Materials

paper bags; creation items to put in each bag (a rock, a small stick, a nut, a potato, an apple, etc.)



Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted, *Teaching Picture 1*



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Extra Hour

Bible Focus: Genesis 1:1-19

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Life Focus: ♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Heart to Heart (for the Extra Hour teacher)

Your children may know that God created the world, but this lesson can add sight, touch, taste, and feel to God’s creation. Take the time to wonder at the shape of a cloud, the feel of a raindrop, the sound of the rustling wind, and the smell and sight of a perfect flower. You will be ready to pass on to your children the amazing fact that God created our world *ex nihilo*, out of nothing!

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Lesson 1 at a Glance—Extra Hour

Step 1

More!

Getting Started

Use one or more of these activities to help children *explore things God made on Days 1–4*.

Quick Step

Scout’s Creation Clues



Wonderful Water!



Creation Texture Pictures



HeartShaper Materials

- Scout puppet

Other Materials

- ice, insulated container, paper towels
- creation items (leaves, stones, tree bark, sticks), sidewalk chalk, hair spray, plain white paper, tape

Step 2

More!

Bible Discovery

Use all of these activities to help children *tell what God made on Days 1–4*.

More! Sing and Pray



Bible Time—Another Way!



More! Bible Review

More! Bible Memory

- Resources CD, Teaching Picture 1

- CD player, flashlight, Bibles, construction paper strips

Step 3

More!

Grow and Go

Use one or more of these activities to help children *thank God for making the sky and the earth*.

Quick Step

Scout Puppet Story



“It Is Good!”

Good-bye

- Scout puppet

- Heart Tugs Issue 1

- Heart Tugs Issue 1

- grass clippings, tree twig, 2 small rocks

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

Life Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Step 1 • Use one or more of these activities to help children explore things God made on Days 1–4.

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivals with enthusiasm. Be sure each child has an identification tag.
- Play “Dark, Dark, Light.” One child can walk around a circle of children, tapping each child on the head and saying “Dark.” When he taps a child and says “Light,” the child tapped can stand and say ♥ “God made the sky and the earth!” The two children should exchange places and the game continues.
- Follow your usual procedures for taking children to the rest room and serving a snack.

Quick Step Scout’s Creation Clues

Show the Scout puppet. **Scout and I are so glad that ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Scout loves to tell me about things God made. He wants you to guess some of his favorite things God made.**

Have Scout whisper in your ear. Then give children clues, such as the ones suggested below. Children can guess what creation you are describing.

- **I’m thinking of something God made on Day 4 that is big and round and bright. It shines at night.** (moon)
- **I’m thinking of something God made on Day 3 that is yellow and sweet. Monkeys love to eat these and so do boys and girls. You have to peel them first though.** (bananas)

Wonderful Water!

We are learning about how ♥ God made the sky and the earth. I am holding one of the most wonderful things God made. People can’t live without this special thing. Plants and animals can’t live without it either. I am going to let each of you hold some of this special thing God made.

Give each child a small piece of ice to hold over a paper towel. Ask children to watch what happens when they hold the ice in their warm hand. Then allow each child to eat small pieces of ice.

- **What is this special thing God made?** (ice, water)
- **What happens when you hold it in your hand?** (melts, hand feels cold)
- **What are some ways we use water?** (bathing, cleaning, drinking)

Creation Texture Pictures

♥ **God made the sky and the earth in just one week. Let’s explore some things God made.** Give each child one full and one half sheet of paper and a piece of chalk. Allow each child to choose an item to place on the full sheet of paper. Place the half sheet over the item and tape the half sheet at the corners to the full sheet below.

The child should use the flat edge of the chalk and rub it across the paper to bring out the texture of the item below. Spray the chalk with hair spray to fix it in place on each picture.

- **What thing that God made did you rub on your paper?**
- **Are the creations smooth or rough or prickly?**

Especially for 4s!

Use crayons and leaves, rather than a variety of items. The leaves are easier to work with, and the crayons will not rub off onto clothes and faces.

Materials

Scout puppet



Teaching Tip

If you have time, children will enjoy take turns giving clues about creations God made. Scout and the other children can guess the creation being described.

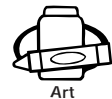
Materials

small pieces of ice, ice bucket or insulated container for ice, paper towels



Materials

creation items (different types of leaves, stones, tree bark, sticks), sidewalk chalk, hair spray, plain white paper, tape



Life Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

Step 2 • Use all of these activities to help children tell what God made on Days 1–4.

Materials

Resource CD
Track 1, CD player,
Bible



Materials

Teaching Picture 1



Teaching Tip

The Resources Sheet 1 “I Spy” poster can also be used for this Bible Time.

Materials

Teaching Picture 1, flashlight

Materials

Bibles, construction paper strips to use as bookmarks, Resources CD Track 4, CD player

Teaching Tip

Provide extra Bibles in your classroom so each child can have one. Depending on the skill level of your children, you may need to place bookmarks in their Bibles at Genesis before the activity.

More! Sing and Pray

Sing: “Thank You, God” (verse 1)

Pray, Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible to help us learn how You made our world. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Open your Bible to the book of Genesis and show it to the children. The very first book of the Bible tells us that God made the world in just one week. Do you know how much time is in a week? Let’s say the days of the week together. Say the days aloud slowly. You can help me tell what God made on the first four days.

Bible Time—Another Way!

(Show the teaching picture.) This picture shows some of the things God made when ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Each time I tell you something God said, cup your hands around your mouths and repeat in big, deep voices what God said. *(Demonstrate; then tell the Bible lesson.)*

On the first day, God spoke into the black, empty, cold space. He said, “Let there be light.” *(Repeat phrase in deep voices: “Let there be light.”)* God called the light day, and He called the darkness night.

On the second day, God spoke again. He said, “Let there be sky.” *(Repeat phrase.)*

On the third day, God said, “Let dry ground appear.” *(Repeat phrase.)* Then God said, “Let there be plants.” *(Repeat phrase.)* Immediately the earth was filled with trees, grass, flowers, fruits, and vegetables!

On the fourth day, God said, “Let there be lights in the sky.” *(Repeat phrase.)* One light ruled the day—the sun. The other shone at night—the moon. God made the twinkling stars too. And God saw they were all good.

More! Bible Review

Let’s see if we can light up some of the things God made on each of the days of creation. Review the things God made on each day. Then call out a day. Allow children to take turns shining the flashlight on something God made on that day.

- What did God make on Day 1? Day 2? Day 3? Day 4?
- Can you shine the light on your favorite thing God made?

More! Bible Memory

When we learn Bible Memory verses, we are learning verses from God’s Word, the Bible. Today’s Bible Memory, Genesis 1:1, 31, is from the very first book of the Bible. Let’s find Genesis in our Bibles as we listen to our Bible Memory song.

Play the Bible Memory song, “In the Beginning.” Patiently, help the children open their Bibles to the first page of Genesis. As each child finds the page, mark the page with a construction paper bookmark. Then ask the children to practice opening their Bibles to the marked pages. Sing “In the Beginning” together as children hold their open Bibles.

- What book tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth? (Genesis, the Bible)

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

Life Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Step 3 • Use one or more of these activities to help children thank God for making the sky and the earth.

Quick Step Scout's Work and Play Day

Put some grass on Scout's head. **Scout, what is on your head? It looks like grass.** Scout nods; then whispers in teacher's ear. **Oh, sounds like you had a good day! Listen and I'll tell you about Scout's day.** Use the Scout puppet to act out the story as it is told.

Scout was sleeping in his doghouse when he heard a loud *whirrrrr*. Scout's people family had come outdoors and Dad was mowing the grass. Scout knew he could help. He picked up some twigs that had fallen into the yard. (*Puppet can pick up twig.*) Maybe he would get to play fetch later!

Scout lay in the warm sun and watched for dangerous enemies—like cats and rabbits. (*Scout can lie down, but peer back and forth.*) Scout watched as Mom dug around some flowers. The children pulled weeds and watered flowers. Scout dug in the dirt too. (*Pretend to do so.*) He found two smooth rocks. (*Show rocks.*) Scout rolled in the fresh, green grass. (*Roll puppet.*)

Then Scout saw something he really liked! The children had ice cream cones. Scout jumped up and ran over to the children. They laughed as he licked up a drip of ice cream. (*Pretend to lick.*) Finally, Scout laid on the soft grass in the shade of a big tree. Scout sighed a happy sigh and laid down for a long nap. (*Cradle Scout in arm.*)

- What did Scout enjoy that God made? (sun, rocks, grass, tree)
- What are you thankful that God made? What can you say to thank God? Encourage each child to say a thank-You prayer to God.

"It Is Good!"

♥ God made the sky and the earth in just one week. Let's learn a rhyme to help us remember all the wonderful things God made on Days 1–4. Give each child a copy of today's *Heart Tugs*. Teach children the rhyme "It Is Good." Look at the pictures and practice doing the motions together.

- What things that God made on Days 1–4 are you thankful for?
- Let's thank God together for those things. Do so.

Especially for 4s!

Ask children to listen to you say the rhyme and imitate you as you do the motions. Don't expect them to be able to say the words with you.

Saying Good-bye

- As children wait for parents to come, play "Dark, Dark, Light" (page 14).
- Be sure children have any projects made in class today.
- Give parents this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage them to do the activities and talk about the things God created on Days 1–4.

Materials

Scout puppet, some grass clippings, a tree twig, 2 small rocks



Materials

Heart Tugs Issue 1 for each child



Teaching Tip

Encourage children to stand and use large sweeping motions. This is a good large muscle activity for 4s and 5s.

Cleanup

Divide the class into teams. Give each team an area to clean. Praise team members as they complete their tasks.

