

God Made the Sky and Earth

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Bible Focus: Genesis 1:1-19

Bible Memory: Genesis 1:1

“God created the sky and the earth.” (ICB)

“God created the heaven and earth.” (KJV)

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

Heart to Heart

Today's lesson is the first in a unit of lessons on God's creation of the world. As you help children learn that ♥ God made the sky and the earth, guide them to express thanks to Him in prayers and songs. When you see the sun's light, thank God. As you play in cool water and sift through sand, thank Him. As you enjoy looking at colorful plants and taste yummy fruit, pause to say thank You. Everything God made is good. Thank You, God.

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**
“Look at Us!”



Discovery Time
(Unit Center)



Creation Colors



HeartShaper Materials

• **Resources** Sheet 2 photo cards 1e–1j

Other Materials

- magnifying glasses, nature items (dirt, sand, rocks, leaves, flowers, fruits, vegetables, bowl of water)
- 6 baby food jars with lids; pitcher of water; red, yellow, blue liquid paint; spoons

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 God Made the Sky and Earth



Bible Review

Bible Memory

• **Resources** Sheet 1 creation cards 1a–1d, CD

- CD player
- CD player, Bible, flashlight, jumbo craft sticks, clear tape

• 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** God's Good World



Bible Memory March



“Thank You, God”



Closing the Hour

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

• **Resources** CD

• **Teaching Picture 1, Resources** CD

• **Heart Tugs** Issue 1

• crayons or washable markers, scissors

• Bible; CD player; plastic flowers, vegetables, or other creation items to hold

• CD player

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 Scamper puppet to greet 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 “Look at Us!”

The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let’s act out some of the things God made on the first four days.

Show the picture prompts one at a time. Guide children to act out what is shown on each card. As each creation is acted out, children can say “Look at us. We’re ____!” and complete the sentence with the names of the things they are acting out. Examples: the dark (*cover eyes with hands*), light (*hold hands in circle over head like big, round suns*), waves (*move hands up and down in waves*), trees (*stand tall and straight*).

- What plants did God make that are tall?
- What small fruits and vegetables did God make?
- What did God make that feels rough? Which things feel soft?

Discovery Time (A unit center)

The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let’s look at some of the things God made on the first four days.

Guide each child to look through a magnifying glass at the created things provided. Encourage children to touch and talk about the items.

- What do you like to do with dirt or sand?
- What colors did God give to the vegetables He made?
- How do you use the water God made?

Creation Colors

When ♥ God made the sky and the earth, He made things in all colors. Let’s look at some of the colors God made.

Guide the children to fill the jars half full of water. Put a spoonful of red, yellow, and blue paint in three separate jars. Put red and yellow paint in the fourth jar, blue and yellow paint in the fifth jar, and red and blue paint in the sixth jar. Help the children seal and shake the jars. Look at all the colors.

- What is your favorite color?
- What fruits or vegetables did God make that are red? green? yellow?
- What part of the earth did God make brown or black? (dirt, rocks, tree trunks)

Especially for 2s!

Many 2-year-olds are beginning to name colors. Give each 2-year-old a piece of colored paper. Move around the room with each child and find items God made that matches the color of the child’s paper. Look at items found at the unit Wonder center and shown on the *Resources* photo cards.

Materials

Resources Sheet 2
photo cards 1e–1j



Materials

several magnifying glasses, nature items (dirt, sand, rocks, leaves, flowers, fruits, vegetables, bowl of water)



Materials

6 baby food jars with lids; pitcher of water; red, yellow, blue liquid paint; spoons



Cleanup

Sing the cleanup song suggested on page 5. When cleanup is done, ask children to tell what they did to help. Then move to your Bible Time area.



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, CD player, Bible



Materials

Bible, flashlight, **Resources** Sheet 1 creation cards 1a–1d, tape or glue, rulers or paint sticks



Teaching Tip

Take an outdoor walk around the property where you are meeting. Guide the children to talk about the things God made that they see, hear, and smell. If it is a pleasant day, the Bible story can be told outdoors on a blanket.

Materials

Resources Sheet 1, creation cards 1a–1d

Teaching Tip

Use your Scamper puppet to encourage children as they answer questions.

Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted

Sing and Pray

Sing: “Thank You, God” (verse 1) and “In the Beginning”
Pray, Dear God, help us to learn from Your Bible today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Say, **Did you ever wonder what God made first when He created the world? The Bible, God’s special word, tells us about the time when God made the world. Let’s listen and find out what God made first.** Open your Bible as you begin to tell the Bible story.

Bible Time

(Before class, tape a ruler or paint stick to use as a handle on the back of each creation card.) The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth. God started with nothing. That means it was dark. Would you like it to be dark outside all the time? *(No.)* God knew His world needed light, so God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. *(Turn on the flashlight.)* God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” *(Hold up creation card 1a.)* Let’s clap because the day and night God made on Day 1 were good! *(Do so.)*

On Day 2, God made the sky. He made the sky a pretty blue. *(Show creation card 1b.)* Let’s look up at the sky. *(Have children shade their eyes and look upward.)* What can you see in the sky? The sky God made was good.

On Day 3, God took the waters below the sky and brought them together to make dry land. God called the dry land “earth” and the gathered waters were called “seas.” How do the waves in the sea move? *(Show children how to move their arms up and down as waves.)* The land and sea God made were wonderful. But God wasn’t done yet! God made plants grow. He made trees, bushes, flowers, fruits, and vegetables—all different colors, shapes, and sizes. *(Show creation card 1c.)* Can you pretend to grow like trees? *(Have children stand slowly and reach high; then sit again.)* All the plants God made on Day 3 were good.

On Day 4, God made a big, bright light. *(Show creation card 1d.)* Do you know what God called the light? *(Yes, the sun.)* God put the sun in the daytime sky. Then God made the moon and stars for the nighttime sky.

Everything God made was good. ♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Bible Review

Let’s remember what God made on the first four days. Hold up the creation cards one at a time. Encourage children to call out various things God made during the first four days. Count the special items on each card—Day 2, two clouds; Day 3, three flowers; Day 4, four stars.

- **When God made the world, what did God make first?** (light)
- **What did God make on Days 2, 3, and 4?** (sky, dry land, seas, plants, sun, moon, stars)

Bible Memory

We can read in our Bible about the time when ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1 and point to each word as you read the Bible Memory to the children. Ask the children to say the words 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 God's Good World

Before class, cut out a Lift-a-Flap Picture for each child. Show a completed picture. **God made so many wonderful things. We are going to make a special picture that can help us remember ♥ God made the sky and the earth.**

Help children as needed to add stickers and fold the flaps. Show children how to lift each flap to tell what was created on Days 1, 2, 3, and 4. Be sure each child's name is printed on his picture.

- **What is your favorite part of God's creation?**

Let's thank God for all the good things He made. Lead children in a simple prayer, naming some of their favorite parts of creation.

Especially for 2s!

Pre-fold the flaps on the Lift-a-Flap Pictures. Allow 2s to scribble-color the pictures and add stickers. Ask each child to open one flap to show a creation God made. Say a thank-You prayer to God for making that part of our world.

Bible Memory March

Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1. Point to and read the highlighted Bible Memory. **Let's learn our Bible Memory as we march to a song.**

Give each child a plastic flower, vegetable, or other creation item to hold. Play the Bible Memory song, "In the Beginning." Allow children to march around the room or in a circle as they listen to the song and hold their creation items. When the song is finished, ask children to sit down. One at a time, have children show the creation items they are holding. As each item is shown, say the Bible Memory together.

- **We know that ♥ God made the sky and the earth.**
- **What can you say to thank God for your favorite creation?**

"Thank You, God!"

♥ **God made the sky and the earth. Let's look at some of the things God made. Then we'll tell God thank You.**

Have the children sit in a circle. Pass the teaching picture around the circle as you play the song, "Thank You, God!" Pause the music. When the music is paused, the child holding the picture should point to something God made that is shown on the picture. Together the children can say, "**Thank You, God, for making creation pointed out.**" Continue play until each child has pointed to something on the picture.

- **What do you see that God made?**
- **When can you thank God for the things He made?** Say a thank-You prayer to God with children now.

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

Make-n-Share pp. 3 and 4 and stickers, crayons or washable markers, scissors



Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted; *Resources* CD Track 4; plastic flowers, vegetables, or other creation items to hold; CD player



Materials

Teaching Picture 1, *Resources* CD Track 1, CD player



Teaching Tip

Cover pictures with clear adhesive covering to make them more durable for children to handle.

Expert Tip

If kids are engaged in the lesson, they probably aren't misbehaving. Look for ways to include more learning activities, attention-getting object lessons, and application games in your teaching time.

—Steven James



God Made the Sky and Earth

1

Extra Hour

Bible Focus: Genesis 1:1-19

Bible Memory: Genesis 1:1

“God created the sky and the earth.” (ICB)

“God created the heaven and earth.” (KJV)

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

Heart to Heart (for the Extra Hour teacher)

Today’s lesson is the first in a unit of lessons on God’s creation of the world. As you help children learn that ♥ God made the sky and the earth, guide them to express thanks to Him in prayers and songs. When you see the sun’s light, thank God. As you play in cool water and sift through sand, thank Him. As you enjoy looking at colorful plants and taste yummy fruit, pause to say thank You. Everything God made is good. Thank You, God.

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—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** “God Made the Land” Rhyme



Discovery Time (Unit Center)



Creation Sand Play



HeartShaper Materials

- *Heart Tugs* Issue 1

Other Materials

- Bible with Bible Memory highlighted
- magnifying glasses, nature items (dirt, sand, rocks, leaves, flowers, fruits, vegetables, bowl of water)
- container with sand, sand play toys, plastic trees, artificial flowers, spray bottle of water

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!
God Made the Sky and the Earth



More! Bible Review

More! Bible Memory

- *Resources* CD, Sheet 1 creation cards 1a–1d, Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions print file; *Teaching Picture 1*; Scamper puppet

- CD player, silk flower, scented hand lotion

- Bible with Bible Memory highlighted

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** Scamper Puppet Story



Leaf Wreath



Good-bye

- Scamper puppet

- sunglasses

- paper plates, marker, tissue or construction paper (fall colors), scissors, glue sticks, raffia or ribbon

- *Heart Tugs* Issue 1

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.
- Gather children to sing, or play the “Thank You, God!” game from page xx.
- Follow your usual procedures for taking children to the rest room and serving a snack.

Quick Step “It Is Good!” Rhyme

The Bible tells us ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Let’s learn a rhyme about some of the things God made on the first four days of creation. Lead children in the action rhyme, “It Is Good!,” included in today’s family resource paper. Ask children to name other things God made on the land, or in the sky and sea (flowers, trees, moon, etc.). Encourage them to suggest motions for these creations.

- **What is your favorite thing God made?**

Our Bible Memory tells who made the sky and the earth. Show your Bible and read today’s Bible Memory from Genesis 1:1. Encourage children to say the words with you.

Discovery Time (A unit center)

During the transition time, take the items from the unit Wonder center and place them around the classroom. The Bible tells us ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let’s play a game and find some of the things God made on the first four days.

Distribute the magnifying glasses. Encourage children to be detectives and look around the room to find items that God made. Name each item to be found. Once the items are located, they can be returned to the center. Allow children to touch and talk about the items.

- **What creation that God made is your favorite?**
- **What color is your favorite creation? What size?**

Especially for 2s!

Children who are 2 years old enjoy finding the same object over and over. Choose a brightly-colored flower or piece of fruit and hide it somewhere in the room. Allow 2s to find the object. Whoever finds it, can hide the object to be found again.

Creation Sand Play

When ♥ God made the sky and the earth, He made sand too. Let’s play with sand today.

Help children sculpt in the sand. Guide them in making hills and valleys. They can place plastic trees like a forest or create a flower garden in the sand. Spray some water as rain to help the plants grow.

- **Who made the sand? (God)**
- **What is fun about the sand that God made?**
- **What else did God make?**

Materials
copy of today’s
Heart Tugs, Bible
with Bible Memory
highlighted



Materials
magnifying glasses,
nature items (dirt,
sand, rocks, leaves,
flowers, fruits, vegetables, bowl of
water)



Teaching Tip

Children will enjoy discovering items they can taste. Be aware of any food allergies before distributing sample bites.

Materials
sand table or plastic
bin with sand in it,
small plastic trees,
artificial flowers, spray bottle of
water, sand play toys (scoops,
shovels, cups, sifters)



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

Resources CD
Track 1, CD player,
silk flower, scented
hand lotion,
Scamper puppet



Materials

Resources Sheet 1
creation cards 1a–1d,
Teaching Picture 1



Materials

Bible with Bible Memory
highlighted, *Resources* CD Track 4
and Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions
print file, CD player

Teaching Tip

A reproducible coloring page of today's Bible story is included on the *Resources* enhanced CD. You can use this as an extra activity at any time during the hour.

More! Sing and Pray

Sing: "Thank You, God" (verse 1)

Pray, **Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You for telling us in the Bible how You made the world. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Before class, add a scent to a silk flower. (A few drops of scented hand lotion rubbed on the petals works well.) Bring out Scamper, holding the flower. Allow children to say hello to Scamper, hug him, and smell the flower he is holding.

When ♥ God made the sky and the earth, He made many kinds of flowers. Let's find out what else the Bible says God made. Open your Bible as you begin the Bible Time activity.

Bible Time—Another Way!

Show the teaching picture. Tell the Bible story printed on the back of the picture. Distribute the creation cards. Tell the Bible story a second time. Ask the children to stand and hold up their cards when they hear you name the numbers on the cards they are holding. (Note: If you have a large class, pair the children to hold up the cards. Or repeat the story until each child has had a turn to hold one of the creation cards.)

More! Bible Review

Give the creation cards to four children. Arrange the children so they are standing with the creation cards in the order of creation: 1a–night and day; 1b–sky; 1c–dry land, sea, plants, trees, flowers; 1d–sun, moon, and stars. Then ask the children to rearrange themselves so the numbers are out of order. Have the rest of the children help them move back into the creation order.

Give the creation cards to four more children and repeat the activity.

- **On what day did God make light and dark?** (Day 1)
- **When did God make flowers and trees?** (Day 3)
- **What else did God make on the first four days?**

More! Bible Memory

Teach the hand motions for this unit's Bible Memory. Play the Bible Memory song, "In the Beginning." Have the children do the hand motions as they listen to the song. Point to Genesis 1:1 in your Bible and say the verse together again.

- **Who made the sky and the earth?** (God)
- **What special book tells how ♥ God make the sky and the earth?** (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 “Scamper’s Sunglasses” Story

Place a pair of sunglasses on Scamper and bring him out for children to see. Talk to the puppet. **Scamper, where did you get those sunglasses?** Have Scamper whisper in your ear; respond in surprise. **Oh! That must have been fun! I’ve never seen a squirrel in sunglasses. Let’s tell the children how you got your sunglasses.** Use the puppet to act out the story as you tell it.

Scamper was sitting on a tree branch when he saw some children playing in a nearby sandbox. (*Hold Scamper so he is perched atop one of your arms.*) It was a sunny day and the children were wearing sunglasses. Scamper looked to the right. (*Turn puppet to look right.*) A little boy was scooping out hills and lakes. Then Scamper looked to the left. (*Turn puppet.*) A little girl was pretending to plant flowers in the sand.

Soon the sun began to go down. The little boy didn’t need his sunglasses anymore, so he took them off and laid them at the base of the tree. Scamper was curious. Down the tree he ran. (*Move puppet as though running.*) Scamper picked up the glasses and tried them on! (*Put glasses on puppet.*)

When the children saw Scamper, they giggled. Scamper ran back up the tree. (*Run puppet.*) He would give the glasses back soon, but first Scamper wanted to look through the glasses at God’s great big, wonderful world!

- **What things that God made do you think Scamper saw?** (sun, sand, grass, a tree)
- **What can you say to thank God for the good things He made?**

Leaf Wreath

Before class, print in the center of each paper plate: “Thank You, God, for making the sky and the earth.” Cut out 8–10 leaves for each child (patterns on page 117). Tie raffia in bows. **Some of the most beautiful things God made are the leaves on trees. Let’s make a wreath to help us remember that ♥ God made the sky and the earth.**

Guide the children in gluing leaves around the outer edges of their plates, creating wreaths. Add a raffia bow to each.

- **What colors are the leaves God made?**

Each time you look at your wreath this week, remember to thank God for the beautiful world He made. Lead children in a prayer, thanking God for all the wonderful things He made for our world.

Especially for 2s!

If you have young children who are not interested in making the craft, allow them to play with paper leaves. Toss some leaves into the air and see who can catch them. When a leaf is caught, say, “Thank You, God, for wonderful leaves!”

Saying Good-bye

- Play the “Thank You, God” game (p. 12) as children wait for parents.
- Be sure children have projects made in class.
- Give parents this week’s **Heart Tugs**. Encourage them to do the “It Is Good!” action rhyme with their children.

Materials
Scamper puppet,
sunglasses



Materials
paper plates, marker,
tissue or construction
paper (fall colors),
scissors, glue sticks,
raffia or ribbon



Cleanup

Give groups of two or three children specific tasks to help clean up the classroom. Rotate the responsibilities from week to week.



Expert Tip

During good-bye times, keep children involved, preferably facing away from the door. Involved, interested children eliminate the chance of an anxious “escapee” or overly concerned parents.

—*Tips for Teachers: Early Childhood*