



GOD CREATED THE WORLD: GENESIS 1

UNIT 1: SESSION 1

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KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 19:1



BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

- **Toddlers:** Jesus makes everything work.
- **Ages 3-5:** The Bible says everything was created by God and for God and that Jesus makes it all work. Everything shows how good God is!
- **Pre-Primary:** Jesus is Lord over everything. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together and everything brings God glory.
- **Primary:** Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. All of creation exists to bring God glory.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The Bible begins where we would expect it to: with the beginning of all of creation. But the beginning that Genesis 1:1 speaks of is not the beginning of everything. It was not the beginning of God. God is eternal—He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed. So the beginning in this session's Bible story is the beginning from our perspective. It is humanity's beginning.

Emphasise these three things:

First, that God created everything from nothing. God did not create like we do—by taking some raw materials like clay and making a beautiful sculpture. Instead, God made everything that exists—everything we see and even that we don't see—simply by speaking it into existence from nothing. **Second**, that God created everything with order. Not only do we see that God created the different kinds of plants and trees as well as animals according to their different kinds, but we also see an orderly pattern in the days of creation. **Third**, that God created everything for a reason—to bring Himself glory. We will talk a lot more about this during this unit, and all of our study through Scripture. But for now help your kids see that everything exists to show how good God is—to show His glory for all to see.

1. WELCOME KIDS



SAY: When you draw, build, or paint something, does it always turn out exactly as you imagine it in your mind? How does it feel when your creation doesn't match your imagination?

OPTIONAL GAMES (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: CREATED THINGS FACE-OFF

Form two lines of kids. Invite the first kid in each line to step forward and face each other. Name a category (Examples: fruits, birds, fish, mammals, nuts). The kid who thinks of a fitting item first will say the item. The other kid will have 15 seconds to name a different item that also fits the category. If she is successful, the first kid must now think of a third item. The first kid who is unable to think of an item is out. Select the next kids from each team and play again with a new category. Play until all kids have had a turn.

SAY: It's hard to think of all the things God created, especially in a pinch! Imagine how amazing God must be to have created all those things out of nothing! God didn't just remember them, but created them out of nothing at all. Not even the idea of a fruit existed until God thought of it. We'll talk more about that soon.

OPTION 2: CREATION CHARADES

Invite a volunteer to act out something God created (Examples: trees, oceans, fish, rocks, lions, birds) without making any sounds. Challenge the rest of the group to guess what object he is pretending to be. Allow the first kid who guesses correctly to act out the next created thing.

SAY: In a few of those cases, it was a little bit difficult to tell what was being communicated by the acting. The Bible tells us that God created everything, and that God's creation declares His glory. That means that when we look at creation, we don't have to guess what it's communicating to us; we can know for sure that all of creation shows us that God is all-powerful, loving, and good. This week, consider something in creation that you find cool or interesting. Come up with something that created thing teaches you about God.

2. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)



SAY: Hey everyone! I'm so glad you all are here. Today is a very special day. Today we are starting a wonderful journey through the Bible. Did any of you bring your Bible with you today? [Allow responses.] The Bible is God's Word. He gave people exactly the right words to write so we could know everything we need to know about Him and everything we need to know about ourselves. As many of you can probably guess, the best place to start any journey is at the beginning. So today, that is exactly where we will be—at the very first verse of the very first chapter of the very first book in the Bible. Genesis 1:1 says "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Everything that exists was created by God.



BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)



SAY: That raises a very important question that we will be studying for a few weeks. Why did God create everything? God existed before creation, and He is perfect in every way. He has always been perfect in every way. God doesn't need creation, and creation cannot make God better; perfect means He's as good as good can be. As we will learn, **God created everything for His glory and our good.** That means that God made all that He made for our benefit and to show us His own perfection.



REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY



SAY: The story of creation is told many times, and as a result we can sometimes take for granted how amazing it is. If we don't take some time to think about it, we might miss some of the lessons God wants to teach us. There are three really big ideas I want us to understand from this story.

God created everything from nothing. When people create art, we have to start with things that already exist. We cannot paint without using the colors that already exist around us. We cannot sculpt without using stone, clay, or metal to shape. We cannot play music without the sound of created things moving and vibrating. God's power to create is much greater than our power to create. He simply spoke and creation existed.

God created everything good. Each time God finished with a part of His creation He said that it was good. Again we see the power of God's words. God is perfect in all His attributes. Everything He created was good because He is good and declared His creation to be good.

God created everything on purpose. God made every single part of creation for a reason. God did nothing by accident or mistake. Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good. When God filled the sky and the seas and the earth with animals, He gave them the ability to multiply and spread His glory further and further.



QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

- Did someone create God?
- What is your favourite part of creation, and why?

3. GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the kids to discuss their answers.



SAY: What are some ways creation can teach us about God?

Guide the kids to see that creation is filled with evidence of God's goodness. Help them consider the order we see in nature, such as complex food webs and ecosystems that balance themselves, or the motions of the planets and stars. Guide them to consider some of the amazing ways our bodies work, like converting the plants and animals we eat into energy or receiving sensory input like light or sound to interpret as color and language. Remind them that the goodness and beauty in nature is a reflection of God's goodness and beauty.


 **SAY:** Why does God deserve all our worship?

Help the kids think about the ways God is more excellent than anything in the world. Help them understand that all the wonderful things the world has to offer are the result of God's goodness to create a good world. Help them understand that we owe God everything we have because God not only created everything we see, but He created us. Our ability to enjoy creation is a result of His grace and love towards us.

 **SAY:** Do you think God wants us to explore and understand His creation?

Help the kids to consider the effects of learning about creation. Encourage them to consider the ways understanding God's creation has helped people invent new technology. Remind them that God created us and gave us the ability to think logically and examine the world He created. Help them see that studying and understanding the world can be a wonderful way to worship God when we remember that He is the Creator behind everything we can study.

MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

 **SAY:** Many people around the world have never heard that God made them and loves us. God calls Christians to tell others about Him and about His Son, Jesus. A missionary is a follower of Jesus who is sent out to make more disciples for Jesus among the nations and peoples of the earth.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. **Pray for your group.**

NOTES:

4. ACTIVITIES

Hidden Pictures: God Created the World

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: cake, book, needle and thread, magnet, snail, fish, football, sock, spoon

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Word Search for God Made the World

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L	I	S	I	T	N	U	L	S	A	F	A	C	I	M
U	N	T	A	D	A	Y	U	A	K	U	E	R	I	O
G	O	R	E	R	S	E	C	T	E	Y	D	I	T	R
N	O	L	L	A	M	N	I	G	H	T	U	I	N	
N	O	O	S	E	Q	U	I	S	C	I	E	L	A	I
D	R	E	D	E	L	E	X	E	R	I	V	I	U	N
L	A	O	R	E	W	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	G
S	I	M	I	N	A	N	D	R	E	T	N	T	V	E
I	T	G	I	S	T	A	R	S	N	I	M	O	D	
T	I	O	H	S	E	D	E	U	G	I	N	M	V	E
L	A	I	Q	T	R	T	N	O	N	S	G	C	T	E
T	U	E	E	A	R	T	H	E	D	E	L	I	Q	U
Z	R	I	T	E	U	F	E	U	G	A	I	T	V	U
L	A	O	R	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	T	E	R
S	U	M	I	N	E	N	D	R	E	T	A	T	V	E

DARKNESS	EVENING	LIGHT	SKY
DAY	GOOD	MORNING	STARS
EARTH	HEAVENS	NIGHT	WATER

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God Made the World Maze

Find your way through the heavens.

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God Made the World Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

ADY

EARTWS

UNS

HGITN

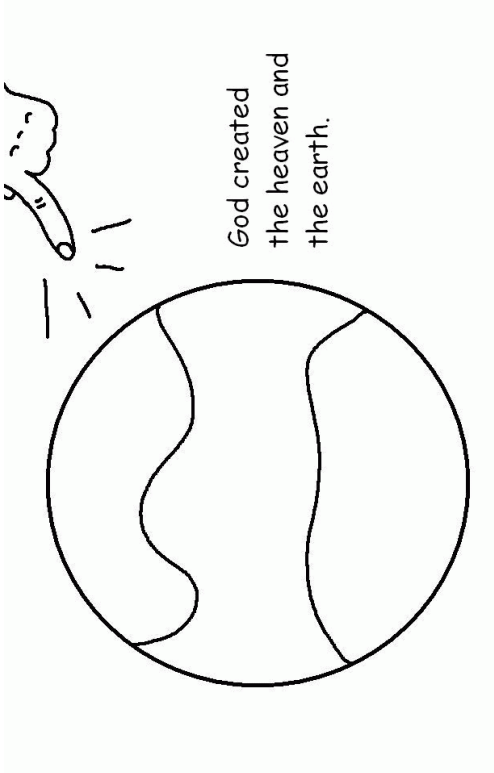
ONMO

GLIHT

What did God say about what He had created?

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4. CRAFT



Word Search for God Made the World

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L I S I T N U L S A F A C I M
U N T A D A Y U A K U E R I O
G O R E R S E C T E Y D I T R
N O L L A M N I G H T U I N
N O O S E Q U I S C I E L A I
D R E D E L E X E R I V I U N
L A O R E W D A R K N E S S G
S I M I N A N D R E T N T V E
I T G I S T A R S N I I M O D
T I O H S E D E U G I N M V E
L A I Q T R T N O N S G C T E
T U E E A R T H E D E L I Q U
Z R I T E U F E U G A I T V U
L A O R E H E A V E N S T E R
S U M I N E N D R E T A T V E

DARKNESS
DAY
EARTH

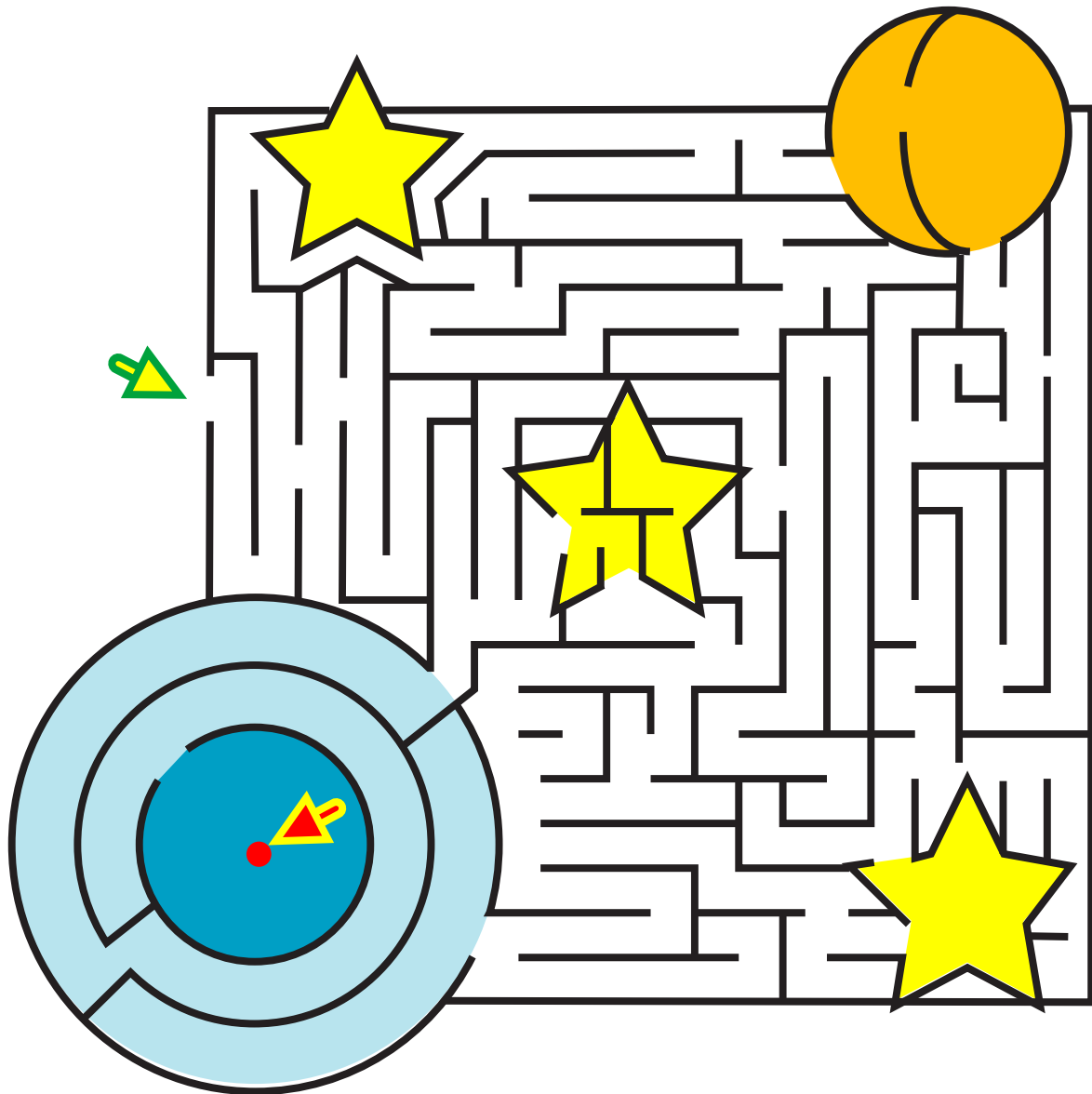
EVENING
GOOD
HEAVENS

LIGHT
MORNING
NIGHT

SKY
STARS
WATER

God Made the World Maze

Find your way through the heavens.

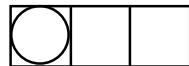




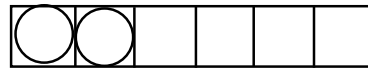
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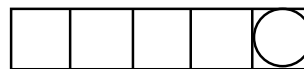
HGITN



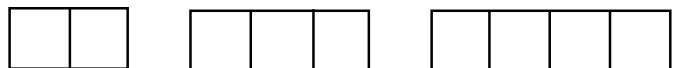
ONMO



GLIHT



What did God say about what He had created?





God created
the heaven and
the earth.

