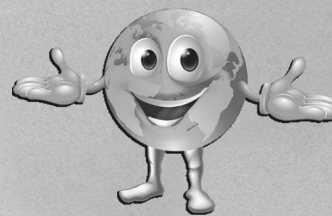


Lesson 1

God Made the World



Objective: Children will know God is the creator of our world; His making the world for us made Him happy. In return, we should thank Him for all He created.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-19

Memory Verse: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep (Genesis 1:1, 2).

Faith Questions:

Who made you? (God made me.)

What else did God make? (God made all things.)

Teacher's Devotional

When our family moved from the city to a home in the country, my daughter was amazed at the stars. "There's so many more stars here," she told us. In reality it was just that we could **see** the stars without buildings blocking them from our view or street lights obscuring their brilliance.

Many times I go from day to day without even noticing the stars or the other amazing parts of God's creation. He made our world! He made not only the stars, but the moon that changes day by day and the beautiful, warm sun.

At the beginning of time all was dark. God added the light. He added the sun, moon, and stars. And God knew it was good!

Take time this week to look upward. Thank God for the stars, moon, and sun. Plan to watch a sunrise or sunset. Let the beauty of our Father's creations seep deep in your soul. Pray the psalmist's words, "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches" (Ps. 104:24).

Planning

Materials Needed

Opening – Play dough, animal cookie cutters, play dough tools (optional), children's Bible songs CD

Introduction – Play dough from Opening

Learning God's Word – Creation poster and days 1 through 4 pieces from Preschool Teacher's Packet for lesson 1; plastic putty

Craft – Small foam cup, straws, top of page 1 of "Hunting for Treasure" for lesson 1, optional: yellow pompoms or gold glitter

Snack – Chocolate sandwich cookies with white filling, napkins, cups, milk

Paper Activity – Bottom half of activity sheets from "Hunting for Treasure" for lesson 1

Closing – Faith Question flashcards

For Extra Time – White balloons

Object Lesson – Coffee grounds, salt, flour

Before Class

Opening – Lay out play dough and dough tools.

Learning God's Word – Cut out creation poster and day one through four pieces from Preschool Teacher's Packet for lesson 1. Stick a small amount of plastic putty to each one.

Craft – Cut a straw-sized hole in the bottom of a cup for each child.

Closing – Cut out the Faith Question flashcards for the whole quarter from Preschool Teacher's Packet. Fold in half and laminate.

For Extra Time – Blow up a white balloon for each child.

Object Lesson – Mix coffee grounds, water, flour, and salt to make dirt dough.

Opening (allow 10 minutes)

Play children's Bible songs CD quietly as children enter. Greet each child, **I'm so happy you came to class. I'm telling you a story today about God making the world.** Direct each child to the play dough station. Encourage them to make an object with the play dough. Suggest making a pretty bowl, a cupcake, or an animal.

Prayer and Song Time (allow 10 minutes)

Ask, **Did you have fun with the play dough? What did you make?** Allow time to listen and affirm their object choice. Pray, **Thank you, God, for all my friends who came today. Thank you for helping us learn from your special Book. Amen.**

Sing the quarter's theme song. Choose other songs as time permits. Suggestions: "This Is the Day"; "My God Is So Big"; "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Bible Teaching Time (allow 20 minutes)

Introduction

Say, **You all made some nice objects with the play dough, but I want to make something, too. What should I make?** Allow time for children to give suggestions. **I think I will make a world! Form large ball.** Ask, **Does this look like a world?** Pause for answers. **Is it big enough to live in?** Pause. **I think you are right. It's round like a world, but it's not big enough. Do you know what is different from my world than the world God made?** Pause. **I had to use play dough for mine, and God made our world out of nothing!**

Learning God's Word

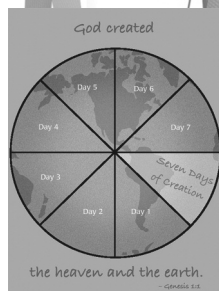
In the beginning, there weren't birds or a sky where they could fly. There weren't flowers or dirt for them to grow in. There wasn't a jungle or monkeys to jump from tree to tree. There wasn't anything – the world didn't have any shape, and nobody lived in it.

If we look in the Bible – right at the beginning, in the Book of Genesis, we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Show creation poster. Explain "form" as having no shape and "void" as having nothing on the earth.

Encourage the children to close their eyes. **What do you see? Nothing. We see nothing, just like it was in the beginning.** Ask the children to open their eyes. **The whole world was dark.**

God looked at the black world and knew we needed to see. So God said, "Let there be light." Attach first day piece to poster.

God didn't use play dough to make the heaven and earth. He spoke them into existence. But He didn't want the world to be light all day long. So God separated the dark and light. He called the light time day, and He called the dark time night. God did all of this in one day. And when God looked at the light and dark-



Use flashlight in darkened room to illustrate God creating light. If time permits, allow each child to hold the flashlight and say, "Let there be light" while turning it on, reinforcing the truth that God spoke His creation into being.

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Teacher's Tip

Hold your Bible as you tell the Bible lesson. It is good to say, **This lesson is a true story from the Bible, God's special Book.** Ask, **Where is this story written?** (In the Bible.) **Is this story true?** (Yes.) This would be a good time to introduce the Faith Question: **Who wrote the Bible?** (Chosen men who wrote the Bible by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.)

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ness, He was happy. *Slow down He. Was. Happy. Then have the children say the words.*

God saw that water covered everything. He said, "Let there be sky! Attach second day. Let the sky keep apart the water above from the water below." So water came together into clouds. Other water came together all over the earth. God called the water seas. When God saw the blue sky and white clouds, He was happy. *Slow down and allow the children to say He. Was. Happy. When God saw the water, He was happy. He. Was. Happy.*

On day 3 God made dry land and called it earth. Attach third day. He made the green grass and colorful flowers. He made flowering trees, trees with leaves, and trees filled with apples, pears, and oranges. When God looked at the pretty earth, He was happy. *He. Was. Happy.*

God put a sun in the sky in the daytime to give us warmth. Attach fourth day. He put the moon in the sky at night so we could see. And then God added twinkling stars. That was the fourth day. When God looked at the lights in the sky, He was happy. *He. Was. Happy.*

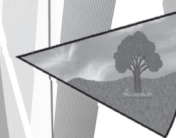
Hold up four fingers and count them off. Day 1, God made heaven, earth, and light. Day 2, God made the sky. Day 3, God made land and seas; trees, plants, and flowers. Day 4, God made lights for the sky – the moon, stars, and sun. Ask the children if they would like to repeat the days of creation with you.

God created something else on the fifth day. Next week we'll learn about the fifth day.

Lesson Review

Remove daily pieces from the poster, and lay the poster and daily pieces on the table. As you ask the questions, choose a child to attach the appropriate piece to the poster. When finished, lay the poster aside to use in weeks two and four.

1. In the beginning, what did God create? (The world – allow child to hold up poster for questions 2-5).
2. The world was dark, so what did God speak? ("Let there be light" – allow child to attach the first day's piece to poster.)
3. What did God do the second day? (Sky and divided the sky and water – allow child to attach second piece.)
4. What did God make the third day? (Earth, plants, trees, flowers – allow child to attach third piece.)
5. What did God make the fourth day? (Sun, moon, and stars – allow child to attach fourth piece.)
6. Did God form the earth with His hands? (No, He spoke it into existence.)
7. Was God happy with the world He made? (Yes.)



Loving God's Word

Say, **The Bible words we want to learn are, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."** Sing the Bible words to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." If children are restless, march around the room and sing.

*God cre-a-ted the hea-ven and the earth,
God cre-a-ted the hea-ven and the earth.
God cre-a-ted the hea-ven; and He cre-a-ted the earth,
In the beginning He created it.*

(Spoken) Genesis 1:1

Continue singing until the children can say the verse alone. Introduce Genesis 1:2a, and discuss again the words "form" and "void."

Living God's Word (allow 20 minutes)

Four- and five-year-old children want to do things for themselves. Gently coach them through each step, allowing each child to complete as much of the project as possible.

Craft: Growing Flowers

Give each child a prepared foam cup, straw, top of activity sheet, glue stick, and safety scissors. Encourage children to cut out flowers, grass, and leaves. Help where necessary. Show children how to apply glue to one side of the grass and wrap around cup. Tape straw to back of one side of flower and leaves, then show children how to fold flower and leaves on dotted lines and glue backs together. (You may wish for the children to add yellow pompoms or gold glitter to the center of the flower.) Demonstrate how to hide the flower in the cup and make it grow. Say, **God made flowers in many shapes and colors. It makes Him happy when we enjoy the flowers He created.**

Snack: Cookie Darkness and Light

Choose a child to pass out napkins. Give each child two sandwich cookies and a cup of milk. Ask for volunteers to thank God for the snack, then say, **Our cookie is dark like the world was in the beginning. Pull your cookie apart, and you'll see the light.** This is a good time to play the children's Bible songs CD. If time permits, sing one of the songs when the children are finished.

Paper Activity: Matching God's Creation

Give each child the bottom half of the activity sheet. Review the front of the sheet, pointing to the words, "It was good" and encourage the children to clap and repeat the words with you. Have them turn the sheet over. Then say, **God likes variety. He didn't make all the flowers to look alike. Can you find the two flowers?** Instruct the children to trace the dotted line. Say, **God put something in the sky for light in the daytime and another in the sky for nighttime.** Instruct the children to find the sun and moon and trace the shaded line. Continue with trees and fruit. Say, **God made a beautiful world for us.**

Closing

Ask, **Who made you?** (*God made me.*) **What else did God make?** (God made all things.) Say, **God made our whole world, and it was good. Think of something God made – the earth, light, sun, moon, or stars. You can tell God that you are thankful for what He made.** Pray, **Thank you, God, for making the heavens, the earth, the sun, and the moon. (Justin) thanks you for (____),** (*continue until each child has given thanks*). **You are amazing! Amen.**

For Extra Time

Active Memory Verse Game: Keep the Clouds in the Sky

Have the children stand in a horizontal line, and give each of them a balloon. Say, **These balloons are the clouds, and we need to keep them in the air.** Explain that you will say the verse and see if they can keep their balloons in the air while you say it. Say the verse slowly enough that the children can say it with you. Play as time allows. (Optional: If a child's balloon touches the ground, they can sit on the floor. The "cloud" in the air the longest wins.)

Object Lesson: Why Did God Make Dirt?

Dirt Dough: Mix 1 cup used coffee grounds with ½ cup cold water, 1 cup flour, and ½ cup salt. Add extra flour if dough is too sticky.

Show the container of "dirt." Ask, **Do You like to play in the dirt?** Discuss ways to play in the dirt, such as building roads for their cars or digging with their shovels. Say, **God had a purpose for making dirt. Flowers need the nutrients (food) in the dirt. Grass, trees, and other plants need it to grow.** Allow the children to play with the dough as you discuss foods that grow in dirt (lettuce, strawberries, tomatoes, etc.).

As plants, leaves, and grass die, they add more food to the earth. With healthy dirt, vegetation grows better and our bodies grow stronger eating good corn, peas, and beans. Trees produce more fruit which is good for our bodies, too.



Wiggle Buster

Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

*If you know what God created, clap your hands.
If you know what God created, clap your hands.
If you know what God created, wave your fingers, clap your hands.*

If you know what God created, clap your hands.

*If you know what God created, stomp your feet.
If you know what God created, stomp your feet.
If you know what God created, stand right up and stomp your feet.
If you know what God created, stomp your feet.*

(Sing this verse in a whisper.)

*If you know what God created, whisper-sing.
If you know what God created, whisper-sing.
If you know what God created, sit right down
and whisper-sing.
If you know what God created, whisper-sing.*

Say, It sounds like you all know something God created. Can you tell me one thing God created? Allow each child to share something God created.

