TEACHER GUIDE · GENESIS 1:1-2:3; GENESIS 2:4-23

God Makes Everything



God made everything, and everything He made shows how great and good He is.

PRINCIPLE: WORSHIP · We worship God because He made everything, including us, and all He made shows how great and good He is.

Creation **God made it**	Fall We broke it	Redemption Jesus fixes it	Restoration Jesus makes it new

This is where the Bible's big story begins. God made a good world and made people to know Him, love Him and take care of everything He made.

MEMORY VERSE

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1 BSB

CHRIST CONNECTION · GOD'S CHARACTER

Jesus didn't begin in Bethlehem. He is the eternal Word, and everything was made through Him (John 1:3). That same Word entered His own creation as a baby, the Light of the world, not just to visit it but

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to save it.

John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16; John 8:12

Class plan

Welcome and opening hook	5 min
Bible story	10 min
Talk about it	8 min
Activity or skit	12 min
Review game	5 min
Live It and prayer	5 min
Total	**45 min**

Before class

☐ Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-23. Read John 1:1-14 too.
☐ Print one handout per child for their age group.
☐ Bring something you made yourself (a drawing, a craft, a loaf of bread) for the object lesson.
☐ Number seven paper plates 1 to 7 and tape them along one wall for the review game.
☐ Check that the room can get dark for the "Let there be light" moment, and test your flashlight.

Supplies

Printed handouts (one per child) · Crayons · Pencils · Bibles (one per child in 3rd–6th grade) · A flashlight · Paper plates · Marker · Masking tape · Scrap paper · Something you made yourself (a drawing, craft or bread) · A clear glass of water · White paper

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

"In the beginning" happens twice in the Bible.

John opens his Gospel with the same three words as Genesis: "In the beginning" (John 1:1). He does it on purpose. When God said "Let there be light," the Word was already there: "the Word was with God, and the Word was God," and "through Him all things were made" (1:1-3). Then comes the turn: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (1:14).

Jesus wasn't created in Bethlehem. He is the eternal Word through whom the stars, the oceans and every living thing came into existence. And that same eternal Word entered His own creation as a baby, not merely to visit the world, but to save it. Kids usually file Creation under "God" and Christmas under "Jesus." This lesson lets them see it's one story with one Hero.

Background

Genesis 1 isn't trying to answer every science question. It answers bigger ones: *Who* made the world? *Why* is it here? *Who are we?* Christians who hold the Bible as God's true Word differ on how long the creation days were. This lesson doesn't settle that question. It keeps kids' eyes on what Genesis wants everyone to know: God made everything, on purpose, and it was good.

Notice the pattern. On days 1–3 God makes spaces (light and dark; sky and sea; dry land). On days 4–6 He fills them (sun, moon and stars; birds and fish; animals and people). Each day God speaks, it happens, and He sees that it is good.

People are different from everything else. God doesn't just say "Let there be"; He says "Let us make man in our image" (1:26). In chapter 2 we zoom in: God forms the man from dust with His own hands and breathes His own breath into him (2:7). He plants a garden, gives the man good work, and says the first "not good" in the Bible: "It is not good for the man to be alone" (2:18). So God makes the woman, and the man is

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overjoyed (2:23).

On the seventh day God rests. Not because He's tired (Isaiah 40:28), but because the work is finished and very good. Everything is the way it's supposed to be. Next week, in Genesis 3, that changes.

CHRIST CONNECTION · GOD'S CHARACTER

John's Gospel begins with the first words of Genesis: "In the beginning" (John 1:1). John tells us that the Word, who was with God and was God, is the One through whom "all things were made" (1:3). That Word "became flesh" (1:14). He is Jesus. Paul says the same: "all things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16).

So Jesus isn't only in the Christmas story. He was there in the beginning, making the world. Later He came into His own world as a baby, as "the light of the world" (John 8:12), to rescue it from the darkness sin would bring. Help kids hear that the Creator and the Rescuer are the same Person.

John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16; John 8:12

Bible Times

Not gods, just lamps

The nations around Israel worshiped the sun and moon as gods. Genesis doesn't even use their names. It calls them "the greater light" and "the lesser light," lamps that God hung in the sky to light the earth and mark the seasons (Genesis 1:14-16). The sun works for God. Only God deserves worship.

A garden fit for a king

In Bible times, kings planted beautiful gardens with trees, rivers and fruit. Genesis says God Himself planted a garden in Eden and put the man there "to cultivate and keep it" (Genesis 2:8, 15). Work was part of God's good world from the very start.



Dasch Digs Up: Did You Know?

In Genesis 1, the words **"God said"** appear ten times. God made the world by speaking!
Genesis 1:3-29

God looked at what He made and called it **"good"** seven times. The seventh time, He called it **"very good."** That was right after He made people.
Genesis 1:31

The Hebrew word for "create" in Genesis 1:1 is **bara** (bah-RAH). In the Old Testament, it's only ever used for what God does. People make things; only God creates like that.
Genesis 1:1

The name **Adam** sounds like the Hebrew word for ground, **adamah**. God formed the first man from the dust of the ground.
Genesis 2:7

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On a clear, dark night you can see a few thousand stars with just your eyes. Scientists think there are billions and billions more, and God knows every one by name!
Psalm 147:4

Two of the rivers named near the Garden of Eden, the **Tigris** and the **Euphrates**, still flow today in the country of Iraq.
Genesis 2:14

The word **Sabbath** comes from a Hebrew word that means "to stop." On the seventh day, God stopped His work. He wasn't tired; He was finished!
Genesis 2:2-3

Words to know

Create	To make something new. Only God can make something out of nothing.
Image of God	Made to be like God in special ways, so we can know Him, love Him and show what He is like.
Eden	The beautiful garden God planted for the first people.
Sabbath	A day to stop working and rest. It comes from a word that means 'to stop.'
Worship	Showing God that He is the greatest and best, with our words, songs and lives.
Formless	Without any shape. At first the earth was empty and dark.

Say it right

Eden: EE-dun **Euphrates**: yoo-FRAY-teez **Tigris**: TIE-gris **bara**: bah-RAH **adamah**: ah-dah-MAH

Object lesson

What does this tell you about me? 5 min

You'll need: Something you made yourself (a drawing, craft or bread)

1. Hold up the thing you made. Ask, "Did this just appear by itself?" (No! Someone made it.)
2. Ask, "What can you tell about the person who made it?" (They like colors, they're patient, they can cook...) Let kids guess.
3. Say, "Everything that's made tells us something about its maker. The sky, the ocean, a puppy, YOU... Everything God made tells us something about Him."
4. Read Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

The point: Creation is like God's signature. When we look at what He made, we see how great, wise and kind He is, and that makes us want to worship Him.

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Ellie's Lab Science experiment

Hidden colors in the light 8 min

You'll need: A clear glass of water, A flashlight, White paper

1. Fill the clear glass almost to the top with water and set it on a table near a sunny window (or in a dim room).
2. Lay a sheet of white paper on the floor or table beside the glass.
3. Shine the flashlight (or let sunlight shine) through the glass at a low angle. Move the light, the glass or the paper slowly until a small rainbow appears on the paper.
4. Ask, "Where did those colors come from? We didn't add any paint!"

Why it works: Plain white light is really all the colors mixed together. When light passes from air into water and back out, it bends. Each color bends a slightly different amount, so the colors spread apart and you can see them. Raindrops do the same thing in the sky, which is how a rainbow forms.

The point: On the very first day God said, "Let there be light," and His light was full of colors we usually can't see. Creation is packed with wonders hidden in plain sight, and every one shows how wise and creative God is (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20).

Safety: Never look straight at the sun. Wipe up spills so no one slips.

Act it out: Creation countdown

Parts: Narrator, Light crew, Sky and sea, Plants, Sun moon and stars, Birds and fish, Animals · **Props:** A flashlight

NARRATOR
In the beginning, there was nothing but darkness. *(Lights off. Everyone crouches with eyes closed.)*

NARRATOR
Then God said, "Let there be light!" *(Click on the flashlight.)*

LIGHT CREW
(Jump up, wiggle fingers like sparkles.) Light!

NARRATOR
God said, "Let there be sky and sea!"

SKY AND SEA
(Arms wave like waves.) Whoosh!

NARRATOR
God said, "Let the land grow plants!"

PLANTS
(Grow slowly from the floor, arms up like branches.)

NARRATOR
God said, "Let there be lights in the sky!"

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SUN MOON AND STARS
(Make big circles with arms, then twinkle.)

NARRATOR
God said, "Let the sea and sky be full of life!"

BIRDS AND FISH
(Flap and swim around the room.)

NARRATOR
God said, "Let the land be full of animals!" *(Animals roar, hop and gallop.)*

NARRATOR
Then God made people in His own image, to know Him and love Him. *(Everyone stands and looks up.)*

NARRATOR
God looked at everything He had made...

EVERYONE
And it was VERY GOOD!

Review game

Day by day 5 min

You'll need: Paper plates, Marker, Masking tape

1. Tape the seven numbered plates along a wall.
2. Call out something God made ("Fish!" "The moon!" "People!" "Rest!"). Kids race to stand by the right day.
3. Each time, everyone says together, "God made it, and it was good!"

Snack idea: Seeds inside
Serve apple slices cut across the middle so kids can see the star of seeds. Read Genesis 1:11-12 (plants with seeds inside them) and thank God together before eating. Check for allergies first.

Tips by age

Preschool	Make every day of creation a motion and repeat "God made it!" a lot. Repetition is the lesson.
K–2nd	The lights-off moment is unforgettable at this age. Build up to it, then click on the flashlight on "Let there be light!"

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3rd–4th	Kids this age love patterns. Draw the two columns (spaces and fillers) on a board and let them discover the match.
5th–6th	Some may have heard that science and the Bible are enemies. Keep it calm. Genesis tells us who made the world and why; science studies how it works. Studying creation is a way to see God's wisdom.

Song ideas

♪ **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands** Preschool · Traditional; point to the sky, the ground and yourself
♪ **All Things Bright and Beautiful** Preschool, K–2nd · Hymn
♪ **My God Is So Big** K–2nd · Traditional; big motions
♪ **How Great Is Our God** 3rd–4th, 5th–6th · Modern worship song
♪ **This Is My Father's World** 3rd–4th · Hymn
♪ **Indescribable** 5th–6th · Modern worship song

Song titles only. Use any recording or songbook your church has permission to use.

Activity sheet answers

K–2nd	Story order: 1, 2, 3, 5, 4 (top to bottom) · True or false: 1 true, 2 true, 3 false
3rd–4th	Secret code: GOD MADE YOU ON PURPOSE · Fill in the verse: beginning, created, heavens, earth · True or false: 1 false, 2 true, 3 true, 4 false
5th–6th	Crossword: 1 across LIGHT, 5 across FORMLESS, 7 across EDEN, 8 across CREATE, 9 across WORSHIP, 2 down IMAGE, 3 down ADAM, 4 down WORD, 6 down SABBATH · Fill in the verse: beginning, created, heavens, earth · True or false: 1 true, 2 false, 3 true

Note for parents

Today we learned that **God made everything**, and everything He made shows how great and good He is. God made people in His own image, and He made them on purpose.

Ask at dinner: *What's your favorite thing God made? What does it tell you about Him?*

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

Going deeper: Psalm 8; Psalm 19:1-6; Psalm 139:13-16; Revelation 4:11

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