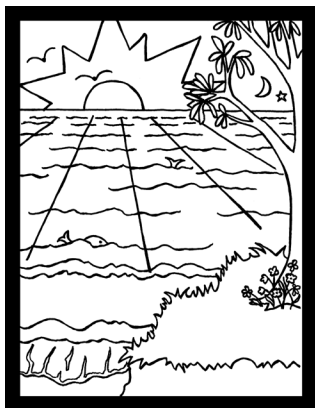




LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Genesis 1:1-10, 1:24-2:3

Isaiah 45:5-8, 12

Session Theme:

Creation

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: My Favorite Things

Invite kids to tell you their favorite thing from the natural world (such as dogs, the ocean, mountains, birds, and so on). Write these on the board. Ask if they have any idea which thing came first in the world, and which thing came last. Let kids guess.

The book of Genesis tells us that light came before dry ground, and animals came before people. But what came before all of it, in the very beginning? God!

*It's fascinating to read the creation story in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible. People sometimes disagree about when certain things may have been made. But no matter the timeline, the Bible wants us to know **who** was behind everything. God made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He is the mighty Creator!*

c. Opening Prayer

Lord God, we are so thankful to live in this beautiful world that you made. Help us to tend and care for it, and to do the same for the people and animals who share the Earth with us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (hymn)
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (song)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Creation

The very first chapters of the Bible tell stories from the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and made all living creatures to be his own. God is the maker of all that is seen and unseen!

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level.

Upper Elementary: Read the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read the Scripture text from the Bible

For Upper and Lower Elementary, use the Storyteller questions to help the students think about the events of the story.

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Upper Elementary: Worksheet and Drama

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, Questions)

Adult: Bible Study Sheet (Introduction and Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. If you have not already done so, introduce the Theme Word for the week, providing the definition, and asking how the lesson connects to that theme.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Upper Elementary: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

1. What are the first four words of the Bible? According to the Bible, everything that exists in our universe was created — except for whom?

The first words are “In the beginning, God ...”. God is the Creator of all things — “all that is seen and unseen” (as it says in the Nicene Creed). The one exception is God himself. God is eternal. That means he always has and always will exist. God is where everything starts.

2. The Bible says that before creation everything was “without form” and “void” (v. 1:2). What do these words mean?

“Without form” means there was no shape or order to anything. “Void” means empty space. Taking these two words together shows us there was a time when there was nothing but God. In theological terms, the Lord created the universe *ex nihilo* — that is, “from nothing.”

3. What was the first thing God created? What did he do to bring his creation into being?

The first thing God created was light. He did so by simply speaking it into existence: “Let there be ... and there was.” This shows the divine power of God’s Word (compare John 1:1-5).

God creating light as his first work may be seen as the creation of energy itself — apart from any specific source other than God (compare Revelation 21:23).

4. Can you list what God made on each day of creation?

1. Light	>>>	4. Sun, Moon, Stars
2. Waters and Sky	>>>	5. Fish and Birds
3. Dry Land	>>>	6. Animals and People

Notice how days 1-3 are reflected in days 4-6. First God created the “realms” of existence, then God filled those spaces in the same order.

What happened on the seventh day?

God rested on the seventh day. This is why it is called the “Sabbath” (which means *to stop* or *take a break*).

4. Read Romans 1:20. How do all the wonders of nature reveal that there is a God? What are things that could not exist by accident, but had to have been designed by a Designer?

Like a great piece of art, the beauty of the universe in all its complexity shows that there is an Artist and Creator. Individual parts of creation overlap and work together in ways that cannot happen by accident. For example: Is it the bees that make flower pollination possible, or the flowers that provide food to the bees? Each needs the other. Or consider the complexity of the human body and all the individual parts that need to work together to make it function.

5. The words “And God saw that it was good” are repeated over and over in Genesis 1. In other words, “God doesn’t create junk!” What does this say about you? How is this true even in times of failure and loss?

God wants to make it very clear that all he created is good and valued in his eyes. This means that nothing can take away the intrinsic value that God has given — even to you. Sin and evil came into the world later; however, that does not make us any less a masterpiece of God. And we have the promise that God can make us new — in our lives and in eternity!

6. Read Isaiah 45:5-8, 12. What is the main point that God repeats in these verses? As his created people, why is it important to remember that it was God who made us and that we belong to him?

In these verses, God wants us to know that he is the one and only true God, and that nothing compares to him. That is why we call God “holy,” which means “set apart.” All things may come and go, but God always remains. That is why our hope and security rests in him alone.

7. In Isaiah 45:4-5, God says, “I name/equip you, though you do not know me” Does God exist because we believe in him? Or does God exist whether we believe in him or not? Explain.

These verses show us that God exists whether we recognize him or not. His existence is not dependent on us, but ours is dependent on him. In the same way, God is the source of all the good we have, even the things we take credit for and call our own. As Jesus said: “He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45).

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Creation Craft Door Hangers

Materials Needed:

- Pencils and paper
- Foam door hangers
- Markers
- Glitter glue

Instructions:

Give kids a sheet of paper and pencil. Refer to the creation story and have the kids each make a list of the different things God made. Then, invite them to think of a symbol to represent each thing and write it next to each one on the list. Examples might include a sun for light, a wave for water, a flower or tree for plants, a moon and stars, a bird, a fish, an animal, a person, and so on.

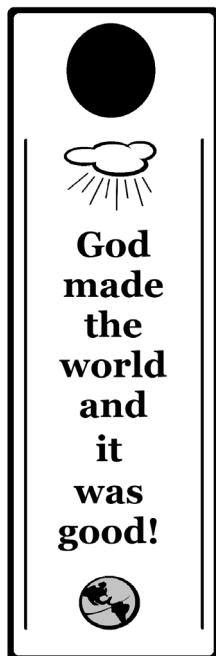
Next, give each person a foam door hanger (available at many large craft shops or box stores), markers and glitter glue. Invite kids to write the following sentence on their door hanger in marker (see illustration):

**God made
the world
and it
was good!**

Have kids go through their lists to decide what symbols they would like to draw as decoration around the words on their door hanger. Once they have decided which ones to include, kids can draw the symbols on their door hanger, making it look decorative and unique. Using glitter glue, kids can decorate their creations further, adding a little sparkle to the sun, the moon, the water, etc.

Encourage kids to take these home to hang on a door as a reminder that God made the world and loves the world.

Sometimes we can get so focused on what is wrong in the world that we forget to notice all that is right. Take a few moments each day to listen to the birds, appreciate a sunset, or watch the water. Remember to thank God for these beautiful gifts of life and creation.



Activity 2: "Let There Be!" Game

Materials Needed:

- Large space to play a game

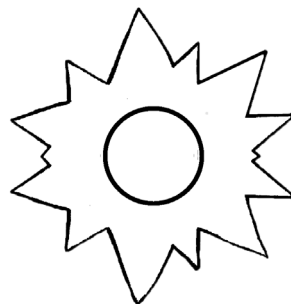
Instructions:

This game is played like "Simon Says," but with some interpretation on the kids' part to make it more challenging.

Invite kids to stand up. You (the teacher) will be the leader, and will give orders like God did on the days of creation. Tell kids that they must listen very closely, as your orders may change from time to time.

To play the game, kids must create their own way to act out the thing you reference, but only if you first say, "God says."

If you give an order without saying "God says" and someone acts it out, that person is out and can sit down in place.



For example, you might say, "God says, 'Let there be light!'" and the kids decide what to do — perhaps hold their arms as if they are the sun shining. Or, say "God says, 'Let there be animals!'" and the kids can act like any animal of their choice.

If you just say, "Let there be trees" without adding "God says," and some kids begin acting it out, those kids must sit down in place. Increase your speed with each command.

Play until there is one kid left standing. Then, that person can take a turn being the leader for another round!

God made the world and everything in it, including us! When we rush ahead and do only what we want, ignoring God's Word, things don't go very well. God wants us to listen closely to him, to care for creation, and to treat those around us with love.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the solution and answers to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Vocabulary Word for the Week

Teachers may want to introduce the theme word for the week to help expand students' biblical vocabulary.

Creation

all that God designed, made, and sustains
(all life and everything in nature)

*Out of love, God made the universe,
the world, and YOU!*

Reflection for the Week Ahead

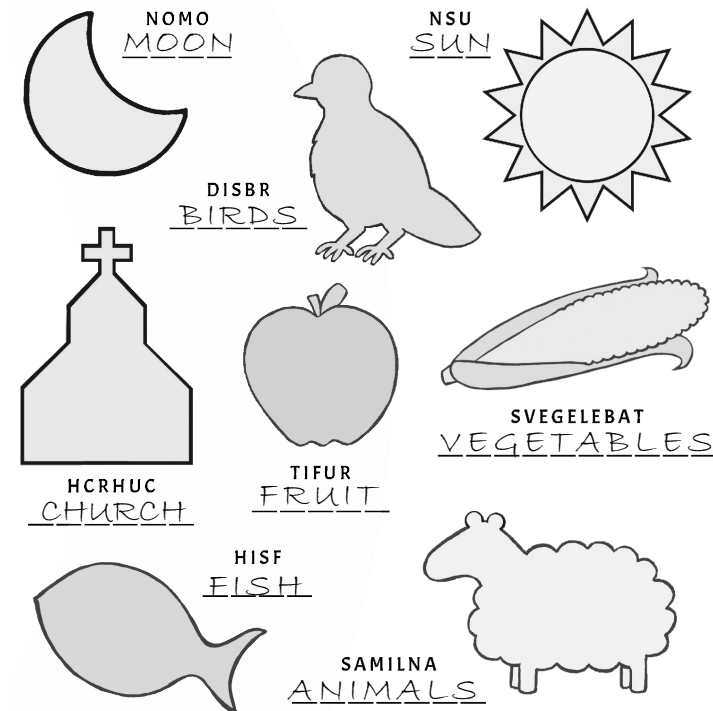
The Bible tells us that God made everything, from the tiniest bug to the largest planet. And not only that, but God said his creation was good!

Sometimes people disagree about how old different things on the earth are, and when, exactly, each one came into being. These are interesting ideas to study and think about, but the book of Genesis is answering an even *more* important question about creation.

It is telling us *who* made it all. God did! The earth didn't come about for a random reason, and neither did you. God made our world, and God made you. Not only that, God loves both.

This week, whenever you go outside, try to pay attention to the different parts of nature. Notice the plants, the animals, the sky. Feel the wind on your face. And thank God for making it all.

What is one of your favorite things in nature? What do you like about it? What is one thing you can do today to care for creation?



Some Examples – Things I Like About Them:

MOON = changes shape throughout the month

SUN = gives light to see and grow

BIRDS = are able to fly

CHURCH = teaches me about Jesus

FRUIT = tastes sour and sweet

VEGETABLES = are healthy and good for you

FISH = fun to catch out on the lake

ANIMALS = pets show love

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism:

I believe that God has created me and all that exists, that he has given me and still preserves my body and soul, my eyes and ears, my reason and all my senses, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property. Every day he provides abundantly for all the needs of my life. He protects me from all danger and guards and keeps me from every evil. He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I ought to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true!

The Practice of Prayer

Write a prayer thanking God for his good creation and for making human beings in his own image. Ask God to help you care for all the good gifts he has given you so that you would be a good steward.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.