

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

Session

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GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1—2

Genesis is defined as the beginning, or origin, of something. The title of this book reminds us that the Bible logically opens in the beginning. The very first words of Genesis illuminate for us the central focus of all of creation—God Himself. In the beginning God created God is not just the central focus of this beginning study, but is THE focus of all of Scripture. This quarter preschoolers and kids will study a variety of ways in which God revealed Himself to people—beginning with creation.

Genesis 1 gives a detailed narrative account of the things God created. God's creation was logical and followed a specific order. Nothing was created until what would be needed to sustain that creation had already been placed here. God's creation was immediate and precise. God's creation was only from His spoken word. The theological term used is *ex nihilo* which means "from nothing." God created by speaking words, and Scripture tells us that as His words were uttered, it was so. God created light and dark, then created the heavens to separate water on the earth from that in the sky. Next, God created the dry land of the earth where plants and trees would grow. To provide for seasons and light, the sun, moon, and stars were created. Next, God filled the seas with sea creatures, and the land with land animals, culminating in the creation of mankind—created in His image.

Genesis 2 opens by sharing the greatness of God's creation and that what He created was very good. This chapter gives a further look into the lives of the people God created.

God planted a garden in which the man and woman were to work the land. The couple enjoyed close communion with God. God gave them one command—do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Preschoolers will hear that God made everything.

God made every plant, animal, and person, and everything He made was good. Kids will discover God is the author of and ruler over all creation. As you share these truths this week, focus on the greatness of God's creation.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1—2

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 40:28

BONUS BIBLE VERSE: Genesis 1:31a

TEXT TRUTH: God created everything and rules over it.

CHRIST IN CONTEXT: The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God's special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

BIBLE STORY PASSAGES: Genesis 1—2

In the very beginning, there was nothing except God. The earth was empty. Then God began to create the heavens and the earth.

God said, "Let there be light." And there was light! God thought the light was good. God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night." This was the first day.

The next day God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters." So God made the expanse and called it "sky" on the second day of creation.

On the third day of creation, God spoke and created dry land called "earth." He gathered the waters together and called them "seas." Next, God created plants and trees. God saw that everything He had created was good.

On the fourth day God said, "Let there be lights in the sky." God made the sun to give light in the day and the moon and stars to give light at night. And it was good.

Next, God created all kinds of sea creatures. Fish, dolphins, whales, stingrays, and more were created to swim through the seas. He created all types of birds to fly. Robins, cardinals, ravens, doves, and parrots were created. This happened on the fifth day of creation.

On day 6, God said, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animals." Cows, horses, lions, zebras, giraffes, and more were created. God saw that His creation was good. God spoke again, "Let Us make man in Our image,

according to Our likeness. They will rule over all the animals." God formed man from the dust of the ground. Then He breathed the breath of life into the man and man became a living being.

God planted a garden in Eden and He placed man in the garden. God made many trees grow in the garden, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden. Another tree grew in the garden. It was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave the man one command—he could eat from any tree in the garden, but he could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God created man in His image. God also created a helper for man—a woman. God saw all He had made and it was good.

On the seventh day, God saw that all of His work was finished and He rested. God called it holy because He rested from His work of creation.

WELCOME

- Before the session, hang a long piece of paper on the wall to create space for a mural. Use markers to divide the mural into seven sections. Label each section *Day 1*, *Day 2*, and so on to represent each day of creation.
- Greet the kids: “Welcome, everybody! I am looking forward to worshipping our creative God with you! As I was traveling here today, I was so amazed at God’s creation all around me.” Mention several plants, animals, and other creations you observed.
- Conclude: “And now, I’m looking at some of my very favorite parts of God’s creation— you!”
- Invite kids to raise their hands and share their favorite parts of creation or to name the most interesting creatures they know of.
- Display the “Crazy Cool Creation” object slide.
- Ask: “What do you notice in this picture? What do you think this is?” (*pause for responses*)
- Say: “This is a rainbow mantis shrimp and even though this creature is small, it is mighty. Its ‘fists’ can move up to 50 miles per hour, which generates 160 pounds of force, and briefly heats the surrounding water to a temperature as hot as the Sun’s surface!”
- Continue: “Why would God make such an interesting creature? For His glory, of course! Let’s keep thinking about the many things God created for good and for His glory.”
- Distribute small pieces of drawing paper and markers to the group. Ask the kids to draw pictures of their favorite parts of creation. Encourage them to use separate pieces of paper to draw separate things (*for example: an animal can go on one page and a plant can go on another*). These pictures will be used later in the session to complete the Creation Mural.

WORSHIP

- Say: “**God created everything and rules over it.** Everything God made points us to His goodness and glory. Let’s stand and worship our loving, creative God together!”
- Play a song and encourage the kids to sing along.
- Say: “God takes care of everything. He gives us what we need to live and what we need to know Him. When we give our offerings to Him, it is a way for us to thank God and to show that we trust Him to care for us.”
- Play another song as you collect the offering.
- Pray and thank God for His creation and His care.

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

- Draw three columns on the dry erase board. Label the first column *K*, the second *W*, and the third *L* for *know*, *wonder* and *learned*.

TOOL BOX

- Welcome: long piece of paper, tape, washable markers, “Crazy Cool Creation” (slide), white drawing paper cut into halves or quarters
- Worship: music videos, offering basket
- Introduce the Session: dry erase board and markers, sticky notes, pencils, “Genesis” (Bible Book poster), Bibles, option: “Explore the Bible: On Location” (video)
- Dig Deeper: Bibles, “Text Truth: Session 1,” “Isaiah 40:28,” & “Genesis 1:31a” (slides)
- Practice Bible Skills: “Bible Book Cards” (print item), “Books of the Bible” (slide)
- Missions: “A Vision for More” (video), banner-sized piece of paper, map of the United States, clear jar or plastic bottle with lid, assorted coins
- Review: “Isaiah 40:28,” & “Genesis 1:31a” (slides) tape, washable markers, white drawing paper cut into halves or quarters, sticky notes, pencils
- Closing: “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (print item or video), music videos

- Ask: “Who can tell me something you know about God?” Write the kids’ responses on sticky notes and place the notes in the *K* column. Guide the conversation toward what the kids know about God as Creator.
- Ask: “What are some things you wonder about God and His creation?” Write the queries on the sticky notes and place them in the *W* column.
- Say: “You know so much about God and you have asked some great questions about Him. Who knows where we can find answers about God?” (*pause for responses*) “Yes! The Bible helps us know more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible is 100 percent true and biblical truths never change.”
- Explain: “Today, we will be reading from the Book of Genesis.”
- Use the Genesis Bible Book Poster to explain five Ws, then assist the kids in opening their Bibles to the Book of Genesis.
- Option: Show the “Explore the Bible: On Location” video.

DIG DEEPER

- Hold your Bible open and tell the story from Genesis 1—2.
- Read Gen 1:1 and ask: “Who is the subject of this sentence?” or “Who is this sentence about?” (*Pause for responses, affirming that God is the subject.*)
- Explain: “Genesis 1—2 tell us about the creation of the world, but the world is not the main idea of these chapters.”
- Display the Text Truth: Session 1 slide.
- Say: “The focus of Genesis 1—2 is God. **God created everything and rules over it.** Let’s jump back into the text and discover more about what our amazing God did.”
- Invite the kids to close their eyes and imagine the scene as you read Genesis 1:2. Reinforce that the earth was formless, dark, and empty and that God’s Spirit hovered over the earth.
- Say: “There was nothing. Only God. But then, God spoke and everything changed.”
- Read Genesis 1:3-25, stopping to reference aspects of creation that are special to your group.
- Say: “God made everything just by speaking. Out of nothing, God created the heavens and the earth. Everything He created was good. But He wasn’t finished yet.”
- Read Genesis 1:26-28.
- Display the weekly Bible Verse slide and read Genesis 1:31.
- Say: “After creating each thing, God called His creation ‘good’ but after making people, God called His creation ‘very good.’ People are the most special part of God’s creation. God made people in His own image. We call this the *imago Dei*.”
- Continue: “The *imago Dei* means that we share qualities and traits with God—like the ability to think, create, make decisions, and show love. The *imago Dei* also means that all people everywhere have value and dignity.

BONUS BIBLE VERSE

- The Bonus Bible Verse for this week is Genesis 1:31a. Display this verse while telling the Bible story. Challenge your group to remember the verse throughout the week as they recall today’s Bible story.

And the most amazing thing about being made in the image of God is that we get to enjoy a special relationship with God. We get to know Him and love Him and He knows us and loves us, too!”

- Read Genesis 2:7-8 and 2:15-23.
- Explain: “Until this point, God created everything just by speaking words. But when God created man, God physically formed the man—named Adam—and breathed His own breath into Adam to make Adam come alive. Then, God used Adam to create the first woman, named Eve.”
- Conclude: “The first people lived in God’s good garden, worked the land, and enjoyed a perfect relationship with one another and with God.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Before the session, print and cut apart a few sets of the Bible Book Cards.
- Group your kids into teams of 6-8. Ask the teams to sit in circles and give each team a complete set of Bible Book Cards.
- One person from each team will shuffle the cards and place the set of cards face down in the middle of their circle. Each kid will then collect five cards from the set.
- Display the Books of the Bible slide and review the division names with your group.
- Ask: “In which division is the Book of Genesis?” (*Law*)
- Explain: “The object of this game is to match pairs of cards from the same division. So, if you have the *Genesis* card, you will need to match it with another Law book. Ask one person from your team if she has any Law book cards. If she does, she will hand you one Law card and you will place your match on the ground in front of you. If your teammate does not have a Law book card, you will draw a card from the stack in the middle of the circle and the next kid will have a turn to make a match from any division he chooses.”
- Continue playing until time or cards run out*.

MISSIONS

- Hang the large piece of paper in a location where you can reference it this quarter. This will become your missions banner.
- Use the map of the United States to locate Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Say: “God sends missionaries all over the world to tell people about Him. God wants everyone in every nation to hear the gospel and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. Some missionaries, like Luis Soto, serve in their home countries. Luis serves in the United States in Salt Lake City, Utah.”
- Play the “A Vision for More” video.
- Say: “Churches all over the United States give money to a missions offering to help missionaries like Luis. Luis uses this money to start

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Begins to know some of the books of the Bible in order and pronounces names of some Bible books.
- Names the 10 divisions of the Old and New Testaments.

*Note: Some divisions have an odd number of books. After the maximum number of pairs from each division is made, allow kids to discard odd cards and select replacements from the stack in the middle.

churches and tell people about Jesus. Giving money to missions is a way for us to share in the missionary's work and to be on mission, too."

- Give a coin to each child, then place a single coin in your jar and give it a shake. Pass the jar around and ask the kids to place their coins into the jar. Once the jar is full, put the lid on it and shake it again.
- Ask: "How is the sound different now that the jar is full of coins?" (*pause for responses*)
- Explain: "One coin can make some noise, but many coins make a BIG noise! This sound represents how it is when we work together. When we are united in giving to missions, we can make a BIG difference for God's Kingdom— here, in Utah, and all around the world."
- Challenge your group to think of ways they can earn money for missions.
- Pray for Luis Soto and for the gospel to go forth in Salt Lake City.

REVIEW

- Ask a volunteer to look up or recite Genesis 1:31a.
- Say: "Let's see if we can remember what God made each day of creation. Who can tell me what God did on day one?" (*Pause for responses*)
- Refer to the Day One section of your Creation Mural. If anyone drew a picture that corresponds with Day One, invite him to tape his artwork to the mural. Continue reviewing the days of creation and adding the children's artwork to the mural.
- Display the Monthly Memory Verse slide. Invite your group to create hand motions to reflect the conversational, question-and-answer tone of Isaiah 40:28. Repeat the verse and motions a few times. Encourage the kids to remember this verse as they will be revisiting it frequently over the next few weeks.
- Talk about Isaiah 40:28 as a group, focusing on what this verse teaches us about God. Then, allow a few moments of silent reflection.
- Invite the kids to use the paper and markers to create additional artwork to fill in any gaps on the Creation Mural or to use sticky notes to write what they learned about God to add to the *L* column of the KWL chart.

CLOSING

- Read the sticky notes in the *L* column aloud to your group, encouraging the kids with the many things they learned today. Review any unanswered *W* sticky notes to see if the kids can think of the answers.
- Say: "**God created everything and rules over it.** God made you and me and God's good plan* for us is to know Him and enjoy Him forever. Because of Jesus, we can know God, learn to follow Him, and be welcomed into His family, forever."
- Close in prayer, worshiping God as creator. Play a song as the kids exit.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

- The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Isaiah 40:28. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to memorize the weekly bonus Bible Verse. This week's bonus Bible Verse is Genesis 1:31a

GOSPEL CONNECTING POINT

- This may be a natural time to talk about The Gospel: God's Plan for Me or to show The Gospel: God's Plan for Me video to your group.