

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

Session

1



IN THE BEGINNING

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

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 1:31a

MEMORY VERSE PARAPHRASE

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.

TEXT TRUTH

God made the world.

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 MADE THE WORLD

Based on Genesis 1—2

Everything in the world began with God. God started His creation with the heavens and the earth. For six days God worked to make everything.

In the beginning the earth was covered in darkness. So God said, "Let there be light." God then made morning and evening, and this became the first day.

After that God made more for His world. On Day 2 God made the sky.

On Day 3 He made dry land and oceans. He made plants and trees. God saw that these things were good.

Day 4 is when God placed lights in the sky—the sun, the moon, and the stars. These creations were good.

Then God said for living things to swim in the water and birds to fly in the sky. This happened on the fifth day. God saw that this was good.

On Day 6 God made land animals—animals to walk, crawl, hop, and jump. All the animals were just the kind God planned.

Finally, God decided the world needed people. God wanted the people to live in His world and take care of it. And on Day 6 God made a man and a woman.

After six days, God was finished. He rested on the seventh day.

God saw all that He had made and it was very good. The world God created was beautiful and perfect.

WELCOME AND SING

- Play some music and greet the preschoolers with excitement as they come into the room. Encourage the boys and girls to clap their hands and tap their feet to the rhythm as they sing along with the song.
- Play the song again. As you listen to the music, call out different animals. Encourage the children to make corresponding animal noises to the rhythm of the song. Consider animals and sounds such as, *bark like a dog*, *tweet like a bird*, *oink like a pig*, and *squeak like a mouse*.
- Comment: “**God made the world** and everything in it. He made all of the stars in the sky, all of the fish in the sea, and all of the animals, like the ones you were pretending to be. God also made all of us. Today, we will learn how God made everything and rules over it.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Before the session, write *Genesis* on one index card and *Matthew* on another index card. Place the *Genesis* card in your Bible at Genesis 1:1 and the *Matthew* card at Matthew 1:1.
- Prompt the preschoolers to name some people who are older than them. Help them to think of their siblings, grandparents, and other adults.
- Ask: “Were older people born before or after you were born?” (*before*) “Yes, older people were born first.”
- State: “The Bible is made up of two main parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Which part do you think comes first?”
- Explain: “The Old Testament is first. It is in the front of the Bible. The New Testament is second. It is in the back of the Bible.”
- Invite a preschooler to open your Bible to one of the index cards. Help her read and pronounce the book name on the card and tell her whether that book is in the Old or New Testament. Select a second child to open your Bible to the other index card and tell him the corresponding information.
- Say: “The Book of Genesis is in the Old Testament. It is the book in the beginning of the Bible. It tells us all about the beginning of the world.”
- Distribute a Bible to each pair of preschoolers. Assist the pairs in opening their Bibles to the Book of Genesis.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Gather near a window and invite the preschoolers to name several things they see outside.
- State: “God made many of the things you named. Listen to hear how **God made the world**.”
- Return to your seats and open your Bible to Genesis 1. Keep the Bible

TOOLS

Welcome and Sing

Enhanced CD

Practice Bible Skills

index cards, washable markers, Bibles

Tell the Bible Story

Bibles, Story Picture: “God Made the World” (print item)

Select A Card

index cards, washable markers

Worship

Enhanced CD, offering basket

Learn the Memory Verse

Bibles, “September Bible Verse Markers” (print item)

Listen and Pray

none

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Knows there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Begins to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.
- Begins to recognize names of books in the Bible. Knows that Genesis is the first book of the Bible and Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. Opens Bible to a Bible marker.

open on your lap as you read from the Bible story script or as you tell the story in your own words.

- Option: Hold up one finger as you talk about the first day of creation, two fingers for the second day, and so on. Invite the preschoolers to actively participate in the story by holding up their fingers, too.

SELECT A CARD

- Before the session, print the numbers 1-7 on individual index cards. Mix up the cards and lay them face down on the floor.
- Invite a preschooler to select a card. Read the number on the card. Prompt the preschooler to name that many things God created. Invite other children to offer ideas as needed. If the child selects the 7 card, prompt the child to lie down and pretend to rest.
- Return the card to the pile. Mix the cards again and invite another preschooler to make a selection. Continue until every child has a turn.
- Say: “You named many things God created. **God made the world** in six days and on the seventh day, He rested. Everything God made was good.”

WORSHIP

- Remark: “**God made the world** just by speaking. He is so powerful and creative. God made us to know Him and worship Him. We can worship God by praying, singing songs, and giving our offerings.”
- Invite two preschoolers to pass the offering basket around the room.
- Play a song. Guide the boys and girls to use loud and proud voices to worship the Lord.

LEARN THE MEMORY VERSE

- Place today’s Bible Verse Marker in the Bible at Genesis 1:31a. Invite a preschooler to open the Bible at the marker. Read the verse.
- Prompt the preschoolers to use their hands to make a binocular shape in front of their eyes. Encourage them to use their “binoculars” to look all around the room as you repeat, “God saw all that He had made.” Prompt them to give a thumbs up as you repeat, “and it was very good.”

LISTEN AND PRAY

- Reinforce: “**God made the world** and He rules over it. Everything God made was very good.”
- Lead the preschoolers in prayer, thanking God for creating a good world.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

EXPLORE THE WORLD

Tools: smart phone or other device, option: globe or world map

- Before the session, save several pictures to your phone or device. Select pictures showing people, plants, animals, and other created things from all around the world.
- Invite the preschoolers to swipe through the pictures. Challenge them to identify as many created things as they can in each picture. Encourage the boys and girls to point out their favorite things.
- Option: Use the globe or map to show the preschoolers where you live. As you swipe through the pictures, show the preschoolers those locations on the globe or map.
- Remark: **“God made the world** and everyone and everything in the world. Our world is full of wonderful and beautiful things. All people are special because God made everyone.”

MAKE A CREATION MURAL

Tools: washable markers, blank index cards or small pieces of white paper, long piece of paper, tape, Bible

- Hang the long piece of paper on the wall.
- Guide the boys and girls to use the markers and index cards to draw pictures of different things God created. As they finish, invite the children to tape their pictures to the large piece of paper to make a Creation Mural. Read Genesis 1:31a to the children and write the verse on the mural.
- Option: Organize the pictures by the days they were created.
- Comment: **“God made the world** in six days and on the seventh day, God rested. Everything God made was good and God is in charge of everything.”

GO ON A CREATION WALK

Tools: clipboards, paper, pencils

- Distribute a clipboard, paper, and pencil to each child. Go for a walk in the area surrounding your church building. Encourage the boys and girls to write words or draw pictures of what they see. Mention different creatures you notice. Challenge the preschoolers to recall the day of creation when those creatures were first made.
- State: "God created everything and rules over it. He made the land, the water, and the sky. God made the sun, stars, and everything that lights up. He made all of the plants and animals. **God made the world** and everything in it."

SORT ITEMS

Tools: various items like buttons or pom-poms, muffin pans, bowl

- Place the items in the bowl. Suggest the boys and girls to sort the items in the muffin pans. Suggest they sort the items by color, size, or type.
- Observe the colors of the items. Challenge the girls and boys to name things God created that are of the same colors.
- Invite each preschooler to select seven of his favorite items. Talk about why he thinks the items are special.
- Explain: "You chose seven items. **God made the world** in seven days. The world is full of color and beauty. God loves the world and God loves you."

READ A BIBLE BOOK NAME

Tools: Papers with the letter G, green dot stickers or green dot markers, green crayons and markers, Bibles

- Before the session, write a large, uppercase G on a piece of paper. Make a copy for every child. Display or write the word *Genesis* for the preschoolers to see.
- Invite the children to use the green stickers or dot markers to trace the letter G. Point out that the words *Genesis* and *green* begin with the letter G. Help the boys and girls to copy the word *Genesis* at the bottoms of their papers.
- Challenge the children to find the word *Genesis* in their Bibles.
- Say: "The word *Genesis* means 'beginnings.' The Book of Genesis is in the beginning of the Bible. It tells us about how **God made the world.**"