

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Characters: 3 Readers; Sign Holder; Prop Holders (everyone else); Leader (you)

Costumes: None

Props: 8 Signs (CD): Days 1–7 and Evening/Morning (for Reader 3); 15 objects or pictures to represent items listed below; highlighters; chairs for all

Prepare: Print Leader Notes, Script, and Review Questions. Highlight your parts, including preparation in the Leader Notes. Print or copy 3 Scripts for Readers.

Print 8 Signs from the CD. Set chairs in a circle, one for each person.

Gather the following props in order in a box. If you have fewer students, consider giving people more than one prop, taking care to keep them in narrative order. If you have more students, add more stars, seas, vegetation, water creatures, birds, or land animals.

- **heavens:** blue construction paper with *heavens* written on it in chalk or a picture of clouds
- **earth:** a globe, a world map, a picture of the earth, or a circle of construction paper, half brown and half blue
- **darkness:** black construction paper sheet or black towel or linens
- **light:** a flashlight or electric candle
- **waters:** 2 water bottles, 2 pitchers, or 2 pictures of water
- **seas:** a blue scarf that the student waves, a shell, or a seaside photo; make sure it is a different prop than used for “waters”
- **vegetation:** a leaf, a carrot, or a seed packet
- **sun:** yellow, red, or orange ball or a circle of yellow, red, or orange construction paper
- **moon:** a smaller yellow, orange, or blue ball or a smaller circle of yellow, orange, or blue paper
- **stars:** large paper stars, a star ornament, or a star projector
- **water creatures, birds, and land animals (3 or more):** stuffed or plastic toys of each type or pictures of each
- **man and woman:** male and female dolls or wedding cake toppers

Leader Notes

Let all children participate in this drama activity; it is not a performance. Include preparation time as part of the activity so that everyone sees and hears the plans. Encourage children to relax and enjoy participating.

As Leader, you direct action, pointing at Prop Holders and helping groups say needed responses.

If time allows, repeat the activity with students playing the same or new parts. Students often relax and enjoy doing the activity again. Children, especially those with language-processing delays, learn a lot from repeating activities.

Choose 3 Readers. Give them Scripts and highlighters. Ask them to read through their parts and mark them with highlighters. Ask Readers to read slowly and pause for students to show their props.

Give Reader 3 the Evening/Morning Sign to hold up each time the Script says, "And there was evening and morning." Immediately after this sign is raised each time, the Sign Holder will show the matching Day Sign for all students to read.

Choose a Sign Holder and give him or her the seven Day Signs, stacked in day order. Tell the Sign Holder that he or she will show the Day 1–6 Signs after Reader 3 shows the Evening/Morning Sign. The Sign Holder shows the Day 7 Sign by itself near the end.

Scatter Readers and the Sign Holder in seats in your circle of chairs.

Ask everyone else to sit in the circle too. Hand out props in the order shown in the Prepare section. Tell Prop Holders you will point at them when it's time to show their props; remind them to pay attention because most props are shown multiple times.

Have students practice reading the signs together before you start. Ask Reader 3 to hold up the Evening/Morning Sign and read it. Then ask the Sign Holder to show the Day 1 Sign and have students read it. Repeat a few times, until students get the rhythm of reading the two signs.

Also tell the students that when Reader 3 expectantly says, "And God saw that . . .," everyone should shout, "It was good!" Practice this response a couple of times.

Get everyone to be quiet and then ask Readers to begin.

Script

God Creates the World, Genesis 1:1–2:3

READER 1: From the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, chapter 1:

READER 2: In the beginning, God created the *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show HEAVENS)* **heavens and** *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show EARTH)* **the earth.**

READER 3: The earth was without form and void,

READER 1: *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show DARKNESS)* **and darkness was over the face of the deep.**

READER 2: And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

READER 3: And God said, “Let there be light,” *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show LIGHT)* **and there was light.**

READER 1: And God saw that the light was good.

READER 2: And God separated the light *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show LIGHT again)* **from the darkness.** *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show DARKNESS again.)*

READER 1: God called the light Day,

READER 2: and the darkness He called Night.

READER 3: *(Show sign)* **And there was evening and there was morning,**
LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 1 Sign and STUDENTS read it.

ALL: the first day.

READER 1: And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show WATERS)*

READER 2: and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

READER 3: And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse.

READER 2: And it was so.

READER 1: And God called the expanse Heaven. *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show HEAVENS.)*

READER 3: *(Show sign)* **And there was evening and there was morning,**
LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 2 Sign and STUDENTS read it.

ALL: the second day.

READER 1: And God said, “Let the waters (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show WATERS again*) **under the heavens** (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show HEAVENS again*) **be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”**

READER 2: And it was so.

READER 3: God called the dry land Earth, (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show EARTH*)

READER 1: and the waters that were gathered together He called Seas.
(*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show SEAS.*)

READER 3: And God saw that . . .

ALL: it was good!

READER 2: And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show VEGETATION*)

READER 3: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed,

READER 1: each according to its kind, on the earth.”

READER 2: And it was so.

READER 3: The earth brought forth vegetation, (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show VEGETATION again*)

READER 1: plants yielding seed according to their own kinds,

READER 2: and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind.

READER 3: And God saw that . . .

ALL: it was good!

READER 3: (*Show sign*) And there was evening and there was morning,
LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 3 Sign and STUDENTS read it.

ALL: the third day.

READER 1: And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show HEAVENS again*) **to separate the day** (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show LIGHT again*) **from the night.** (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show DARKNESS again.*)

READER 2: And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,

READER 3: and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.”

READER 2: And it was so.

READER 1: And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show SUN*)

READER 2: and the lesser light to rule the night (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show MOON*) **and the stars.** (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show STARS.*)

READER 3: And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

READER 2: to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

READER 3: And God saw that . . .

ALL: it was good!

READER 3: (*Show sign*) And there was evening and there was morning,

LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 4 Sign and STUDENTS read it.

ALL: the fourth day.

READER 1: And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show WATER CREATURES*) **and let birds** (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show BIRDS*) **fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”**

READER 2: So God created the great sea creatures (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show WATER CREATURES*) **and every living creature that moves with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.** (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show BIRDS.*)

READER 3: And God saw that . . .

ALL: it was good!

READER 2: And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

READER 3: And there was evening and there was morning,

LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 5 Sign and STUDENTS read it.

ALL: the fifth day.

READER 1: And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show LAND ANIMALS.*)

READER 2: And it was so.

READER 3: And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds

READER 1: and the livestock according to their kinds,

READER 2: and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind.

READER 3: And God saw that . . .

ALL: it was good!

READER 1: Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. (*LEADER POINTS at PROP HOLDERS to show MAN AND WOMAN.*)

READER 2: And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show WATER CREATURES again*)

READER 3: and over the birds of the heavens (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show BIRDS again*)

READER 1: and over the livestock (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show LAND CREATURES again*)

READER 2: and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

READER 3: So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him;

READER 1: male and female He created them. (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDERS to show MAN AND WOMAN again.*)

READER 2: And God blessed them.

READER 3: And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it

READER 1: and have dominion over the fish of the sea (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDERS to show WATER CREATURES again*)

READER 2: and over the birds of the heavens (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show BIRDS again*)

ALL READERS: and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (*LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show LAND CREATURES again.*)

READER 3: And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDER to show VEGETATION again)* **that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.**

READER 1: And to every beast of the earth *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDERS to show LAND CREATURES again)*

READER 2: and to every bird of the heavens *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDERS to show BIRDS again)*

READER 3: and to everything that creeps on the earth, *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDERS to show LAND CREATURES again)*

ALL READERS: everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” *(LEADER points at PROP HOLDERS to show LAND CREATURES, then BIRDS, then SEA CREATURES, then MAN AND WOMAN again.)*

READER 2: And it was so.

READER 3: And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very . . . *(Raise your voice expectantly and wait for STUDENTS to say, “Good.” When someone does, invite others to say it too. Then do it again.)*

READER 3: (Show sign) And there was evening and there was morning,
LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 6 Sign and STUDENTS read it.

ALL: the sixth day.

READER 1: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

READER 2: And *(LEADER points at SIGN HOLDER to show the Day 7 Sign and STUDENTS read it)* **on the seventh day, God finished His work that He had done,**

READER 3: and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done.

READER 1: So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy,

READER 2: because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.

READER 3: So, how many days did God use to create the universe? *(Encourage ALL to respond)* **Six.**

Review Questions

Understand the Bible account and make life applications

God Creates the World, Genesis 1:1–2:3

Ask these questions to check children's understanding of the skit and the Bible account.

What did you learn by doing our skit today? Encourage several students to respond. Answers vary, but they will help you check student understanding. If needed, correct misconceptions or challenge students to think again.

In your opinion, what is the most awesome part of God's creation? Answers vary.

How does the Bible describe existence before God created the universe?

What does this mean? "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2). There was no earth or stars or universe, only empty darkness.

How did God create the world? God spoke and it came into existence. He said, "Let there be," and it happened.

How is this account of the creation of the world different from the version the world tries to tell us? Some people believe that the world somehow evolved from a random event, a chance spark. The Bible teaches that God created the world as a special place for people to live. He did this because He loves us.

Next week, we will talk more about the creation of humankind. From what we learned in today's skit, how was the creation of man different from the rest of the creation? Humankind was created in the image of God.

Where do we hear God's love and grace in this story? In love, God created the world as a very special place to live. He created every part of it, interconnected and interwoven as the perfect environment for animals, birds, fish, and especially people. Later, after Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, God's love did not leave His creation or His people. God spoke through the prophets. Although His people rebelled and went away from Him, God persisted. At the right time, in love, God gave His own Son to be the Savior of the world. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, and He rose from the dead to give us new life, now and forever. At the Last Day, God will give us a new heaven and a new earth.