

Genesis Lesson 1: God creates the Earth and everything in it Older Kids' Bible Study Lesson

Older Kids

Mandatory Items: Please do not omit these first four items, although you can change them to suit your taste/style, etc., as long as you read from God's Word during your lesson.

Lesson from God's Word:

Materials: A globe an flashlight, a jar of air (otherwise empty), samples of various plants, magnifying glass, pictures of space, toy or pictures of birds and fish, bowl of cold water, shortening, paper towels, toys and or pictures of land animals and people.

Directions: You can do this lesson two different ways, set up 6 stations around the room with the various items needed and let the kids explore for themselves (you may want to post one adult at the experiment with the cold water/shortening) or you can set the items on the table and just pass them around as you talk about them. Or, a third option, pass them around at the table and let the kids explore each one on their own.

Before class, set up 6 different items around the room or where the kids are sitting. On each item put the corresponding scripture reference the facts about that particular day. Each item/reference/and fact will show proof that God created the world and it was absolutely not created from nothing by nothing. Item/Day one: A globe with a flashlight

Item/Day one: Scripture reference: Genesis 1:1-2

What to do: Have the kids take turns shining the light on the globe and rotating the globe to show how the earth rotates from night to day.

Facts on this item: *Think about this: the earth is literally floating in the sky. It is in the perfect location for us to live on it. If it were any closer to the sun, it would be too hot for us to live here. If it were any closer to the moon it would be too cold and the ocean tides would be way too high---they would flood the earth twice a day!

Item/Day two: A jar of "air"

Read: Genesis 1:6-8

Fact: The atmosphere on Earth is the only planet in our solar system that doesn't have toxic gases. It is made up of a specific blend of 71% Nitrogen, 21% oxygen and some other elements. Also, there is a relationship between plants and animals on this planet. Plants breathe in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Animals and humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. The design is brilliant and it's just that—a design—designed by God, Himself.

Item 3/Day 3: A couple of any kind of plant, magnifying glass

Scripture Passage: Genesis 1:9-13

Facts: Over 70,000 different plant species are used for medicine. The Great Physician planned it that way.

To do: Let the kids examine the plants and think about how perfectly they grow, how they are able to produce fruit, how amazing it is that they get food from the sun.

Item 4/Day 4: Pictures of things in space

Scripture Passage: Genesis 1:14-19

Facts: The sun is so large one million "earths" would fit inside it.

To do: Have the kids examine pictures of space and think of how vast all of God's creation is. Have them think about the possibility that all of that could have come into being by itself. Space by itself proves that the world had a Creator and, of course, that Creator was God.

Item 5/Day 5: (water creatures and birds) toy fish and birds (or pictures of them)

Scripture Passage: Genesis 1:20-23

Facts:

To do: Let kids dip their fingers in a bowl of ice cold water and time how long it takes for kids to have to take their fingers out. Then, have them dry off their fingers and dip their finger in some vegetable shortening and then repeat the experiment with the layer of fat on their finger. Time how much longer they are able to stand the cold.

Item 6/Day 6: (animals and people): toy animals and people (or pictures of them)

Say: On the sixth day, God created all animals and He created people.

Scripture Passage: 1:24-27, Genesis 1:31

Facts: Think about how animals know what to do naturally—birds that know how to build nests—each type of bird building a specific kind of nest, ants that know how to make tunnels in the ground for their homes, and beavers that know how to cut down trees and stop up a river to make themselves a home. And, that doesn't even begin to describe how amazing people are!

To do: Have all the kids stand up and tell them to do some simple things to demonstrate the power of their brains (stand on one foot, clap their hands, blink one eye at a time, turn around 3 times, etc.) In a nanosecond, their brains can hear what you are saying, understand it and send messages to the parts of the body that need to do something. All during that time, your brain is telling your heart to pump blood, your eyes to blink to clean themselves and your lungs to breathe, plus a whole bunch of other things. Man has not come close to creating machine that works and performs as well as the human brain. That's because no one but God can create something that magnificent!

Connection to Christ & Gospel Presentation:

Say: God created everything in 6 days and rested on the 7th day (Genesis 2:1-3) He created the moon, sun, sky, land, all the animals, but the thing He loved the most of all of His creation was us—people. That's still true. He created people special, because He created us to have a relationship with Him. Unfortunately, as we'll learn in more detail in a couple of weeks, people disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. That sin separated all people from God. But, God Who created us, also loved us so much that He didn't give up, He created a new plan. He would send His Son to die on a cross to pay the price for our sin.

We know that Jesus was God's Son and that He did come and die on the cross and now we can go to Him and ask Him to forgive our sins and we can have a relationship with God. The whole purpose of our creation was ruined when sin entered the world, but God made a way to fix it. All we have to do is decide for ourselves if we want a relationship with Him. If we do, we simply have to pray and admit we have sinned, believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died to pay the price for our sin and then we confess or say that Jesus is our Savior and Lord. If you're ready to do that today, you can pray with me now.

Dear Jesus, thank You for creating me. I know You did that because You want a relationship with me. Right now, I don't have a relationship with You, because I have sin in my heart, but I ask You today to forgive my sin. You died to pay the price for my sin

and You are alive today and I thank You for all You have done. Thank You for saving me today and for being the Lord of my life. Amen

Memory Verse: "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth." Genesis 1:1

The teacher will begin by saying "Genesis 1:1 In the beginning" and the kids should shout "God" and then the teacher will finish saying "created the Heavens and the Earth." Then, the teacher should pick a child volunteer to be the leader. The child leader will say "Genesis 1:1 In the beginning" and then the other kids should shout "God" and the leader should say "created the Heavens and the Earth." Let a few more kids be leaders and repeat the activity as time and interest allows.

After the activity explain to the kids that we should always remember that it was God Who created the Earth, despite what else they may hear or be taught.

Optional/Extra Ideas:

Game: The days of creation

Materials: Bibles, a game die, or a few if you want to have a few groups of kids playing

Directions: Have the kids take turns rolling the die once. Whatever number they get, they should say something God created on the corresponding day. For example, if they get number 5 they could say goldfish or hummingbird, if they get 1 they say "light", etc.