

Genesis Lesson 1: God creates the Earth and everything in it

Younger Kids' Bible Study Lesson

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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: 7 large squares of paper made to look like 7 calendar squares, each one with one number 1-7 written in a top corner of the square. Before class, hang them up in a location where all the kids can see them, hang them in order 1-7 in a horizontal line, like a week from a calendar. These will be your "days." You will also need a black marker or crayon, a blue marker or crayon, glue sticks, pictures of vegetation, pictures of sun, moon and stars, pictures of birds and fish, pictures of animals and birds. There will be some paper print outs of the items and there will be magazines for you to cut pictures out of. You could also provide the kids with small pieces of paper and allow them to draw the various things you'll put on your calendar.

Ask: Have you ever created anything? What was it? How long did it take to create? God created the whole earth and everything in it in 6 days! He is the greatest Creator of all time and today we are going to learn how He did it. We have a calendar here on our wall and we are going to keep track of what God created on each day as we go along.

Read: Genesis 1:1-2

Say: On the first day, God created light and separated the light from the darkness.

Ask: What did He call the light? (Day) What did He call the dark? (Night)

Say: Can I have a volunteer come up and draw on our calendar for Day 1 "night and day" (Let a child come up and draw their representation of day and night. If they get stumped, you might suggest for them to draw a circle, put a line down the middle of the circle and then color one half of the circle black.)

Read: Genesis 1:6-8

Say: On day two God created the sky. There was water underneath the sky and water above the sky. No one knows for sure what the "waters above" were, but it could have

been clouds, or it could have meant where God keeps the rain until it flows or it could have been a sort of vapor canopy that covered the earth before the flood (and the first time it rained). We can't know for sure, but it could be one of these things. (Let a child come up and draw on day 2 of your calendar something to represent God creating sky. Remind them that they cannot draw any birds, or the sun, since those hadn't been created yet.)

Read: Genesis 1:9-13

Say: On the third day, God created land. He also created everything that grows on the land, in other words, plants.

(Let a child draw the land on the Day 3 square and then let all the kids come up and put a picture of a plant on the land.)

Read: Genesis 1:14-19

Say: On the fourth day, God created the lights in the sky.

Ask: What are some examples of lights in the sky? (Moon, sun, stars)

(Let the kids come up and glue the lights of the sky on the Day 4 square.)

Read: Genesis 1:20-23

Say: On the fifth day, God created all water creatures and birds. (Have kids glue a bird or water creature on the day 5 square.)

Read: Genesis 1:24-27

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

(Have kids glue animals and people to the day 6 square).

Read: Genesis 1:31- 2:3

(Have a child write "God rested" on the Day 7 square and then take a few moments to admire your finished creation week calendar.)

Connection to Christ & Gospel Presentation:

Say: God created everything in 6 days and rested on the 7th day. 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:

Activity: Exploring God’s creation

Materials: various items from nature. There will be some in the resource room, but please bring some from home and encourage the kids to bring their own, magnifying glass

Read: Romans 1: 19-20

Have the kids explore the various items, seeing how amazingly God created the world. Point out where His creation shows order and organization, and also variety and beauty. Ask them to think about and discuss what these things (and other things from nature) tell us about what God is like (as the verses in Romans say). Let the kids explore using their eyes and the magnifying glasses.

Game: The days of creation

Materials: Bibles, the calendar you made during the lesson time, 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.