



IN THE BEGINNING

God's Incredible Plan • U1#1 1st-3rd Grade • June 8, 2025

Concept

In the beginning, God created all things... and it was good!

Goal

Students will learn that God created the heavens and the earth and everything on the earth and he said that it was good.

Passage

Genesis 1:1-26

Key Verse: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones</i>Optional: <i>A laptop to watch the Saddleback Kids video (teachers provide)</i> <p>Optional Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">CD playerOT Books of the Bible CD	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Laminated puzzle from Introduction lesson"In the Beginning" Word search, 1/studentPencils or pens, 1/student

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

God's Incredible Plan • U1#1 1st-3rd Grade

It Is GOOD

“Genesis 1 tells us over and over again an important thing about this creation. In verse 4 we read, “And God saw the light, that it was good.” The phrase that it was good is repeated in verses 10, 12, 18, 21 and 25. And verse 31 sums up the whole of God’s judgment: “And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” This is not a relative judgment, but a judgment of the holy God who has a character and whose character is the law of the universe. His conclusion: “every step and every sphere of creation, the whole thing put together—man himself and his total environment, the heavens and the earth—conforms to Myself.” [1]

“Thus we find a doxology of all creation—everything glorifying God on its own level: the machine as machine praising and glorifying God, the man as a man, and everything in between doing likewise. Even though many of these beings are not at all conscious of what they are doing, they are speaking for God in all His wonder and glorifying Him in fulfilling the purpose for which they were made. There is no sin. Each thing stands in a proper relationship to God and speaks of what God is.”[2]

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1. This one verse says so much. God sparked it: the spectacular eruption of the universe with blinding energy expanding and cooling over millions of years into luminous clouds of dust, nebulae weaving into great orbs of flaming gas, stars colliding and swirling into enormous galaxies thousands of light years across...He saw all this—He made it happen!”[3]

When we take the time to consider the miraculous, supernatural origin of creation, we are overwhelmed with wonder and awe. Spend some time this week asking the Spirit to infuse you with the wonder and beauty of God’s creation so you can pass that on to the children.

See also: Psalms 8:3; 19:1; Isaiah 42:5; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 11:3

[1] Francis A Schaeffer, The Complete Works of, Vol. 2, Genesis in Space and Time, © 1982 by Francis A Schaeffer, Crossway Books, p. 37

[2] Francis A Schaeffer, The Complete Works of, Vol. 2, Genesis in Space and Time, © 1982 by Francis A Schaeffer, Crossway Books, p.38

[3] Martha McCallum & Keith McCallum, The Scarlet Thread, © 2005 Martha McCallum & Keith McCallum, Xenos Publishing, www.xenos.org, p. 27

Set Up

The week before class: OPTIONAL - Find a way to view the Saddleback Kids "Creation (Genesis 1-2)" video using a laptop or other means.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Puzzles – Incredible Plan Laminated puzzle**
 - **Instructions:** Identify and discuss the characters children will learn about this year on the puzzle and on the timeline in your room.
- **"In the Beginning" Word Search**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student a "In the Beginning" word search and a pen or pencil. Talk with them about the different things God created in the beginning.
- **Music**
 - **Instructions:** Practice the Books of the OT. See how far the students can get.
- **Missions Prayer**
 - **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Introduction Lg. Group

In the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, we learn that God created everything. What were some things God created? (take a couple of answers) God created the sun and moon, the land and sea and all living things! Listen as I read our key verse, Genesis 1:1 (read from the Bible) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...". Let's look at our timeline. We're at the very beginning of time. That's why the first verse of the Bible says, "In the beginning..." Listen as we talk about what God did in the beginning.

Lesson Lg. Group

OPTIONAL : Creation Video

Instructions: Set up the Saddleback Kids video on the creation account from Genesis 1-2 for the students to watch.

Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZ1Fd_SPC18

Instructions: Read "The beginning: a perfect home," The Jesus Storybook Bible, pp. 18-27.

Our key verse is Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." We read also in Psalm 33:6,9, "The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. For when He spoke, the world began!" God made everything by speaking it into existence. He made everything out of nothing. How can that be? Do you know of anything that can be made out of nothing? (Give children a chance to consider and respond.) That is really difficult to understand, isn't it? This is something we have to choose to believe by faith. Faith is believing what God says because He says it. As we choose to believe what God says, He makes our faith strong by giving us special understanding of His truth.

Lesson Continued

Another thing we learn is that God loves all of His creation because He created it. Have you ever created a special picture that you were so proud of? Well, God created everything and He was so proud of His creation. He said it was GOOD! Then God tells us that He saved the best thing to be created last. What did He create last? That's right, He created people last. He made people to be His children and to share His perfect creation with Him. God created each one of you to be one-of-a-kind. There is no one else exactly like you. He loves each of you in a special way NOT because you have done anything for Him, but only because He created you. When He finished creating the first people, Adam and Eve, He said it was VERY GOOD! We'll be talking more about how God created humans next week!

Not only did God make us so we can be His children and enjoy His creation now, but also forever. That's right, He made us so that we can live with Him forever and ever!

Good News

But something happened with this perfect creation that was a big problem. Does anyone know what happened? That's right, Adam and Eve believed the lies that Satan told them. But God is so amazing that He God knew before He created the world that this would happen and He had a plan. Can anyone tell me what that plan was? That's right, His plan was to send Jesus, His Son, to earth from Heaven. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned, not even one time! Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sins. The Bible tells us that God raised Jesus from the dead and that He is alive now and forever. When you believe in Jesus, God's Son, you receive God's gift of eternal life. Eternal means "forever." So one day He will make His creation perfect again. And we can live forever with Him in His perfect world, just like it was when He first created it. This is God's incredible plan that is also called the Good News.

Just think about it. The God who made the whole world decided to make each of us one-of-a-kind. He loves you and wants to use you in His incredible plan. So each time you think about how God made everything, including you, out of nothing, ask Him to help you tell other people that He loves them, too.

Let's get into our small groups to discuss this.

Group Discussion

- Because God is our creator, we are creative. But God created everything He made out of nothing. Let's talk about the verse Psalm 33:6,9, "The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. For when He spoke, the world began!"

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Learning Activity#1 Continued

- Is it really true that God created EVERYTHING? What about houses and cars and bicycles? God didn't create those did He?
- What are houses made out of? What about cars and bicycles? Where do those materials come from?
- How did people learn out how to make houses, cars and bicycles? Who gave them the minds to learn those things?
- Do any of you plant gardens in the summer? Where do the seeds come from? How do the seeds grow into plants? If we planted a pop can in the ground, would we grow cans of pop? Why not?
- We learned that God created everything perfect. Is it still perfect? Does anyone know what happened? We're going to learn more about this next week.

Let's take some time to pray and thank God that He is so amazing that He created the world and each of us just by saying the words.

Let's play a game to help us better understand how God created everything!

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Game -- "I Spy"

Goal: Children learn to distinguish between the things God's created out of nothing and the things man created from the materials that God spoke into existence.

Instructions: Have the children look for, identify and keep secret an object they can see.

Instructions Continued: Have them determine whether the object is made by God or by man. Go around the circle and have them say, "I spy something God made and it is... big or blue, high or low, etc. (a descriptive clue)" or "I spy something man made and it is big or blue, high or low, etc. (a descriptive clue)." Move quickly around the circle. Don't take a lot of time guessing. Ask for other clues or have the child name his or her object if the children can't guess.

Optional Activity

Music : Sing the OT Books of the Bible song and see how far the students can go.