



BEGINNING & END

Young Preschool • #OT1 • June 11, 2023

Concept

God's message of love is consistent throughout the Bible, from the very first book all the way to last.

Goal

Children will learn that God loves them and has had a plan from the beginning to show the world his love for all people.

Passage

Genesis 1:1, Revelation 22:13

Key Verse: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:13

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Activity Station: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginning and End Maze Worksheet, 1/child• Pencils or markers, 1/child	Learning Activity #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alpha and Omega coloring page, 1/child• Crayons/Markers

*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

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While not an exhaustive book about every aspect creation, the Bible gives a clear picture of God's creative genius and power in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created....". These words launched humanity on its current course, and will end with God defeating evil once and for all, proving his mastery over death and showing his love for all of humanity.

The Bible is God's account of history, present life, and future, viewed by a being that has humanity's best interest at heart, even when we reject him. This lesson is built around that account, and covers a high-level view of God's plan, from beginning to end.

The Beginning

1. God is the focus of the Bible's opening chapter. Kidner writes, "This word dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point of the page: it is used some thirty-five times in as many verses of the story." [5] While the book of Genesis is a book of beginnings for the universe, earth, life, humanity, and Israel, God conspicuously has no beginning. He already existed prior to creation.
2. Jeremiah refers to the creation account to denounce idolatry: "The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens" (Jer. 10:11). Likewise, the psalmist writes, "all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens" (Ps. 96:5). [1]

[1] Reference Evidence Unseen (<https://www.evidenceunseen.com/bible-difficulties-2/ot-difficulties/genesis-deuteronomy/introduction-to-genesis/>)

The Middle

1. God establishes the nation of Israel (Duet 7:7, Exo 1:7).
2. God establishes Himself as perfect and separate from humanity due to human imperfection and sin (Isa 46:8-10, Exo 34:6, Lev 16).
3. God establishes a way back to himself, through faith and forgiveness. This is clear through the sacrificial system, and then abundantly clear through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 1:29, Heb. 7:22-26).

The End

1. God will judge evil for all time. In doing this, he will destroy death and remake heaven & earth as a paradise for his people (Rev 21:1-2, 5).
2. God will remove pain and suffering from the lives of all believers. The old way will pass away and we will live in perfect harmony with God and one another (Rev 21:3-4, 22:3-5)
3. God will reward those who have faithfully served him (Rev 22:12, 2 Cor 5:9)

Activity Stations:

• **Beginning and End Maze Worksheet**

◦ **Instructions:** Give each child a printed maze worksheet. They can also color on the page with crayons or markers. As the children work, talk with the kids about the following questions:

- Have any of you ever been on a long trip?
- What was it like to travel to different places?
- What is your favorite story and what do you like about it?
- Do you normally like the beginning of stories more or the end?
- What are some of your favorite Bible stories? (feel free to share some of yours too!)

• **Rhyme Game – "Touch Your Nose"[1]**

◦ **Instructions:** Repeat the rhyme and have children do what the rhyme says to do as you say it. Do it several times so they get the hang of it.

Touch your nose,
Touch your chin;
That's the way this game begins.

Touch your eyes,
Touch your knees;

Now pretend you're going to sneeze. (finger under nose)

Touch your nose,
Touch your hair,
Touch one ear;

Touch two red lips right here.

Touch your elbows
Where they bend;

That's the way this touch game ends.

Our main verse for our lesson today is "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:13. Because God is the Beginning and the End, it means that he always was and always will be! We will be learning more about how God has had a plan the whole time for his creation!

The Bible is a wonderful story about God. We can learn a lot about God when we look outside at the world around us! When we see the sun and the moon, we know that God must be really powerful and creative to make such incredible things! One of the cool things about the Bible is that it explains how God has a plan from the very beginning all the way to the very end. It is a big story that shares about God's love for us! What are some of your favorite stories? What do you like about them? Which characters do you like the most? The Bible has great stories in it too, and the best part is that they are all true!

Lesson Continued

But, like most stories, things didn't go all that well. We'll be talking about this in the next few weeks, as well as the rest of this year, but humans decided to not be close to God. Humans made bad choices and that caused our friendship with God to be broken! But God wanted to have a friendship with us again! So, He decided to show us His love by having Jesus come to earth.

We're going to spend a lot of this year hearing about the characters in God's story. There will be twists and turns. Things will look scary and like God's plan might not work. But, the super good news is that God's story is going to have a happy ending for a lot of people! The Bible says in Revelation 21 that eventually we won't experience pain, tears or dying. God will make everything right. We can trust him because He made everything. He was there at the beginning and will be there at the end. Revelation 22:16 state that God is the "Beginning and End", so we can know he knows what He's talking about!

Let's pray together!

Let's all sit down to make a craft that will help us remember our lesson.

Craft - Alpha and Omega Coloring Page

Instructions: As the children color, talk with them about what "Alpha" and "Omega" mean and what it means that God is the Beginning and the End.

Transition

Learning Activity #1 Lg. Group