

LESSON OVERVIEW

Week #: 1

Date: January 4, 2026

Bible Timeline Placement: Creation – The Beginning of Everything

Primary Book of the Bible: Genesis

Big Idea (One-Sentence Truth):

God created everything on purpose, in perfect order, and made people to reflect Him. Jesus, the Creator, shows us God's love and care.

LESSON TITLE

God Creates Everything Good

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Primary Passage:

Genesis 1

Key Verses (NIV):

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." — Genesis 1:1

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." — Genesis 1:31

Supporting Scripture (Gospel & Apologetics):

"All things were created through him and for him." — Colossians 1:16

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

— Genesis 1:1

How This Verse Points to Jesus:

Jesus was with God at creation and is the One through whom everything was made (John 1:1–3).

TEACHER BACKGROUND (PREPARATION ONLY)

Book Background

Book: Genesis

Author (Traditional): Moses

Date Written: c. 1400–1200 BC

Audience: The people of Israel

Purpose: To reveal God as Creator and begin His rescue plan that leads to Jesus.

Historical & Cultural Context

Genesis was written in a world full of false creation accounts. It clearly teaches there is one true God who created everything by His word (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Big Bible Story Connection

Creation begins the unified story of Scripture that points to Jesus (Ephesians 1:10).

Key Theological Truths (With Scripture)

- God is eternal and uncreated (Psalm 90:2).
- God creates by His word (Genesis 1:3; Psalm 33:6).
- Everything God made is good (Genesis 1:31; James 1:17).

Understanding God (Trinity – With Scripture)

- **God the Father:** Creator and planner (Genesis 1:1).
- **God the Son (Jesus):** Creator and Savior (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16).
- **God the Holy Spirit:** Life-giver and helper (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4).

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING FOR THE TEACHER

Genesis 1 teaches intentional, orderly creation. It lays the foundation for trusting God's Word and understanding Jesus as Creator and Redeemer (Hebrews 11:3).

MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE (READ ALOUD)

Setting the Scene

We begin at the very start of the Bible. The Bible is God's true and trustworthy Word—66 books written by over 40 authors, telling one unified account that points to Jesus. This is where the eternal God created the world we know, all out of love for the people He would make.

God created the world in **six real, ordinary days**, followed by a seventh day of rest. Each day builds on the one before it, showing God's wisdom and care.

The Days of Creation

Day 1 – Light:

God spoke into the darkness and said, "Let there be light," and light appeared. God separated the light from the darkness and called the light day and the darkness night (Genesis 1:3–5). Even on the very first day, God was already preparing what would be needed next. As night came, God did not stop working. He was preparing the world for what He would create on the following days. The Bible tells us that God never sleeps or grows tired (Psalm 121:3–4). Children can trust that God works even when we cannot see Him, preparing what we need before we even know we need it.

Day 2 – Sky:

God made the sky and separated the waters above from the waters below (Genesis 1:6–8). God was carefully shaping the world, making space for clouds, rain, and air so that life could exist. This shows God's careful planning and order.

Day 3 – Land and Plants:

God gathered the waters together so dry land appeared. Then He caused plants, trees, and vegetation to grow (Genesis 1:9–13). God prepared food, beauty, and shelter before animals or people were created. This shows that God always prepares what is needed ahead of time.

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, and Stars:

God placed the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to give light and to mark days, seasons, and years (Genesis 1:14–19). God created the tools that help us measure time, showing that He rules over time and history.

Day 5 – Birds and Fish:

God filled the skies with birds and the seas with fish and sea creatures (Genesis 1:20–23). God filled the world He had prepared with life and movement.

Day 6 – Animals and People:

On this day, God made every kind of land animal—large and small, gentle and strong, including animals that no longer live today, such as dinosaurs (Genesis 1:24–25). God then created the first two humans, Adam and Eve, in His own image (Genesis 1:26–27). This means people were made special, able to know God, love Him, and reflect His character.

At the beginning, people and animals lived together in peace. The Bible tells us that God gave plants and fruit as food for both humans and animals (Genesis 1:29–30). No one ate meat yet, and there was no fear or harm between people and animals. Everything God made worked together in harmony, just as He designed it. God's world was very good, peaceful, and full of life. People were created last so they could enjoy and care for everything God had already prepared. God made people special, able to know Him and reflect Him.

Day 7 – Rest:

God rested from His work, not because He was tired, but because His creation was complete and very good (Genesis 2:2–3). God's rest shows that His work was finished and perfect.

Understanding the Days More Clearly

God helps us understand creation even more clearly by looking closely at what He made and *when* He made it.

On **Day 3**, God created plants and trees. Plants need sunlight to live and make food. But the **sun was not created until Day 4**. Think about a potted plant. If you put it in a dark closet for one day, it will still live. But if you leave it there for many days with no sunlight, it will die. This shows us there was only a short time—about one normal day—between Day 3 and Day 4.

On **Day 1**, God created light itself (Genesis 1:3). Light existed before the sun. This shows us that God does not need the sun or stars to create light. God is the source of all light.

On **Day 4**, God created the sun, moon, and stars and gave them a very special job. The Bible says they were created “to serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years” (Genesis 1:14). This means God created the tools we use to measure time.

Before Day 4, time was not measured by the sun rising and setting. When God created the sun, moon, and stars, He established days, seasons, months, and years. This teaches us something very important: **God created time itself**. God is not controlled by time. He existed before time began and rules over it (Psalm 90:2).

Because God created time, He is never late, never rushed, and never confused. Everything God does happens at exactly the right moment. This helps us trust God, because the One who created time knows every moment of our lives.

Why We Can Trust This Account

Creation works together with purpose and harmony. This order shows a wise Creator, not an accident (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 11:3).

What This Shows Us About Jesus

Jesus created the world and later entered it to save us. Just as He brought light at creation, He brings light into our lives (John 8:12).

Why This Matters in God's Big Story

Creation shows God's love and power and prepares us to understand why Jesus came to rescue people made in God's image (Romans 5:8).

WHO GOD IS IN THIS ACCOUNT (TRINITY – CHILD LEVEL)

God is one God in three Persons: - The Father creates (Genesis 1:1). - The Son, Jesus, creates and saves (John 1:3). - The Holy Spirit gives life (Genesis 1:2).

LIFE APPLICATION (FOR CHILDREN)

You were created on purpose and are deeply loved by God (Genesis 1:27). Because you reflect God, you are called to love, care for, and treat others the way God would (Matthew 22:37–39; Ephesians 5:1).

DEFENDING THE TRUTH (REINFORCEMENT)

Question: Could everything have happened by accident?

Answer: No. Everything works together with purpose, showing a wise Creator (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (WITH ANSWERS & SCRIPTURE)

1. Who created everything?

Answer: God created everything. Nothing existed before Him, and He made all things by His power and word (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6).

2. What did God say about His creation?

Answer: God said that everything He made was very good. Creation reflects God's goodness and wisdom (Genesis 1:31; James 1:17).

3. What does it mean to be made in God's image?

Answer: Being made in God's image means God created people to reflect Him here on earth. We are

able to love, think, choose right from wrong, and care for others. We are meant to show God's character by loving others and doing what is right (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 22:37-39; Ephesians 5:1).

4. How does creation help us trust Jesus?

Answer: The Bible teaches that Jesus created all things and holds everything together. If Jesus has the power to create the world, we can trust Him with our lives and our salvation (Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3).

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Activity Title: Creation Fold Book

Purpose: Help children remember the order of creation and understand that God created everything with purpose, including time.

Supplies Needed:

- One sheet of paper per child
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Give each child one sheet of paper.
2. Fold the paper in half **lengthwise** (hot-dog style), then unfold it.
3. Next, fold the paper in half **widthwise** (hamburger style), then unfold it.
4. You should now see creases that divide the paper into **four sections**.
5. Fold the paper in half **one more time**, widthwise, to create a small booklet with **eight pages** when opened.

What to Draw on Each Page:

- Page 1: Day 1 – Light
- Page 2: Day 2 – Sky
- Page 3: Day 3 – Land and plants
- Page 4: Day 4 – Sun, moon, and stars (time begins)
- Page 5: Day 5 – Birds and fish
- Page 6: Day 6 – Animals and people
- Page 7: Day 7 – God rested
- Page 8 (Back): "God created everything good."

As children draw, review each day aloud and remind them that God created everything on purpose and in perfect order.

TEACHER CLOSING PROMPT

Suggested Words:

"God made everything on purpose, and He made you on purpose too. Jesus loves you, created you, and wants you to reflect His love to others."