

THE GREAT CREATOR

GOD'S GREAT GIFT LESSON 1

Key Verses:

GENESIS 1:1-2:4 AND
PSALM 139



Key Focus

In this lesson the children will understand that:

- God made everything good.
- God made us to know Him and follow Him.
- God loves us, and we are precious to Him. We are not a mistake.



Prepare

THINK

The theme of the lesson this week is creation. God created everything from nothing. He spoke, and it became a reality. You will be starting a group. Children will be coming to learn about Jesus and the Bible maybe for the first time. Your words and actions will create an atmosphere where children can learn together in fun and safety. Think carefully about how to make your group welcoming—a place where children really want to come.

READ

Carefully read the story of creation in Genesis 1:1–2:4 and Psalm 139. You may want to meet with another leader to talk about it and pray for each other. Think about being made in God's image and that God created you. He loves you. He knows you. The same is true about each child you will be leading. Look at the first student book, "God's Great Gift," and practice reading the story. Read this lesson plan carefully.

DO

Before the lesson this week, go and find a beautiful place to sit. Think about the way God has made the world. Everything He has made fits together so beautifully. Find some objects from creation that show God's great creativity and design, such as a leaf, cone, seed, or flower. You will show the children some of these things and tell them why you chose these objects.



Materials Needed

- Student books
- Masking tape and index cards with an animal name or picture on the card (Opening Activity option)
- Blank index cards, stapler, stickers that apply to seven days of creation or crayons/markers (Opening Activity option)
- Hand mirror or floor-length mirror (Memory Verse)
- Marshmallows, toothpicks, raisins, and colorful candy (Lesson Activities)
- Crayons and paper (Lesson Activities)



Opening Activity

You may choose to do one or both of these activities as the children come to class.

Activity 1—What Am I? Animal Guess

Prepare: You will need masking tape and index cards. Write an animal name or paste an animal picture on each card, one card for each child plus a few extras for visitors or leaders.

Present: Tape an animal index card to the back of each child without the child seeing what was written or pictured on the card. Tell the children that they are to ask questions that can only be answered "yes" or "no" until they guess correctly the name of the animal printed on their back.

For example:

- *Do I have spots?*
- *Am I a mammal? and*
- *Do I live in the jungle?*

are all legitimate questions. Since we are teaching about creation, be sure to use animals represented in the creation story found in Genesis 1. If you wish, you can divide into teams rather than play individually.

Put a card on the leader's back too. Practice the "yes" or "no" questions with the leader first. When you say "go," have the children ask each other questions. Play until all children have correctly guessed the name of their animal.

Activity 2—Create a Creation Book

Prepare: Staple four blank index cards with one staple in the top left corner. The top page is the title page. Use both sides of each page to have the children draw things God made in creation. If you have sticker sheets, feel free to use these instead. Stickers may include plants, stars, moon, sun, fish, birds, flowers, mammals, and people. Staple enough "books" together so each child has one. Younger children will want to put stickers on the cards. Older children may want to draw their own picture on each page. On a whiteboard or chalkboard, write the days of creation:

Day 1—light and dark

Day 2—water and sky

Day 3—land with plants and seeds

Day 4—stars, moon, sun

Day 5—fish, water animals, and birds

Day 6—mammals and Adam (people)



Present: Give stickers or crayons and a blank book to each child. Ask children to write “Days of Creation” on the front card. Open the book and number each page 1 through 6, representing the days of creation. After the title and numbers are written, draw and/or put stickers on the appropriate pages.



Lesson Presentation—The Story of Creation

Prepare: Hand out the student books and allow the children to browse through them.

Present: *Today we are going to talk about one of the most amazing events that has ever happened—we are going to learn about how God created the world and everything in it. Have you ever wondered how our planet came to be or how YOU came to be? Today we are going to learn the truth about that.*

TIP: It’s best to have Bibles on hand for all the children in the class. If possible, have them turn to the story of creation found in Genesis 1:1–31. Call on children to take turns reading either from the Bible itself or from the material in their student book on pages 1–5.

Read the Bible story of creation to the children. Also read Psalm 139. Read the story slowly and clearly. Use these questions to begin to discuss the story.

Questions to discuss:

- **God is always with you and will always love you. True or false?**
- **What does God know about you? (Everything.) Name some of the things.**
- **How does reading the psalm make you feel about yourself? About God?** (The children may have many different answers.)



Memory Verse

So God created man in his own likeness. *Genesis 1:27*

Prepare: Bring out the mirror.

Present: Have different children take turns looking at themselves in the mirror. Ask them what they see. (An image of themselves.) **Our memory verse says that God made us in His image or in His likeness. What do you think that means? How do you think you might look like God?**

Explain that God does not have a physical body but is a Spirit. But He has given us an eternal nature, a spirit, so that we can live forever with Him. This is one of the main ways that people are different from all the other animals that God made in creation.



How to learn the memory verse:

Divide the children into groups of two. Ask the children to find a partner and stand to face each other. Show them the memory verse found on page 7 in the student book. One child imitates the other as they recite the memory verse. Swap roles and repeat. They can move their hands and face as they say the words.

Show the children how to use a mirror to help remember the memory verse.



Lesson Activities:

1. What Can You Create?

Prepare: Have full-size marshmallows, toothpicks, raisins, and colorful candy for the children to use in creating their own animal.

Present: *We just read about all the amazing things that God created and how He made us in His likeness. Now it’s your turn. Use the marshmallows, toothpicks, raisins, and candy to create your own animal. Be prepared to share a way that your animal is like you and a way that it’s different.* (For example: *My animal has two legs, and I have two legs. OR, my animal has a tail, but I don’t.*)

2. Retell the Creation Story in Pairs

Ask children to sit with a partner facing them. Have the pairs spread around the room. One child is the storyteller and the other the listener. Ask each storyteller to tell the story of creation to their partner. The listener is to carefully listen and then, at the end, remind the storyteller of anything they have missed. Have them switch roles and repeat.

Questions to discuss:

- **What did God say after each day’s work in creation?** (“And God said it was good.”)
- **What good things can you see in the world today?** (The children may have many answers.)
- **What did God say that was different after He created people?** (He said it was VERY good.)

3. Apply the Bible Story

Prepare: Each child will need a piece of paper and a pencil.

Present: Ask each child to draw a circle in the middle of their page. On the outside of the circle they write things about themselves that people can see and know. On the inside they write things about themselves that people can’t see and only a few people know.

BOOK 1-GOD'S GREAT GIFT

Questions to discuss:

- **Why don't other people know everything about us?** (They can't read our thoughts; we are private.)
- **Is there anyone who knows everything about us?** (No one except God.)
- **How does God know all about us?** (He made us, and He is interested in our lives.)

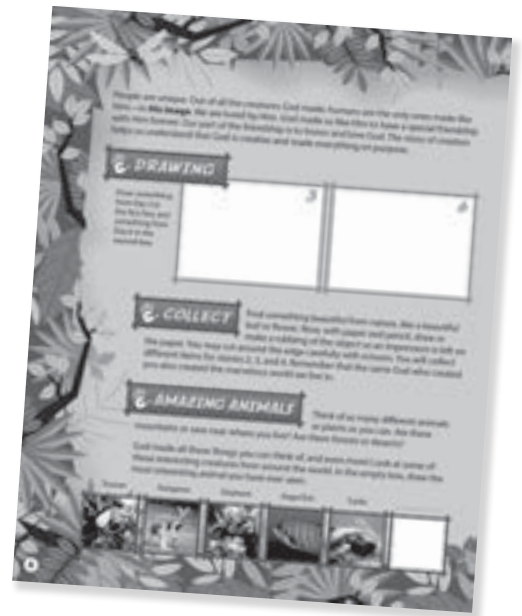
Ask the children the following questions. Ask them not to call out the answers but to keep a tally on their fingers of ones they know. The questions start out easy, but by the last question, they will realize that they don't know everything about themselves.

1. **What color are your eyes?**
2. **How many toes do you have?**
3. **How old are you?**
4. **What was the first word you ever spoke?**
5. **How many teeth do you have?**
6. **How many hairs are on your head?**
7. **What will you do in the future?**

**God knows everything about us, and that's great.
He loves us, so let's thank Him now.**

4-6. From the Student Book

Choose any of the three activities found on page 6 in the student book—"Drawing," "Collect," or "Amazing Animals"—to do with the children in your class.



Prayer Time

Dear God, thank You that You have made an amazing world. Thank You that You made people, including me, and that we are so important to You. Thank You for loving me and caring about me. Help us to remember that You made everything and are in charge of everything. In Jesus' Name, amen.



Take-Home Challenge

Do you have a favorite tree at your house or school? Pretend that tree is the Tree of Life (a special one God planted in the garden of Eden). Sit underneath that tree, just like Adam and Eve might have done as they talked to God before they sinned. God loves this tree! What will you say to God? What might God say to you?