



GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1–2

The Book of Genesis introduces the primary focus of all of Scripture—God. In the beginning, God! Those simple words highlight that God is the One who began everything recorded in the Bible. Some argue the origins of the earth, but those who believe the Bible know that the earth and everything on it exists by the voice of, and for the glory of, God. Genesis 1–2 declares things that can only be done by God. Man can invent new things using what God has already created, but God created everything from absolutely nothing. Apart from God, nothing would exist today.

God's eternal existence is evident from the very first verse of the Bible. If God created, then He must have already existed. Each day of creation, as outlined in the biblical text, attributes the acts of creation to God, noting that creation came into being only through the voice of the Creator. God said, and it was! Upon its initial creation, the earth was empty and formless. God set to fill His creation in a logical and methodical progression. The next five days of creation would transform what was uninhabitable into something that contained and sustained life of all kinds.

When the earth had no form and was plunged in darkness, God created light. This light is not connected with the sun, which is created later, but is representative of God, Himself, who is light. God, Himself, provided the light to make His creation visible. On day 2, God created the sky to separate water on the earth from that above. Day 3 saw the creation of dry land and vegetation. Each of these days created a place to support future creation.

Day 4 brought the creation of the celestial bodies which provided illumination for the day and the night. Day 5 followed with the creation of living beings: birds for the sky and fish for the sea. The uninhabited, formless darkness now sustained life. Day 6 brought land animals and God's greatest creation—the people to whom God desired to be joined in fellowship. Following His creation, God declared it all very good. Very good indeed!

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1–2

In the very beginning, there was nothing except God. The earth was empty. Then God began to create the heavens and the earth.

God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light! God thought the light was good. God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” This was the first day.

The next day God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters.” So God made the expanse and called it “sky” on the second day of creation.

On the third day of creation, God spoke and created dry land called “earth.” He gathered the waters together and called them “seas.” Next, God created plants and trees. God saw that everything He had created was good.

On the fourth day God said, “Let there be lights in the sky.” God made the sun to give light in the day and the moon and stars to give light at night. And it was good.

Next, God created all kinds of sea creatures. Fish, dolphins, whales, stingrays, and more were created to swim through the seas. He created all types of birds to fly. Robins, cardinals, ravens, doves, and parrots were created. This happened on the fifth day of creation.

On day 6, God said, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animals.” Cows, horses, lions, zebras, giraffes, and more were created. God saw that His creation was good. God spoke again, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule over all the animals.” God formed man from the dust of the ground. Then He breathed the breath of life into the man and man became a living being.

God planted a garden in Eden and He placed man in the garden. God made many trees grow in the garden, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden. Another tree grew in the garden. It was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave the man one command—he could eat from any tree in the garden, but he could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God created man in His image. God also created a helper for man—a woman. God saw all He had made and it was good.

On the seventh day, God saw that all of His work was finished and He rested. God called it holy because He rested from His work of creation.

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God’s special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND HOME THESE FAMILY RESOURCES EACH WEEK.

- “Explore the Bible At Home” (Printables)
- Explore the Bible: Kids Family Cards

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: "Peacock Mantis Shrimp" (Slide)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, "Text Truth 1" (Slide), Family Cards
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: "Isaiah 40:28" (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: crayons, paper, music

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Welcome girls and boys. Begin learning kids' names.
- Explain that you will describe something and when someone thinks they know what is being described they should stand up. Pause after each of the first six facts and allow kids to share their guesses.
 1. I live in warm ocean waters.
 2. I am multi-colored with bright green, orange, red, and blue.
 3. I can detect ten times more color than a human.
 4. I can move each of my eyes independently.
 5. I am a crustacean.
 6. I can grow two to seven inches long.
 7. I am a peacock mantis shrimp.
- Display the "Peacock Mantis Shrimp" slide.
- Say: "The peacock mantis shrimp is really interesting. Did you know that it can punch other creatures to protect itself? Its punch can break the shell of a crab or mollusk. God created this shrimp and knew exactly what it needed to live and survive. God is an amazing Creator."

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the Text Truth: **God is the author and ruler of creation.** Invite everyone to read the statement with you.
- Say: "Today we are going to look at this Bible truth. Open your Bibles to Genesis 1." Demonstrate how to use the table of contents in the front of the Bible to help kids understand how to locate Bible books.
- Say: "*Genre* is a word used to describe the type of writing something is (*example: poem, letter, novel*). For the next several weeks we will be studying the genre of law. The writing of the Book of Genesis is in the genre of law."
- Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1. Inquire: "Who was in the beginning?" (*God*) "God has always existed. He was not created like we were. God has always been and He will always be. (*Hebrews 1:10-12*) Wow! My mind struggles to understand how all of that can be because I am only human. God is so much bigger and greater than I am. Isn't that wonderful? It helps me know I can trust that He is in charge and always understands what is happening, even if I don't. Let's look at some more verses."
- Ask another volunteer to read Genesis 1:3. Invite another volunteer to read Genesis 1:9. Discuss with boys and girls how God created the world through speaking. He is all-powerful. All He had to do was say it and it happened.

- Continue telling the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Select a volunteer to read Genesis 1:27. Ask: “Whose image was man made in? Why is that important?”
- Say: “God made us in His image. We are different than the plants and animals. We have a special purpose. We were created to have a relationship with God and bring Him glory.”
- Distribute Family Cards. Encourage girls and boys to talk about the questions on the back of the card with their family this week.
- Also remind kids that when they see the object, the peacock mantis shrimp, it can remind them of the Text Truth: **God is the author and ruler of creation.**

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 1 video.
- Ask: “What location did you see today? Where do we see God’s amazing power in creation? Why did God create you? What is your purpose?”

MEMORY VERSE

- ☐ *Bible Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Isaiah 40:28. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bible Verse. This week’s Bible Verse is Genesis 1:31a.*

- Display the “Isaiah 40:28” poster.
- Lead boys and girls to read the verse together. Ask: “What does this verse tell us about God?” (*Possible Answers: He is everlasting. He is the Creator. He does not become tired [faint] or weary. His understanding has no limits.*)
- Encourage the kids to practice the verse while moving like some of the things God has created. (*Suggestions: Sway arms like a tree moving in the wind; hop like a frog; wiggle or slither like a snake; float like a butterfly; crawl like a cheetah; rotate like the earth.*)

PRAYER

- Distribute crayons and paper to boys and girls. Explain that while the music plays, everyone should draw something they are glad God created. Kids may choose to write a thank-you prayer to God instead of drawing.
- Play a minute or two of a song as kids work. Close by praying aloud when most of the kids have reached a stopping point.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: *Bible Timeline for Kids*, small dry erase boards, dry erase markers
- Tech Connect (Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages.
- Review today's object by inviting a volunteer to read aloud about the "Crazy Cool Creation!"
- Direct kids to examine the objects and take turns reading about the "Archaeological Apologetics."
- Help boys and girls complete the "Creation Word Search" to review today's Bible story about creation.
- Invite volunteers to read about creation in "Journey through the Days of Creation."
- Guide kids to find a friend to play the "Creation Grid" game.

REVIEW

☐ *Tip: You can substitute scrap paper and markers for the dry erase boards, or form groups of 2-3 if you do not have enough dry erase boards for each kid.*

- Display the timeline and help kids note the Bible book studied today (*Genesis*).
- Give each kid a small dry erase board and a dry erase marker. Explain that you will name something God created and kids should write on their board the day it was created on. Allow kids to use their Bibles for 30 seconds to look for the correct answer. After everyone has written down a guess, guide boys and girls to reveal their answers. Share the correct day and continue playing as time allows.
 - ▶ The sun: Day 4
 - ▶ Fish: Day 5
 - ▶ Trees: Day 3
 - ▶ Adam and Eve: Day 6
 - ▶ Birds: Day 5
 - ▶ The sky: Day 2
 - ▶ The stars: Day 4
 - ▶ Land animals: Day 6
 - ▶ Dry land: Day 3

TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Small Group, download the LifeWay Kids app. Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" in the Explore the Bible: Kids section of the app.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND RULER OF CREATION.



CRAZY COOL CREATION!

What is **SEVEN INCHES** long, has a 50-mile-per-hour punch, is as colorful as a **RAINBOW**, and is strong enough to break glass? It's the **PEACOCK MANTIS SHRIMP!** This creature's super-strong claws come in handy when cracking into the crabs and other mollusks it finds to eat in the tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Why does such a beautiful, strong, and interesting creature exist? **YAHWEH**, the everlasting God, **CREATED EVERYTHING**—including the peacock mantis shrimp. Like all of God's creatures, this colorful shrimp exists to give glory to our awesome God!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL APOLOGETICS

Throughout history, people have tried to explain how the world began. Here are some artifacts from those people.

The Bible teaches us that God created everything and rules over it. We can have confidence in this because **THE BIBLE IS THE PERFECT, ACCURATE, INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.**

CUNEIFORM TABLET WITH THE TEXT OF THE BABYLONIAN EPIC OF CREATION, 700 BC



SILVER GOBLET SHOWING SCENES FROM A BABYLONIAN CREATION MYTH, AROUND 2000 BC



BRONZE SWORD SHOWING CHARACTERS FROM A CREATION MYTH FROM ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA, 1200-800 BC



CUNEIFORM TABLET WITH THE TEXT OF THE SUMERIAN CREATION MYTH, 2000 BC



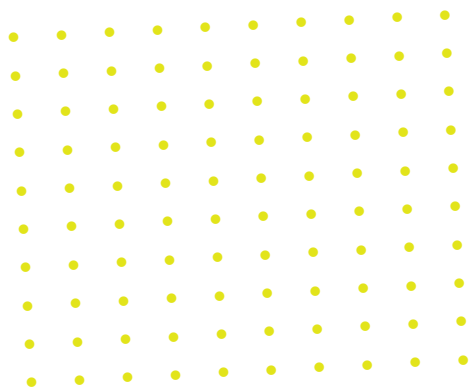
BIBLE PASSAGE:
GENESIS 1-2

MEMORY VERSE:
ISAIAH 40:28

Journey through THE DAYS OF CREATION

CREATION GRID

Choose one or two friends to play this game with you. On your turn name something God created, then draw a line to connect two dots in the grid. After a couple of turns you will have several lines. When you draw a line that forms a square, write your initial inside the square and take a bonus turn. When all the dots have become squares, the player with the most squares with initials wins.



CREATION WORD SEARCH

Find each item that God created in the word search puzzle: day, night, sky, earth, seas, plants, trees, sun, stars, birds, fish, livestock, people

S A E A V T R E E S
T D Y S D R I B U G
N A Q W G J Z T O S
A Y J F I S H H K T
L I G Q A J V G W A
P Q Z E W V J I L R
D Y S J Z S Z N E S
E L P O E P U H O U
K S K Y E W Q N A W
Y Z B V Y E A R T H
L I V E S T O C K O

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CREATION?

1 LIGHT AND DARK, DAY AND NIGHT GENESIS 1:5

At night, the San Pedro de Atacama desert in Chile is the darkest place on earth.



2 THE SKY AND THE WATER UNDERNEATH IT GENESIS 1:7-8

Solar wind collided with the earth's atmosphere and caused this aurora borealis.



3 DRY LAND, SEAS, VEGETATION, SEED-BEARING PLANTS, AND FRUIT TREES GENESIS 1:10-11

The Venus Flytrap is a plant that eats bugs.



4 THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS GENESIS 1:14-16

Have you ever seen the sun and moon in the sky at the same time?



5 SEA CREATURES AND BIRDS GENESIS 1:20

Sunlight refracting off this hummingbird's feathers makes a rainbow of colors.



6 WILDLIFE, LIVESTOCK, AND ANIMALS THAT CREEP ON THE GROUND GENESIS 1:25

Did you know there are more than 5,400 species of mammals in the world?

