

References

Genesis 1:1–25;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 44, 45



Memory Verse

“In the beginning God
created the heavens
and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1, NIV).

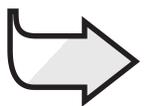


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God
created the world and
everything in it.

Feel glad that God has
created so many beautiful
things for us to enjoy.

Respond by joyfully focus-
ing on God’s love in nature.



The Message

“God is love” is written
upon all He made.

A New World

Monthly Theme

God has always loved us, even before we were born.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God creates our world in six days and rests on the seventh. Each creative act is a stepping-stone to the next. Without the heavens the stars will have nowhere to hang. The animals cannot exist without dry land and vegetation. Everything is a token of His love, constantly reminding humankind that we are precious to Him.

This is a lesson about grace.

God created a beautiful world as a home for humankind. He gave us everything we could possibly need. Even though creation has been damaged by sin, it still speaks of God’s love.

Teacher Enrichment

“As the earth came forth from the hand of its Maker, it was exceedingly beautiful. Its surface was diversified with mountains, hills, and plains, interspersed with noble rivers and lovely lakes; but the hills and mountains were not abrupt and rugged, abounding in terrific steepes and frightful chasms, as they now do; the sharp, ragged edges of earth’s rocky framework were buried beneath the fruitful soil, which everywhere produced a luxuriant growth of verdure. There were no loathsome swamps or barren deserts. Graceful shrubs and delicate flowers greeted the eye at every turn. The heights were crowned with trees more majestic than any that now exist. The air, untainted by foul miasma, was clear and healthful. The entire landscape outvied in beauty the decorated grounds of the proudest palace. The angelic host viewed the scene with delight, and rejoiced at the wonderful works of God” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 44).

Room Decorations

Set up a show and tell table. Invite the children to bring their “natural” treasures to show.

Create a bulletin board. Show the seven days of Creation: light, sky; oceans, trees and flowers; sun, moon and stars; birds and sea creatures, animals, people, and the Sabbath.

Use plants and branches in containers of soil to create a “garden” feeling.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Fantasy Animals</i> B. <i>Treasure Hunt</i> C. <i>Leaves Galore</i>	paper, pencils flashlight, sponge, leaf, paper star, toy bird or plastic fish, stuffed animal selection of tree leaves
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> shell or natural container branch in a container of sand, paper leaf shapes (see p. 140), pencils, hole punch, yarn
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	flashlight; dark paper with several small holes to fit over flashlight; container of water; earth/sand in a bucket; leaves; twigs; large tray; toy animals, birds, and fish or felt pictures of animals, birds, and fish none Bibles, 12 nature pictures
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Psalm of Praise</i> B. <i>Gifts From God</i>	Bibles, paper, pencils gift-wrapped box, nature objects
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>God Loves You</i> B. <i>Creating a World</i>	flower for each student, card stock, hole punch, string, markers seven circles of card stock per child, markers or colored pencils, one brass fastener per child, hole punch, string

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils

A. Fantasy Animals

Give each child a sheet of paper. Say: **We are going to draw an animal or fish or bird. Draw a head using about a quarter of the paper. When finished fold the paper over so your neighbor cannot see what you have drawn. Pass it to the person on your right. Without looking at what came before, that person is to draw the upper body of an animal, fish, or bird. Again, fold the paper and pass it on. Now draw the lower body of an animal, fish, or bird. Again, fold the paper and pass it on. Now draw the legs/feet of the animal, fish, or bird, and pass it on. The person who receives the paper last is to open the picture and see what has been created.**

Debriefing

Look at the various creatures. Ask: **What is wrong with these creatures? Why would they not survive?** (They would not be able to breathe properly or move around.) **When God made everything, it was perfect. And that’s what today’s lesson is about. Why did God make so many wonderful things?** (To show us how much He loves us) **Today’s message is:**



“GOD IS LOVE” IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- flashlight
- sponge
- leaf
- paper star
- toy bird or plastic fish
- stuffed animal

B. Treasure Hunt

In advance, hide the six objects around the room. If you have a large group, hide two sets and tie a colored ribbon around each item in one set.

Say: **I have hidden six items around the room. When you have found them, decide how they are related.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What is the relationship among these things?** Lead the discussion to conclude that these are things God created for us to enjoy. Ask: **In what order were they created?** If they don’t know, say: **Let’s see if we can put them in the right order, and after we have studied today’s lesson, we will see if we are right.** Write the list for all to see. **Why did God make so many beautiful things?** (To show us how much He loves us; for us to enjoy) **Today’s message reminds us that . . .**



“GOD IS LOVE” IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

Say that with me.

C. Leaves Galore

Supply a variety of tree leaves. Ask: **Does anyone know what kind of trees these leaves came from? How can you be certain that they came from those types of trees?** Point out the differences among the leaves.

You Need:

- selection of tree leaves

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think God created such variety? Yes, God gives us beautiful things to show us how much He loves us. We will learn more about that today.**

Today's message is:



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

Prayer and Praise **Any Time**



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 51)
- "From the Darkness Came Light" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 53)
- "Can You Imagine?" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 29)
- "This Is a Lovely World" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 52)
- "Think of a World Without Any Flowers" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 60)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize God's grace in the story.



Offering

Say: **Grace is God's gift of love to us because He loves us. Our offering today will help others learn about God's grace.**

You Need:

- shell or natural container



Prayer

In advance, prepare copies of leaf shapes, one per child. (See page 140.) Punch a hole in each and thread yarn through it. Give each child a leaf and ask them to write or draw on it one of God's many gifts. Have the children hang their leaves on the tree and say, **"Thank You, God, for** (name the item)."

You Need:

- branch in a container of sand
- paper leaf shapes (see p. 140)
- pencils
- hole punch
- yarn

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- flashlight
- dark paper with several small holes to fit over flashlight
- water in a container
- earth/sand in a bucket
- leaves/twigs
- large tray
- toy animals, birds, fish (or felts or pictures)

Experiencing the Story

Before you read or tell the story, turn out all the lights and make the room as dark as possible.

Read or tell the story.

(The classroom is in darkness.) God looked at the dark watery space. It was time to put His plans for earth into motion. So God said, "Let there be light." *(Turn on the flashlight.)* Suddenly there was a bright light. God divided the light and the darkness. He called the light day and the darkness night. This was the first day of Creation.

God looked at the water. He spoke and the water divided, forming the sky. *(Have a helper turn on an electric fan or fan the children with paper.)* This was the second day of Creation.

God looked at the watery world and said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered in one place and dry ground appear." *(Have the children take some dirt and put it on a tray.)* As He spoke, it happened. God called the waters "seas" and the dry ground "land." God looked at the land and the sea, and He saw that it was good. *(Smooth out the dirt.)*

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. *(Have the children put twigs/leaves in the dirt/sand.)* God looked at the plants and the trees and saw that it was good. This was the third day of Creation.

God looked up at the sky and said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to separate day and night. They will light

the earth and mark seasons, days, and years." God made two great lights. The sun was the brighter light to shine during the day. *(Turn on a bright flashlight.)* The moon was the weaker light to shine at night. God also made the stars. *(Punch several holes in a piece of dark paper and place it over the flashlight or have several small lights. It would be best to turn off the lights during this activity.)* God looked at the sun, the moon, and the stars and saw that it was good. This was the fourth day of Creation.

God said, "Let the water be filled with living things, and let birds fly in the air above the earth." *(Show fish and birds or pictures of them.)* God looked at all the creatures that live in the water and all the birds and saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Have many young ones so that you may grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth." This was the fifth day of Creation.

God said, "Let the land produce living creatures—livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals." *(Show animals or pictures of them.)* God looked at them and saw that they were good. Then God said, "Let's make people in our image. They will rule over the fish of the sea, the birds, the livestock, things that creep on the ground, and all the other animals."

God created man and woman and blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and increase in number. Fill the earth and rule over it. I give you all the seed-bearing plants and fruits of the trees for food. I give every creature every green plant for food." God looked at everything that He had made and it was very good. This was the sixth day of Creation.

God made the world in six days. When He finished making it beautiful, He gave it to Adam and Eve to take care of and enjoy. God still loves to give us wonderful gifts. When we see wonderful things in nature, we can thank God for the beautiful gifts He still gives us today.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do we know that God made plans before He created the world?** (Everything was created in a logical order. God created vegetation before creating animals, etc.)

Who did God say would look after everything? (The humans He created—Adam and Eve.)

Why do you think God waited until the end of the week to create Adam and Eve? (He wanted everything to be perfect for them.)

God's Creation was a gift to Adam and Eve to remind them of His love. And that brings me to our message for today. Let's say it together.



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

Memory Verse

Repeat the following until the children know the verse.

In the beginning	Put index finger up.
God	Point upward.
created	Hands in motion as if modeling clay.
the heavens	Raise both hands above head and sweep in an arc

and the earth.

from left to right. Point outward making a wide circle.

Genesis 1:1

Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

In advance, hide the pictures around the room. Have more than one picture for each day of Creation. Say: **There are 12 pictures of things God made hidden around the room. When you find a picture, look in Genesis 1 to find out what day God created that thing.**

Debriefing

Have the students hold up their pictures and name the Creation day.

If you used Readiness B, call attention to the list saved from that activity. Have the children make changes, if needed.

Ask: **How did God feel about His work of Creation?** (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 25. It was good.)

How did God feel when Creation was complete? (Genesis 1:31. It was very good.)

How do you feel when you see the wonderful things that God has made? (Good, happy, pleased, cheerful, thankful)

What does Creation tell you about God? (He loves beautiful things, but most of all, He loves us.) **Let's say today's message together:**



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

You Need:

- Bibles
- 12 nature pictures

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils

A. Psalm of Praise

Say: **One of the themes of the psalms in the Bible is praising God for showing His love through His creation. Let's read some examples.** Read the following texts together:

Psalm 148
 Psalm 136:1–9

What are some of the things that show us God's love? Allow discussion time. Form small groups. **Let's write a psalm based on how we feel when we see God's gifts of love in nature. Either write something by yourself or think of three examples that fit with these words.**

When I see ... (name of something that God has made)

It reminds me of God's ... (a characteristic of God; for example, goodness, love, power, protection)

I praise Him for ... (the things mentioned above)

Debriefing

Encourage the students to share their psalms. Ask: **If I feel sad, how can looking at some of God's nature gifts make me feel better?** (They tell me that He loves me.)

When I plant an apple seed, what will I get? (An apple tree) **What does this tell me about God?** (Like the seed, He is always the same.) **He gave gifts of love to Adam and Eve, and He gives us gifts of love today. Remember ...**



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

B. Gifts From God

In advance, prepare a gift-wrapped box with familiar nature objects. Say:

I have a box with some gifts from God. Invite one child to unwrap the box, take an object (without looking), and hold it up for all to see. Ask: **How can this remind us of God's love?** Allow time. Suggested items:

You Need:

- gift-wrapped box
- nature objects

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| stone/rock | God is strong and helps us. God gives us strength. |
| flower | God dresses the flowers in beautiful colors. He gives us beauty. |
| seed | When you plant a seed, you always know what will grow. God never changes. You can always rely on God. |
| water | Water cleanses. God takes away our sin. Water is necessary for us to live. God provides for all our needs. |
| leaves | Leaves provide shelter. God is a shelter when we have difficult times. |

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you give presents?** (Because you like the person.) **Why does God surround us with His gifts of love?** (To show us how much He loves us. He wants us to remember that He will always be with us.) **Remember:**



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

Sharing the Lesson

A. God Loves You

Discuss with the students different ways a flower tells us that God loves us. (The beauty tells us.) Give each child a flower and a small card. Say: **On one side of the card, write "God loves you." On the other side, write the name of a person you want to give your flower to.** Attach the card to the flower.

You Need:

- flower for each student
- card stock
- hole punch
- string
- markers

Debriefing

Invite the children to tell to whom they are going to give their flower and what they are going to say. Ask each in turn: **What is your favorite flower, bird, or animal? Why? How does it tell you about God's love? When you give your flower away, tell the person why God made beautiful things. Let's say our message together:**



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

B. Creating a World

Give each child seven circles. Review the days of Creation. Have them draw on the circles things that represent each of the first six days. On the last circle, have them write today's message. Punch a hole in the top of each circle and fasten them (in order) with a brass fastener. Divide the children into groups of two or three. Say: **Share your Creation pictures. Tell your group why you chose what you drew. When you have finished, read today's message from your last circle.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Who would like to share with the whole group what their favorite animal, plant, or bird is, and how it reminds them of God's love?** Give each child the opportunity to share.

With whom will you share your circles when you go home? As you do so, be sure to tell them about God's busy week in creating a world for us to enjoy. And share today's message with them. Let's say our message together:



"GOD IS LOVE" IS WRITTEN UPON ALL HE MADE.

You Need:

- seven card stock circles per child
- markers/colored pencils
- one brass fastener per child
- hole punch
- string

Closing

Gather in a circle. Say: **Let's close by saying thank You to God for all the wonderful things He has made. I will begin, and then we will go around the circle. When it is your turn, just say the name of what you want to thank God for.**

Close with prayer.

A New World

References

Genesis 1:1–25;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp. 44, 45

Memory Verse

“In the beginning
God created the
heavens and the
earth” (Genesis 1:1,
NIV).

The Message

“God is love” is
written upon all He
made.

Have you ever been in a very dark place? No light anywhere? That is just what it was like when God began to create our world.

God looked at the dark, watery space. It was time to put His plans for earth into motion. Then God said, “Let there be light.” And suddenly there was a bright light. God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light day and the darkness night. This was the first day of Creation.

God looked around. Water covered everything. He spoke and the waters divided, forming the sky. This was the second day of Creation.

God looked at the watery world. He said, “Let the water under the sky be separated and let dry ground appear.” As He spoke, it happened. God called the waters “seas” and the dry ground “land.” God looked at the land and the seas, and He saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. God looked at the plants and trees, and saw that it was good. This was the third day of Creation.

God looked up at the sky. “Let there be lights in the heavens to separate day and night,” He said. “They will light the

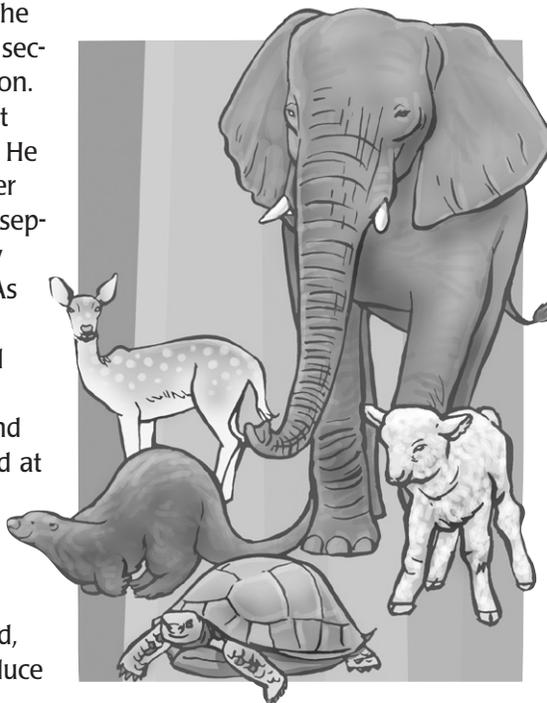
earth and mark seasons, days, and years.” God made two great lights. The sun was the brighter light to shine during the day. The moon was the weaker light to shine at night. God also made the stars. God looked at the sun, the moon, and the stars and saw that it was good. This was the fourth day of Creation.

God said, “Let the seas and the rivers be filled with living creatures. Let birds fill the air with their songs.” God looked at all the creatures that live in the water. He watched the birds. “That’s good!” He said. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number. Fill the seas, the rivers, and the sky.” This was the fifth day of Creation.

God said, “Let the land produce living creatures—livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals.” God looked at them and saw that they were good. Then God said, “Let us make people in our image. They will rule over the fish of the sea, the birds, the livestock, the animals that creep on the ground, and all other living things.”

God created man and woman (next week’s lesson will give the details

of how that happened) and blessed them saying, “Be fruitful and increase in number. Fill the earth and rule over it. I give you all the seed-bearing plants and fruits of the trees for food. I give every creature every green plant for food.” God looked at everything that He had made, and it was very good. This was the sixth day of Creation.



God made the world in six days. When He finished making it beautiful, He gave it to Adam and Eve to care of and enjoy. God still gives us wonderful gifts today because He loves us. When we see the wonderful things in nature, let's remember that God's love is shown by the things He has made.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go for a walk with your family and look at things God made. How many different kinds of trees can you find?
- Have each member of the family choose a different alphabet letter. Ask: How many things God made can you think of that begin with that letter?
- Thank God for the beautiful things in nature.
- Review the memory verse.

Sunday

- During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 1:1–5 together. How many different types of lights can you find in your house?
- When does the sun rise and set where you live?
- Sit alone in a dark room, in your home, for a few minutes. What does it feel like? Thank God for both the light and the dark.
- Review the memory verse.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 1:6–8 during worship today. Think of three Bible stories involving water. Tell your family about them.
- Fill a basin with water. Scoop some water up in your hands. How much can you hold? Remember, to be healthy you should drink 6-8 glasses of water every day. So drink a glass of water right now.
- Fill in the blanks to describe three forms of water. L _____, I __, V _____. What is the biggest lake in your country?
- Look at the sky. Draw any clouds, birds, or planes you may have seen there. Then thank God for the sky.
- Review the memory verse.

Tuesday

- For family worship today, read and discuss Genesis 1:9–13.
- How many different seeds can you find? Mount them on paper and take them to Sabbath School on Sabbath.
- Place a leaf on the table, cover it with paper, and rub over it with a wax crayon. What happens?

- Survey your family to find out what their favorite vegetable is. Share the results with them, then thank God for all the wonderful plants.
- Review the memory verse.

Wednesday

- For family worship today, read and discuss Genesis 1:14–19. What is the difference between a planet and a star? (Look in a dictionary or, with your parents' help, on the internet.)
- Name the planets that make up our solar system. (Research this at the library or online.) Draw the shapes of those planets and attach different lengths of thread. Tie the threads to a coat hanger and hang the hanger where you can enjoy it.
- Name an Old Testament story and a New Testament story involving stars. Then thank God for the sun, moon, and stars.
- Review the memory verse.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Genesis 1:20–23 with your family.
- Draw a fish. Who was swallowed by a large fish?
- Put out some bread crumbs for the birds. How many different birds came?
- Go outside with a family member and stand still. Hear any bird songs? The birds praise God with their songs. Sing a favorite praise song, then thank God for birds and fish.
- Review the memory verse.

Friday

- Read Genesis 1 for family worship tonight.
- Throw a wadded piece of paper to family members. As you throw, name a day of Creation and ask them to name something created on that day.
- Mix a little water with some clay and model a person. Leave it somewhere to dry.
- Thank God for making your family and for giving you all His wonderful gifts of grace.
- Say the memory verse from memory for your family.

Monday Key: Liquid, ice, vapor