Lesson 1: God Is the Creator

Overview:

Key Focus: God is the Creator of all things, and people are made in His image.

Bible Story: Seven Days of Creation

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1–2:3; John 1:1–3

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Playdough (enough for each child in each small group) Look online for recipes to make large batches of playdough.
- Make signs for each day of creation (Day 1, etc.), and on the back of each sign, tape a copy of the scriptures to read about that day's creation.

Engage:

Take a large blob of playdough and show it to the group. **What is this?** Let them respond. **It is a "dog."** Let the children insist that it isn't anything yet. Have volunteers come and take turns shaping it into a dog. **The dog didn't just appear; it had to be created. Real dogs are the same—they need a Creator. Today, we will learn that nothing existed until God made it!**

Memory Verse Activity:
You may choose to use only the first half of this verse, or extend the verse to cover more than one week's memory verse. Depending on your classroom, display the verse on a screen or write it on the board.

Point to each word as you read the verse together. Instruct the group that they will alternate saying each word of the verse between boys and girls. Explain that when it is their word to say, they will jump up while they say the word and then quickly sit down again. If they don't say the word while they jump, they stay seated for the rest of the verse. You might want to have your helpers demonstrate for the group. Each time you begin the verse, alternate the start between the boys and girls. Repeat several times, allowing all children to participate again at the new beginning.

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Bible Story:

The Bible is God's Word. God has three parts: God the Father; God the Son, Jesus; and God the Holy Spirit. When the Bible tells us that God created the world, the creation involved all three parts of God working together as Creator. Read John 1:1–3. **These verses use the word "Word" to refer to Jesus.** Reread the verses substituting "Jesus" for "Word," "He," and "Him." **We definitely know that Jesus was part of creating the world and everything in it. Let's read the Bible's description of creation and see where the Holy Spirit is.** Read Genesis 1:1–2. **Where is the Holy Spirit mentioned?** (Verse 2 says the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.) Explain that "hovering" means sweeping over or moving over the waters.

Select a child to hold the "Day 1" sign and read Genesis 1:3–5, or you hold and read the verses from the backside of the sign. **Why was it important to have both light and darkness?** (Possible answers: Plants would burn up if they only had light; darkness helps us sleep at night.)

Display the "Day 2" sign and read Genesis 1:6–8. "**Firmament" means the space between the clouds and the surface of the two waters. God created an area He called heaven. It is hard to picture what Day 2 looked like, but we can trust that God created according to His perfect design. We don't have to understand everything, but we trust that God's Word is true. What did God say to end the day of creation?** (It was good.)

Display the "Day 3" sign and read Genesis 1:9–13. **God gathered all the water together to make the seas and also made dry land. What are some things that God created and put on Earth?** (grass, herbs, fruit trees) **These verses tell us something that has never changed, that seeds will only grow plants that match the plant it is from. So, an apple tree will never grow oranges. What did God say to end the day of creation?** (It was good.)

Display the "Day 4" sign and read Genesis 1:14–19. **On the first day, God created light out of darkness, but now God organized the lights in the sky. He created the sun to be the strong daytime light, and the moon was the softer nighttime light. He also made stars. What did God say to end the day of creation?** (It was good.)

Display the "Day 5" sign and read Genesis 1:20–23. **On the fifth day, God created the water creatures and the birds. What are some of God's creations in the water?** (Let children name fish, amphibians, and water mammals.) **What are some of God's bird creations?** (Answers will vary.) **What did God say to end the day of creation?** (It was good.)

Display the "Day 6" sign and read Genesis 1:24–31. **The sixth day has two different creations. First, God created all the land animals and told the animals that they would only have babies that were the same kind. Cows have cows and will never have baby lions. After creating animals, God said, "It was good."**

Then, God created His special creation, man. Why was the pronoun "our" used? (Our means more than one and refers to the Trinity, the three parts of God.) **Only man was created in the image of God, and that makes humans unique and very special to God. His image means we have characteristics of God's personality, such as creativity, love, and compassion. Even people who don't believe in God are made in His image, and nothing can change or take that out of them. God created man and told him to be in charge of all His creation. Verse 28 shows us that God blessed His creation and told it to multiply and fill the earth. He wanted His creations to keep having more of their kind so the earth would be full and bring glory to God. What did God say to end the day of creation?** (It was very good.)

Display the "Day 7" sign and read Genesis 2:1–3. **God worked hard for six days and then rested. God showed us that rest is good for our bodies. God did not design people to work seven days a week. He showed us by example that we should take a day off and rest. We can trust God to take care of us and bless our six days of work, so we can rest one day in the week. Some people feel they have to work seven days a week to make money, but that isn't God's plan. The Bible tells us the day of rest called "the Sabbath" is holy. Christians treat Sunday as the Sabbath day and go to church. Jewish people celebrate the day of rest starting at sundown on Friday and going until sundown on Saturday. God wants us to rest in His power and provision and not try to do everything in our own power!**

Bible Story Questions:

- **How many days did God create things?** (6)
- **What was different about the seventh day?** (God blessed the day and then rested.)
- **Why didn't God make man first of all the things He created?** (Possible answers: Because man needed ground, air, and light in order to live; God saved the best for last because only man is created in God's image.)
- **Why do you think it was important for God to say that each thing He created was good?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Which day of creation is your favorite, and why?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Teach the Greek word for created, *bara'* meaning "carved out" (Strong's Greek Lexicon #1254). This suggests the idea of creation as sculpting and bringing something into a new existence.
    - Depending on the size of your group, divide into small groups and give each group playdough. Call out a number from 1–7, and the children use the playdough to sculpt and make something that was created on that day. Continue with a different number. For Day 7, have the children all shout, "God rested."

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Focus on the aspect that God created people in His image. Have several hand-held mirrors and place them around the room on tables or chairs. Give a signal and have the children go to a mirror and look in it and say, "God made me in His image." Walk around and look in the mirror and say, "I see God in you." Also, find online children's video story or songs about the days of creation to show to the children.

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the group create a mural or class poster showing each day of creation. Give each pair or small group paper and markers or colored pencils. Assign each pair or group one creation day to design their part of the mural/poster.

Worksheet:

Hand out the worksheets. Brainstorm together ideas for a headline about creation and explain that they are reporters and need to get the newspaper written. Have them write a headline and use their Bibles to fill in the missing words for the creation report. Set out crayons and markers for designing a travel ad for the Garden of Eden using facts they learned from today's Bible lesson. On the back of their papers, they can draw their favorite day of creation or write a poem or song about creation.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I know God is the Creator, and God created me in His image. God has a good plan for all that He created.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
At school and through media, children are presented with evolution as fact. It is important that Christians base their biblical worldview on God as the Creator. Point out to the children that just because they hear something at school or from a science documentary, it doesn't change God's Word. The Bible begins by showing that God created everything, so we believe God is the Creator of all things, not evolution. Encourage children to learn to counteract the wrong things by repeating the truth, "God created all things."

Missions Connections:
Every culture has a creation story. You might want to share a creation story (find online) from the area where your church missionaries live and work. Pray for people of other cultures to learn about the one, true Creator.

Family Connection:
Each day this week, review a different day of creation by reading the verses that talk about what God created on that day. Discuss how important that creation was and why God created it in the order He did, such as water had to be created before fish. End your discussion by thanking God for that part of creation.

Prayer Points:
Model praying scripture by turning today's memory verse into a prayer:
Thank You, God, that all things were created by You that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. Thank You, God, that all things were created through You and for You. May I bring glory to you today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Close your class time by allowing children to thank God for creating all things as they name something they are thankful God created.

Name _____

Lesson 1: God Is the Creator

Bible Time News

Write a headline for the creation story.

Draw a picture for the creation story.

Write an ad or draw a travel poster for the Garden of Eden.

Fill in this news report.

This is news reporter _____.

Let's recap the amazing events of creation.

Day 1: _____ and darkness

Day 2: firmament (called _____)

Day 3: _____ and dry land

Day 4: sun, _____, and stars

Day 5: _____ and water creatures

Day 6: animals and _____

Day 7: nothing was created, God _____

The world and everything in it were created by

_____.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture of your favorite day of creation. You might want to write a poem or create a song about the seven days of creation.*

ANSWERS

Lesson 1: God Is the Creator

Bible Time News

Write a headline for the creation story.

Draw a picture for the creation story.

Write an ad or draw a travel poster for the Garden of Eden.

Fill in this news report.

This is news reporter _____.
Let's recap the amazing events of creation.

Day 1: light and darkness

Day 2: firmament (called Heaven)

Day 3: seas and dry land

Day 4: sun, moon, and stars

Day 5: birds and water creatures

Day 6: animals and man

Day 7: nothing was created, God rested
The world and everything in it were created by God.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture of your favorite day of creation. You might want to write a poem or create a song about the seven days of creation.*

COPYRIGHT POLICY
You may make copies of Charis Kids Curriculum for use in the church and home. You are not to alter any of the teaching in any Charis Kids printed material. Please feel free to share the website information with other churches, families, and homeschool groups.

CharisChristianCenter.com/Shop
© Copyright 2023 Charis Kids Curriculum. All rights reserved