

In the Beginning

Date: 01.04.26 | God Creates Everything
Scripture: Genesis 1

CENTRAL TRUTHS

PRESCHOOL:

God made everything in six days, rested on the seventh, and said it was good.



YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God made the world and gave it everything it needed.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God is eternal, and He created everything with order and purpose.

STUDENTS:

God made everything for His glory, and it all points back to Him.

ADULTS:

Creation declares God's glory and power, calling us to acknowledge and trust Him.

MEMORY VERSE

*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:16–17*



BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

God = Elohim, which is plural

Heaven and earth = everything.

God created everything in the universe out of nothing. God, in his wisdom, sovereign power, and majesty, is the Creator of all things that exist.

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

Heb. 11:3

God’s creation was accomplished by his word (rhema). God did not make the universe out of any preexisting matter as humans know it.

John 1:1-3

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

“The Word” refers to Jesus, as we see in *John 1:14*, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Jesus was present with God at creation.

God’s Word is effective: God speaks, and things come into being.

“without form and void”= lacked order and content

“The Spirit of God was hovering”- This creates a sense of expectation; something is about to happen. On days 1-3, God created the blank canvas of the earth. On days 4-6, He will fill it.

“darkness”= absence of light

“The Spirit of God was hovering”- This creates a sense of expectation; something is about to happen. On days 1-3, God created the blank canvas of the earth. On days 4-6, He will fill it.

Psalm 90:2

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

God is eternal. He has been God since before creation. The Lord has always been God, and He always will be. God will not change.

Colossians 1:16-17

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, in him all things hold together.”

Psalm 33:6

“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”

God spoke and everything came into existence. That’s power! Not only does creation reveal God’s glory, but the method by which he created does as well. There is even more depth and richness to God’s greeting by spoken word- this method points to Jesus. In *John 1:1*, John draws our attention right away to the awesome reality that the same power that created the universe- the Word- has now come to the very earth he had created to bring salvation.

On the first day, God created light and formed day and night. *Gen. 1:2-5*

Creation begins when God takes a formless, empty, and dark earth and brings order, structure, and light to it. This is not accidental. God is revealing his character to us- he is an orderly God. He also introduces us to the incredibly important concept of light. Throughout Scripture, God uses light as an image of how people come to know Him. Israel was to be a light to the nations (*Isa. 49:6*). The Bible is a lamp to those who read it (*Ps. 119:105*). Jesus is the light of the world (*John 8:12*). And followers of Jesus are to be a light on a hill (Matt. 5:16). It is fitting that creation begins with order and light.

On the second day, God created the sky. *Gen. 1:6-8*

God again creates through separation. This time, God separated the waters to create a space between them: the sky. The waters that were left below would become the sea on day three, and the waters that were separated above would become moisture in the atmosphere. Now, vegetation can grow since there is a water system in place. It won't be surprising to see God create vegetation on the next day.

On the third day, God created land, seas, plants, and trees. *Gen. 1:9-13*
The third and final creative act through separation results in the formation of land masses and the seas. Unlike the first two days, the third day includes two different creative acts. God creates vegetation with the capacity to produce fruit with seed to continue to produce more plants and fruit. The seed shows us God's unique and well-thought-out design of creation. It will also be an important image throughout the OT.

God also creates by separating light and dark. This forms a parallel structure where days one and four, days two and five, and days three and six relate to each other. The sun is not created until day 4, so this light is likely the light of God's glory (*2 Cor. 4:6*).

On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars. *Gen. 1:14-19*
Day 4 parallels day one- On day one, God created light; now on day four, he creates other sources of light in the heavens- the sun, moon, and stars. We see God's design at work as he uses these celestial bodies to not only produce light, but also to separate day and night and to form the seasons. God gave us a way to tell the passing of time.

On the fifth day, God created birds and sea creatures. *Gen. 1:20-23*
The fifth day of creation parallels the second day when the waters were separated, and the sky was formed. Now God fills the waters and the skies with sea creatures and birds. Here, we observe a progression from vegetation to animals, and then, finally, to the pinnacle of creation: man. We see another first from God on this day as he blesses the birds and creatures of the waters and commands them to be fruitful and multiply. This blessing reveals that animals are in a favored position in creation, although they will be surpassed by mankind.

On the sixth day, God created animals and people. *Gen. 1:24-31*
The sixth day of creation parallels the third day when God created the land and vegetation. Now God begins by creating animals to roam on the land. Again, as on the third day, God created in two acts on this day. The second is the peak of creation- the creation of man, which is why there is much more detail recorded about this day. Man was created unique from the rest of creation because man was created

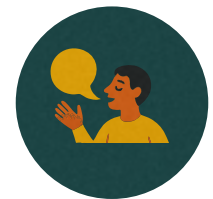
in the image of God. This places man in a special relationship with God and sets man apart from the rest of creation in importance. Man is then blessed and commanded to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, just as the animals are. But added to man's blessing and instruction is subduing and ruling over the earth.

On the 7th day, God rested. *Gen. 2:1-3 and Ex. 20:8-10*

There is no mention of God speaking because his created work was complete. Why did God rest? This day is important to confirm that God's creation was indeed finished and that it fully met His standards. The seventh day serves as a period or even an exclamation point on creation, with God emphatically declaring that it is over. Everything was truly very good. God's creation was built on a rhythm of work and rest that we are to emulate. Later, God would command his people to do so through the institution of the Sabbath. God designed us to need and enjoy rest- something we are reminded of every day when we need to sleep. God is ultimately our provider and sustainer, not us.

TELL THE STORY

Touch, hold, and turn the pages of the Bible. See the Bible used to tell a story. Locate Genesis 1. Incorporate grade-level Bible Skills. Locate the two main parts of the Bible- the Old Testament and the New Testament. Recognize some of the books in the Old Testament (Genesis). Identify the names of the writers of specific Bible books (Genesis=Moses).



Genesis 1

In the very beginning, God made the heavens and the earth. The earth was shapeless and empty and dark, but God's Spirit hovered over the waters. When God said, "Let there be light," there was light. That's how God created everything- by speaking. He would say, "Let there be..." and then it was there. He separated light from darkness and called it "day" and "night". That was the first day of creation. Then on the second day, God stretched out an expanse above the waters and called it "the heavens," or sky. Then on the third day, He separated the waters by creating dry land, and He called the land "earth" and the waters "seas." He looked at all He had made and said it was good.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth plants," and plants began to grow- grass, trees, and all kinds of seed-bearing vegetation so the plants could reproduce themselves. On the fourth day, He made the sun, the moon, and the stars to give light during the day and night. He set the sun and moon in the sky and planned their times and seasons to

give us days, months, and years. On the fifth and sixth days, He began creating animal life in the same way He had created everything else, simply by speaking them into existence: first the creatures of the sea and birds in the air, then land animals of all kinds. He blessed them all to “be fruitful and multiply,” and they all reproduced according to their own kind.

Finally, but still on the sixth day, God created human beings in His own image —designed to be just like Himself. He made both male and female and blessed them to “be fruitful and multiply,” just as He had blessed the animals. He formed the man out of dust, but the man was alone, so God made the woman out of the man. He united them together and said they were “one flesh.” He created man to have authority over all the other creatures and over the earth itself, and He gave the man and woman a command to “fill the earth and subdue it.” He gave them a beautiful place to live: a garden they would work in and take care of.

Every step of the way, God looked at what He had made and said it was good. But after He created human beings, when He had finished everything, He looked at it all and said it was “very good.” Then on the seventh day, God rested and He blessed that seventh day and set it apart for rest.

REBUILD THE STORY

- What existed “in the beginning”?
- Who made everything?
- In what ways did God show how creative He is when He made the world?
- In this story, does the world seem to be an accident or a well-planned design? What evidence is there in the story for your answer?
- How is creation different now from when God first made it?
- What does this story tell us about God? What is He like? How powerful is He? What is valuable to Him? What characteristics of God do we see in this story?
- What does this story teach us about ourselves?
- How does it affect our lives if we believe that God made everything we can see?



GOSPEL EMPHASIS

God is the Creator and Ruler of everything. God made people special because He wants to have a relationship with them.



PRAYER PROMPTS

Praise God, our Creator. Thank Him for His wonderful creation. Ask God to forgive us for the times that we take His creation for granted. Ask God to remind us to see how creative and powerful He is as we are surrounded by His creation this week.



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Genesis 2

