

Creation: The Earth

Bible Verse

God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. (Genesis 1:31)

Did You Know?

What better way to begin a new Sunday school year than at the beginning? Our Bible story for today comes from the first chapter of the first book of the Bible—Genesis 1. Genesis contains two accounts of Creation, one in the first chapter and one in the second chapter. There are many similarities between the two accounts. It has been suggested that the second account may have been an attempt to provide more detail to certain aspects of the story. While we will be looking at only one of the biblical accounts of Creation, be aware that it is not the only Creation story in the Bible.

There is a definite rhythm to the Creation story in Genesis 1. God speaks. Creation happens. God evaluates.

First, God speaks: “Let there be light” or “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters” (Genesis 1:3 and 1:6). Following each Godly declaration, it happens. God has only to speak to make it so.

After each step of Creation, “God saw how good it was.” And eventually, after the sixth day of Creation, it is even better than good—“it was supremely good.” God is not only Creator, but also evaluator. God does not create the world and walk away, but remains involved. It is worth noting that God did not deem the Creation “perfect” or even “finished.” Rather, there is a sense that God’s creation is not static, but is continuing to be developed. God maintains a relationship with God’s good creation after it is brought into being.

For more Bible background information, go to DeepBlueKids.com.

Exploration Points

- The children will discover God as Creator.
- The children will get to create with God the Creator.



Bible Story


Genesis 1:1-19

Anchor Point

Everything that God makes is supremely good.

Your Lesson

- Welcome
- Create a World
- Apple, Orange, Pear, Grape
- Moon Phases
- Creation Thoughts
- The Earth
- Sign the Bible Verse
- Worship
- Younger Elementary Small Group
- Older Elementary Small Group

 Requires preparation.



Jump In!

The following activities are planned to introduce today's theme. Be sure that there is a leader to welcome and direct the kids to the interest groups of their choice.

An adult will be needed at each group to lead the activity with the children.

WELCOME

- Greet each parent and child as they arrive.
- Play music to make your room cheerful.

CREATE A WORLD (ART ACTIVITY)

Supplies: paper, fingerpaints (blue, green, brown), smocks, plastic table coverings or newspapers, paper towels, wet wipes

⊗ Protect the work surface with plastic table coverings or newspaper.

SAY: Today we are talking about Creation. In the Bible, it tells us that before God created earth, it was without shape or form. You are going to have the opportunity to create today. I'm going to give you some blue, green, and brown fingerpaints, and you may separate them or mix them to create your own world on paper.

- Have the children wear art smocks to protect their clothing.
- Give each child a piece of paper. Place a dollop of each color of fingerpaint—blue, green, and brown—in the center of each child's paper.
- Invite each child to paint a world.
- Encourage the children to admire each other's artwork.

APPLE, ORANGE, PEAR, GRAPE (MOVEMENT ACTIVITY)

Supplies: chairs

⊗ Place chairs in a circle facing inward. You will need one less chair than you have children.

- Assign each child one of the following fruits: apple, orange, pear, or grape.
- Choose one child to stand in the middle of the circle while the rest of the children sit in the chairs.

SAY: The person in the middle will call out, "apple," "orange," "pear," or "grape." If your fruit is called, you must get up and find a new seat—one that is not next to the place you are currently sitting. After everyone has moved, the person who remains standing will be the next one in the middle. If the person in the middle says, "fruit," then everyone must move.

- Encourage the children to play the game.

SAY: Today we are talking about Creation. Isn't it great that God created fruit trees?

≈ TIP ≈

You may use washable paint if you don't have fingerpaints.



MOON PHASES (SCIENCE ACTIVITY)

Supplies: Moon Phases Activity, paper, black construction paper, white chalk, scissors, glue, markers, pencils

✂ Photocopy "Moon Phases" for each child.

SAY: The Creation story in the Bible says that God made "two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night" (Genesis 1:16).

ASK: What do we call these two great lights? (*the sun and the moon*) Can you always see the entire moon at night? (*No.*)

SAY: You are going to make a chart of moon phases.

- Give each child a blank piece of paper.
- Have each child fold the paper in half, bringing the long sides together, and then cut along the fold line.
- Have each child glue the ends of his or her paper strips together to form a long strip.
- Give each child a copy of "Moon Phases." Read through the information at the top of the page together.
- Have each child follow these directions to create a Moon Phases Chart.
- Cut out the moon pattern and the descriptions of the moon phases (in squares).
- Cut apart the moon phase descriptions and glue them along the bottom of the paper strip, keeping them in order and evenly spacing them along the strip.
- Use the moon pattern to cut out eight circles from black construction paper.
- Glue one black circle above each moon phase description.
- Use a piece of white chalk to color in part of each of the black circles, except the first one, to represent the visible part of the moon as described in the description underneath each circle.
- Write the words, "Moon Phases," at the top of the chart.

SAY: On clear nights, you can use your chart to determine what phase the moon is in.

Dive Deeper

Bring the children together to experience the Bible story and worship. Use a bell to alert the children it is Large Group Time.

CREATION THOUGHTS

SAY: I am going to describe something God created. When you think you know what I am describing, put your hands on top of your head.

- Read the following descriptions. After each description, allow the children to guess what you have described.

I am thinking of something God created. It can be found all over the world. It is home to many creatures that God created, such as fish, crabs, and clams. (*oceans*)


I am thinking of something God created. These things look small, but that's because they are far away. They shine in the night sky, and some people use them to find their way. (*stars*)

I am thinking of something God created. It is big and bright, and would be too hot to touch. Its heat provides warmth for the earth. (*the sun*)

I am thinking of something God created. It starts out as a tiny seed, but it grows very tall. Something you can eat that is red on the outside and white on the inside might fall from this thing. (*apple tree*)

BIBLE STORY: THE EARTH

Supplies: "The Earth" handout

 Photocopy "The Earth" for each child to take home.

SAY: Our Bible story for today is found in the first book of the Bible.

ASK: What is the first book of the Bible? (*Genesis*)

SAY: The first stories in the Book of Genesis are about God creating the world.


- Give each child a copy of "The Earth."
- Divide the class into four groups, and assign each group a number.
- Invite the children to help you tell the story.

ASK: On each day of Creation, what did it take for Creation to begin? (*God speaking*)
What was God's assessment of each day's Creation? (*It was good.*)

SAY: Everything that God made is supremely good.

SIGN THE BIBLE VERSE

Supplies: Genesis 1:31 Bible Verse Poster, Genesis 1:31 Sign Language Handout

 Display the Genesis 1:31 poster in your gathering area. Learn the sign language for the Bible verse and photocopy the sign language handout for each child.

- Show the Bible verse poster
- Encourage the children to read the verse together with you.
- Show the children the signs for the Bible verse. Encourage the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you several times.

WORSHIP

Supplies: "Mission Project" and "Mission Envelope" handouts, scissors, glue

✂ Photocopy "Mission Project" and "Mission Envelope" for each child.

- Invite each child to cut out the mission envelope around the outer solid lines. Fold the side flaps in and add glue. Fold up the bottom half and glue it to the side flaps.
- Encourage the children to take their letters and envelopes home. They can bring their envelopes back to church with an offering.

SAY: This year we are going to participate in a special mission project. Heifer International is an organization that is working to end poverty and hunger around the world. You have a letter to take home to your parents that explains more about Heifer International. Start bringing your mission offerings in next week.

- Mail the offering to: Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR/USA 72202, marked as an offering from your Deep Blue kids.

SAY: Let's say a prayer of thanks for God's good creation. I will say a sentence thanking God, and your response will be, "It is supremely good!"

Leader: God, thank you for creating day and night.

Children: It is supremely good!

Leader: Thank you for creating the sky.

Children: It is supremely good!

Leader: Thank you for separating the water from the dry land to create earth.

Children: It is supremely good!

Leader: Thank you for plants and seeds and trees and fruit.

Children: It is supremely good!

Leader: Thank you for the sun and the moon and the stars.

Children: It is supremely good!

Leader: Amen.

- Dismiss the children to their small groups.



Grow Stronger

Divide the children into small groups based on age levels. Keep the groups small, with a maximum of ten children in each group. You may need to have more than one of each group.

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

Supplies: beanbag or a rolled-up clean sock

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: Let's review what we've talked about today.

ASK: What Bible story did we hear today? (*part of the Creation story*) Where do we find this story in the Bible? (*at the beginning of Genesis, the first book in the Bible*) What was God's opinion of Creation?

SAY: Everything God created was good. After all, God said so! We are going to play a game to help us think about the goodness of creation. I am going to name something God created and then gently toss the beanbag to someone in the circle. That person will say something that is good about what I have named. For example, if I say, "Light," the person might say, "It helps me see what's around me." Then that person will gently toss the beanbag to someone else in the circle. The person who is holding the beanbag will say something that is good about the current topic, trying not to repeat anything that has been said before. We'll continue in this way, but occasionally I will call out a new topic while the beanbag is in the air. We will stay on each topic until I name a new one.

- Play the game with the children using the following topics: Light, Day, Night, Sky, Earth, Seas, Plants, Stars, Moon, and Sun.

SAY: Wow, those are a lot of reasons creation is good. God's creation really is good!

PRAY: God, thank you for your good creation. Help us to remember that everything you created is good and deserves to be treated with care. Amen.



OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

Supplies: "God Spoke" Handout, pencils

✂ Photocopy "God Spoke" for each child.

SAY: Let's review what we've talked about today.

ASK: What Bible story did we hear today? (*part of the Creation story*) Where do we find this story in the Bible? (*at the beginning of Genesis, the first book in the Bible*) Do you remember what happened before each new thing was created? (*God spoke.*)

SAY: The Bible tells us that God spoke and Creation happened. God's voice is powerful enough to command Creation! Let's use our imaginations and think about what God might have specifically said.

- Give each child a copy of "God Spoke" and a pencil.

SAY: This page gives a summary of each day's Creation. Write down the words you think God might have said on each day. There are no right or wrong answers. Use your imagination. Maybe God used a lot of words and complicated directions. Or maybe God used only a few words. What do you think?

- Allow the children an opportunity to fill out "God Spoke." Encourage each child to write something.
- Discuss Days 1 through 4, one day at a time.
- Invite each child to share his or her writing, reminding all the children that sharing is always optional.

SAY: You have great imaginations. We don't know what words God used to make Creation happen, but the Bible does tell us what God thought about Creation.

ASK: What did God think about Creation? (*It was supremely good.*)

PRAY: God, thank you for speaking the world into being. Thank you for your good creation. Help us remember to take good care of everything you have created. Amen.



The Earth

Leader: Before the earth as we know it existed, the earth was without shape or form, and it was dark over the deep sea, but God was there.

Group 1: Day 1.

Group 2: God spoke. Light was created.

Group 3: God separated the light from the darkness, naming the light Day and the darkness Night.

Group 4: God saw how good it was!

Group 1: There was evening and morning—the first day.

Group 2: Day 2.

Group 3: God spoke. The waters above separated from the waters below.

Group 4: God created Sky.

Group 1: God saw how exceedingly good it was!

Group 2: There was evening and there was morning—the second day.

Group 3: Day 3.

Group 4: God spoke. The waters were gathered together so dry land would appear.

Group 1: God named the dry land Earth and the gathered waters Seas.

Group 2: God saw how fantastically good it was!

Group 4: God spoke and plant life was created—plants with seeds and trees bearing fruit.

Group 2: God saw how superbly good it was!

Group 3: There was evening and there was morning—the third day.

Group 4: Day 4

Group 1: God spoke. Lights appeared in the sky.

Group 2: God created stars and the Sun and the Moon.

Group 3: God saw how supremely good it was!

Group 4: There was evening and there was morning—the fourth day.

Leader: To be continued next week...

(Based on Genesis 1:1-19.)

Moon Phases

The moon does not produce light. When we see the moon, we are seeing sunlight reflected off the moon. The amount of the moon visible each night depends on the position of the moon in relation to the earth and the sun, and where you are on the earth.

The phase of the moon refers to the amount of the moon that we see lit up by the sun. The moon completes a full cycle of phases approximately every 29.5 days. And then the cycle begins again!

1) New Moon—The moon is between the earth and the sun, and appears completely dark.

2) Waxing Crescent—The right side of the moon begins to be lit up. Each night an increased percentage of the moon is visible.

3) Half Moon or First Quarter—One-fourth of the way through the moon's cycle, the right half of the moon is lit up.

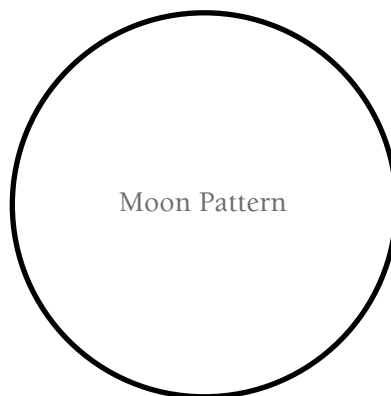
4) Waxing Gibbous—Over half of the moon is now visible, and each night more of the moon is lit up.

5) Full Moon—The moon and the sun are on opposite sides of the earth, making the moon completely visible from earth.

6) Waning Gibbous—The right side of the moon (as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere) begins to be dark. Each night an increased percentage of the moon is dark.

7) Half Moon or Third Quarter—Three-fourths of the way through the moon's cycle, the left half of the moon is lit up.

8) Waning Crescent—The left side of the moon is visible. Each night a decreased percentage of the moon is visible.



God Spoke

DAY 1: GOD SPOKE. LIGHT WAS CREATED. LIGHT AND DARKNESS WERE SEPARATED INTO DAY AND NIGHT.

DAY 2: GOD SPOKE. SKY WAS CREATED. THE WATERS ABOVE SEPARATED FROM THE WATERS BELOW.

DAY 3: GOD SPOKE. THE WATERS AND LAND WERE SEPARATED TO CREATE EARTH AND SEAS. PLANTS WERE CREATED.

DAY 4: GOD SPOKE. THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE STARS WERE CREATED.

Mission Project

Dear Guardians,

This year we will be collecting money for Heifer International. Heifer International is a charitable organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities. Each quarter this year, we will feature a different project that Heifer International is supporting, and offer opportunities for your children to learn about the project, the people involved, and participate by collecting an offering.

This month we will learn about Shakila Khatun. She is a ten-year-old girl in Bangladesh whose mother, Ruha Laila, recently joined a Heifer International self-help group, along with a group of other women in the village of West Balia in northwestern Bangladesh. As part of that group, she received a loan to buy a cow, a flock of chickens, vegetable seeds for her garden, and lots of training to ensure the animals are well cared for.

Ruha also learned about improving the family's nutrition, and now the family drinks the cow's milk and has plenty of eggs from the chickens to eat and sell. It's been a boost that has helped keep them healthier and provided them more income, she said.

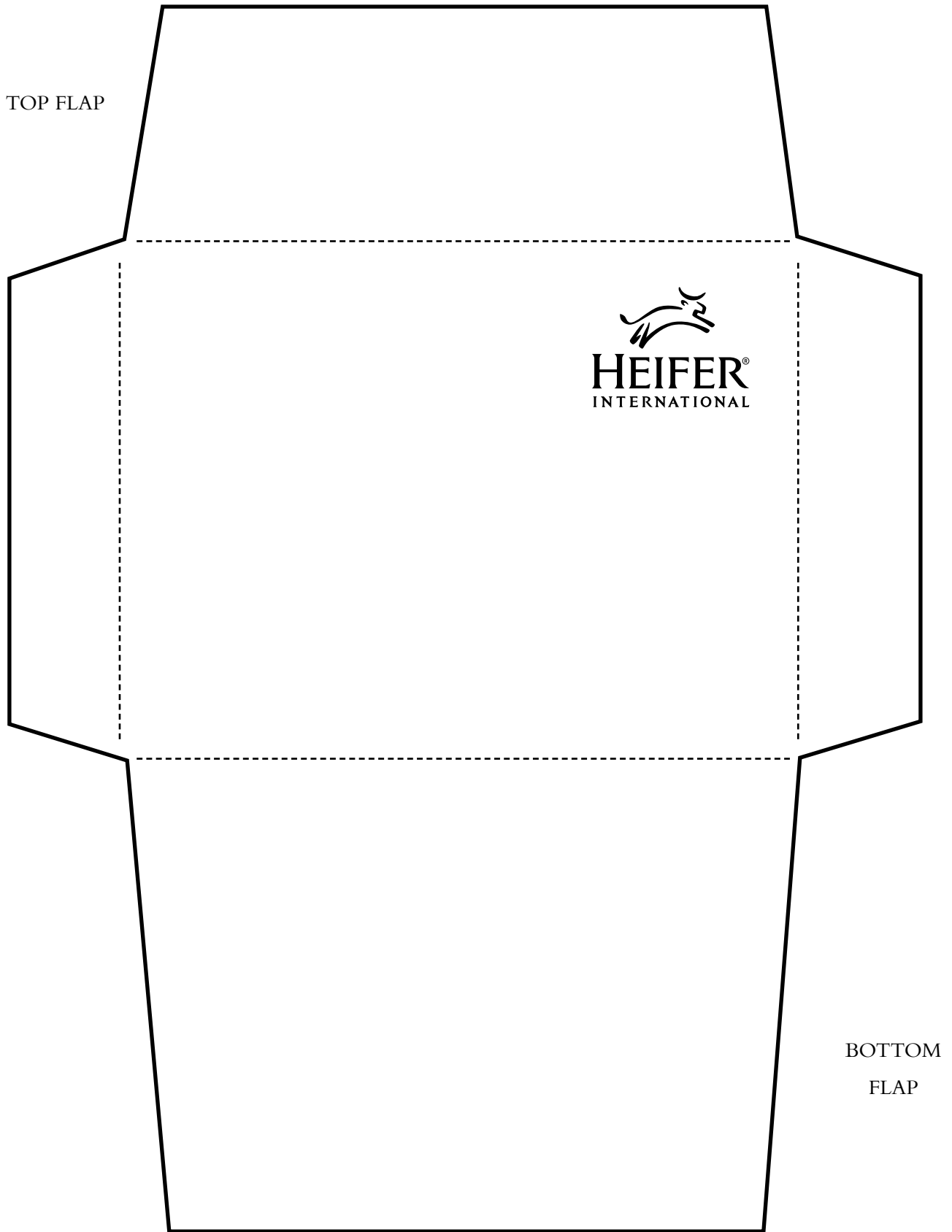
So how does this make Shakila lucky?

Before the training, Shakila frequently received less to eat than her brother, Sakib. And while she was in school, her parents weren't convinced that giving her an education was a good idea.

And while Shakila is shy, her smile says she's happier now. Not only are her parents more supportive of her, she's helping take care of the animals with her brother and even helping out her father in the family's tea shop. The family's extra income is even going to put Shakila through school.

The rest of this month, your child's class will collect money for the project that is helping Shakila and her family. Consider helping your child donate to this special project with Heifer International.

Mission Envelope



Permission is granted to duplicate this page for local church use only. © 2015 Abingdon Press.

Genesis 1:31

God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.



God

Point the index finger of your right hand, with the other fingers curled down. Bring the hand down in front of your face as if you are drawing a shepherd's crook. Open the palm as you bring your hand down. End with your hand flat and your palm facing left.



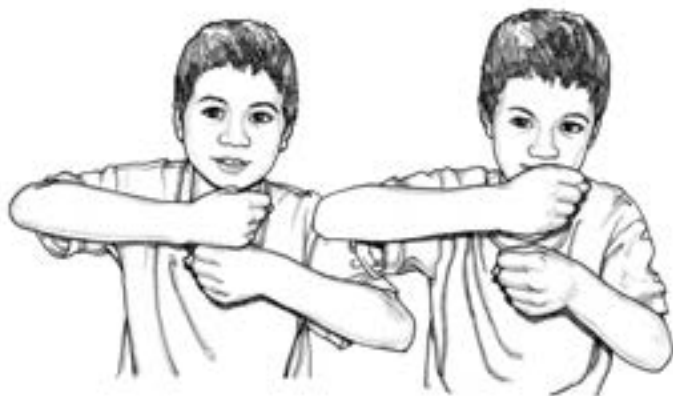
Saw

Hold your fingers in a V-shape. Touch the V beneath one eye. Move the hand forward.



Everything (All)

Hold the left palm toward the body. Circle the right hand out and around the left palm. End with the back of the right hand in the open left hand.



Made

Make fists with both hands. Place the right fist on the left fist. Twist the fists from side to side in opposite directions and tap them together.



Good

Touch the fingers of your right hand to your chin. Move the hand forward and drop the back of the right hand into the open palm of the left hand.

**God saw
everything
he had made:
it was supremely
good.**

Genesis 1:31



Photo: Shutterstock® © 2015 Abingdon Press