Overview of the Scripture/Bible Story

In the beginning of everything, God created a beautiful world. On the first day of creation, God created day and night, and they were good. On the second day, God created the sky and filled it with the sun, moon, and stars, and they were good. On the third day, God created water and land, and they were good. On the fourth day, God covered the land with plants and trees and grasses, and they were good. On the fifth day, God filled the water with fish and sea animals, and the sky with birds. Everything God created was good. But God was not finished.

On the sixth day, God created something different—all kinds of living creatures. God looked at all the animals, and God saw that they were good. But something was missing. God needed someone to take care of God’s Creation.

So God created people in God’s own image. God formed a person out of clay and breathed life into him. God named this person Adam.

God placed Adam in a beautiful garden and allowed him to name all of the animals. Adam loved the garden and the animals, but something was missing. He was lonely. God took part of Adam and made a helper for him. Adam called her Eve. God saw everything God made, and God said it was supremely good! Then God rested on the seventh day.

Biblical Concepts to Teach

- God created the world.
- God is all-powerful.
- Everything God created is good.
- God created people to take care of the earth and the animals.

Objectives to Learn

- Understand the meaning of create.
- Understand the Days of Creation.
- Discover some ways to take care of the earth.

Application for Kids Today

- God made me.
- I can serve God.
- God made all of creation.
- I can help take care of creation.

How does this story fit in the unit theme?

- The Unit 1 theme is Beginnings.
- Genesis means “beginnings.”
- In the beginning, God created the world and everything in it.
- God created the first humans.
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GREETING
• Play the theme song, “(TBD)” (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
• Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
• Have each child mark the attendance chart.

GATHER ROUND
Note: The emphasis of this part of the lesson is on Preschoolers. Allow the elementary kids to participate by helping.
• Invite the kids to join you in a circle.
Say: Welcome to Kickoff Sunday for our new year in Sunday school. This month we will be talking about beginnings in the Book of Genesis. Our story today is about the beginning of everything, when God created the world and everything in it.
Read: “Creation” and “God’s Image” from the Bible Basics Storybook (pp. 12–15)
• You can allow an elementary kid to read the story to the preschoolers.
• Invite the kids to share their favorite part of God’s creation.
Sing: “The Creation” (Tune: THIS IS THE WAY)
• Give each child a copy of “The Creation.”
• Go over the movements to each verse before singing that verse.
• Allow the older children to lead the song and movements.
Pray: Dear God, thank you for your wonderful creation. Amen.
Coloring Page: “God’s Creation” (Reproducible 1b)
• Give each preschooler a copy of “God’s Creation.”
• Ask the kids what they see in their picture that God created.
• Allow them to color their pictures of creation.

TRANSITION
• Gather the kids around the “Days of Creation” poster.
• Go over what God created on each day.
• Invite the kids to sit at the table and work on their puzzles.

SUPPLIES:
• offering basket
• CD-ROM/CD player
Display the “Attendance Chart” (Resource Pak—p. 1).

• Bible Basics Storybook
Make copies of “The Creation” (Reproducible 1a) and “God’s Creation” (Reproducible 1b).
• crayons
• markers
Display the “Days of Creation” poster (Resource Pak—pp. 10 & 15).
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Find the Hidden Pictures – Younger Elementary

Say: Look carefully at your picture of creation, and you will find 10 hidden items. Circle the items.

- Allow the kids time to work their puzzles. Go over the answers. Find the answer key in the Reproducible Kids’ Book (p. 93).

Ask: What did God say after each day’s creation? (It is good.) What do you see in your picture of creation that you think is good?

What Doesn’t Belong? – Older Elementary

Ask: How many days did it take for God to create the world and everything in it? (6 days) What did God do on the 7th day? (rested)

What do you think create means? (make something out of nothing)

Say: Look carefully at your picture of creation, and you will see a dozen things that don’t belong because they were made, not created. Circle those things.

- Allow the kids time to work their puzzles. Go over the answers. Look for the answer key in the Reproducible Kids’ Book (p. 93).

Ask: What do you think is the difference between make and create? What can you make? What can you create?

Make a New Creation

- Give the children large paper plates and ask them to write their names on their plates.

Say: Think about your favorite animal and what you like about that animal. Now think about what it would look like if you created a brand new animal.

Ask: Can we create an animal? Can we make an image of a new animal?

- Give each child some play dough.

Say: Mold your play dough into your image of a new animal. Think about what you would name your animal and what it would do.

- Allow the kids time to make their animals. Then take time for Show and Tell. Allow each kid to show the animal and describe it.

Choose the Day

- Lay the 7 hula hoops out across the floor.

Ask: How many days of creation have we talked about? (7 days)

- Write the numbers 1 to 7 on pieces of paper, one number per piece of paper. Place a piece of paper with a number by each hoop. Mix the numbered papers so they’re not in order.

- pencils
- crayons
- markers

- play dough
- large paper plates
- hand-washing supplies

- 7 hula hoops

Make copies of “Find the Hidden Pictures” (Reproducible 1c) and “What Doesn’t Belong?” (Reproducible 1d).
Say: Take a minute to remember what God created on the 1st through 6th days and what God did on the 7th day.

- Pair the preschool kids with older kids.

Say: I’m going to call out some names of things God created, such as a cow. Think about what day God created that thing and go stand in the hula hoop with the number of that day.

- As time allows, continue playing until you have called out some thing for each of the 7 hoops.

**Creation Trail Mix**

Say: God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden and asked them to take care of all the plants and animals. They were the first farmers, and they grew food to eat. Let’s enjoy a trail mix that reminds us of the days of creation.

- Set out the ingredients for the trail mix. Ask the kids what each ingredient could represent in creation. (1. Oreo cookies—light and dark, 2. blue M&Ms and marshmallows—sky and seas, 3. pretzel sticks—tree trunks, 4. star-shaped cereal—stars in sky, 5. goldfish—sea animals, 6. animal crackers and teddy graham—animals and humans.)

- Allow the kids to get some of each ingredient and place it in a resealable plastic bag.

Say: Before you enjoy your Creation Trail Mix, let’s pray and thank God for our food.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for our food and for your wonderful creation. Amen.

**Make or Create?**

- Borrow the alphabet tiles from a Scrabble game. Throw them out on a table in random order.

Ask: Have I created the word Creation? Can you make that word?

- Allow a volunteer to choose the letters and make the word Creation. Set the other tiles aside.

Ask: Did (name of volunteer) make or create the word Creation?

- Pick up the letters and throw them down again in random order.

Ask: Do the letters spell Creation?

Say: Those letters couldn’t arrange themselves to make any sense. We had to know the order of the letters and arrange them to spell the word correctly.

Ask: Who can create something out of nothing? (only God) How would you describe God’s Creation?
Read the Story from the Bible

Ask: Where in the Bible would you find our Bible story? (Genesis)
- Ask the kids to find Genesis 1:1-31 in the Bible. Encourage them to bring their own Bibles and use them in class.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the Scripture.

Say: God created humans in God’s own image.

Ask: What do you think that means?

Say: Since we are created in God’s image, when people look at us, they should see God in us. We can be like God when our actions and how we treat people show God’s love.

Dictionary Search

Say: A Bible dictionary is a good tool to help us understand what we read in the Bible.
- Have the kids look up the definitions of Create/Creation/Creator and Genesis/Book of in the Kids Bible Dictionary.

Interactive Bible Story

- Give each kid a copy of the Take-Home pages. Have them fold the page in half to look like a booklet. The Interactive Bible Story should be on the inside left page.

Say: Look at the Bible story in your booklet. The Days of Creation is written as a responsive reading. I will read first, and then you all will respond by reading the words in bold.
- Ask an older student to lead the group in the responses. Read through the story. If time allows, read the story a second time assigning different parts.

Ask: What did God tell Adam and Eve? (Take care of creation.)

Examine the Bible Verse

Say: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Genesis 1:31. Find it in your Bibles.

Ask: Is the Book of Genesis in the Old or New Testament? (Old)
Where is Genesis located in the Old Testament? (first book) In what chapter of Genesis is our verse located? (chapter 1) What is the verse number? (31)
• Gather the kids around the Bible Verse poster. Read it together.
• Give each child a copy of the sign language and go over the signs together.

Note: Look on the website (address), the Free Stuff tab, to see a video demonstrating the signs.
• Have the kids sign and say the Bible verse with you.

Ask: What is the reference for our verse? (Genesis 1:31)

Say: Sometimes people call the Bible reference an address because it tells you how to find the verse in the Bible.

REVIEW: “THE CREATION STORY”
• Give each child a copy of Reproducible 1e.
• Pair the preschool kids with elementary kids to work together.
• When all of the kids are finished, bring them together and go over the answers to the puzzle.

GROUP ACTIVITY: CREATION CARE
• Place the items listed in the right column in a large paper bag.

Say: God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility for taking care of creation, and God wants us to do that too. I have placed some items in this paper bag that are clues for ways you can help. You will pull something out of the bag and guess how you can use it to help.
• Light bulb: Turn the light off when you leave a room.
• Garden hose nozzle: Don’t leave water running.
• Plastic water bottle: Don’t use plastic. Get a permanent container.
• Plastic grocery bag: Don’t use plastic. Get some reusable bags.
• Notebook paper: Write on both sides of your paper.
• Cardboard box: Be sure to recycle it.
• Miniature car: Walk or ride a bike instead of riding in a car.
• Trash bag: Separate your recyclable items and recycle them.
• Plastic straw: Don’t use! They are not biodegradable.

Ask: Can you think of some other ways to take care of creation?

Say: Use these tips to show that you care about the well-being of creation. Every human being depends on creation to survive.

EXPRESS

Make copies of the Unit 1 ASL signs (Leader Guide—p. 123).

Make copies of “The Creation Story” (Reproducible 1e).

• large paper bag
• light bulb
• garden hose nozzle
• plastic water bottle
• plastic grocery bag
• notebook paper
• cardboard box
• miniature car
• trash bag
• plastic straw

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The ORSS kids (name TBD - suggestions?)
Say: The ORSS kids are enjoying the Fall Kickoff for Sunday school. Let’s get to know them better.

- Ask the children to get their Take-Home booklets that they used earlier and find the character sketch on the inside right page.
- Ask volunteers to read the different parts.
Ask: What have you learned about the ORSS kids? What did they learn about God’s creation?

**Praise & Worship**

- Gather the kids in a circle.
Say: Every week we will gather for praise and worship at the end of Sunday school.
Say: Find the song “God’s Creation” in the songbooks.
- Play the song and encourage the children to sing and dance.
**Blessing:** Before you leave today, you will receive a blessing. Blessings show how special you are to God.
- Go around the circle and say the blessing to each child.
Say: (Child’s name), God made you, and you are awesome.
Say: Let’s take time to talk to God and thank God for creation.
Ask: Do you have any joys or concerns you would like to share before we pray?
Say: God, thank you for creation. We’re thankful for the world you have made and all of the things that fill it. Help us learn to take care of your wonderful creation. Today we pray for (name the joys and concerns the kids shared). Amen.

**Family Devotion**

Say: Let’s take a look at your Take-Home Booklet. You have read page 2, the Bible story, and page 3, the Character Sketch. On the outside pages you will find a devotion to share with your family and a mission suggestion you can do as a family. Take your bulletin home and share what you have learned about creation with your family!