

GOD'S BIG PLAN

God Creates the World Genesis 1:2-2:15

Supporting Scriptures: Job 38-41; Psalm 19:1-4, 24:1-2, 33:6-9, 95:3-5, 104; Isaiah 40:12, 22, 44:24; 45:7-12, 48:12-13; Jeremiah 10:12-13, 32:17; Romans 1:18-20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10-12, 11:3



Lesson Goals: To show that God is a big god and that there is nothing He cannot do.
To reinforce that God has always been and is the creator of all things.
To show that God created the world from nothing.

Scripture Memory LORD God, you stretched out your mighty arm and made the sky and the earth. You can do anything. Jeremiah 32:17 (CEV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself so much with this story that it can be told as a STORY, not as “He said. . . She said” or read. But, to reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: It’s time to review the story of God’s big plan. What have you learned so far? (Encourage students to retell the first two stories together, as one.) We have learned a lot, like “God has been around forever” and “He created angels.”

Now, think about something with me. Have you ever made anything? Maybe it was a sand-castle, a cake, a handmade card, a birdhouse or maybe even something else. How did you make it? If you are like me, you probably got everything together first; a bucket and shovel for the sand-castle, or eggs, flour, sugar, a bowl and a spoon for the cake. And if you made a handmade card you would have needed construction paper, glitter, markers and stickers, but for a birdhouse, wood and a hammer and nails.

But, have you ever been able to say, “I want a cake!” and “poof,” there was a cake (or bird-house, etc)? Me, either, unless my mom had already made it!. If I have the materials to begin with I usually do pretty well, but I’ve never been able to make a cake, or anything else, out of nothing just by saying it. Let’s find out about God!

READ: Genesis 1:2-5 (Hold the Bible in your hands throughout the story.)

God was in the beginning, with the Spirit and the Son, Jesus, before there was anything else. And then, angels were created. But God didn’t stop there! His big plan is a wonderful one and angels were just the beginning!

For starters, as those angels looked on, cheering and shouting, God opened His mouth, spoke the word, and light appeared—out of nothing. God liked it and He separated it from the dark calling the light “Day” and the dark “Night.” That was the very first day!

But that wasn’t all. God opened His mouth again. “Let there be a sky,” and it happened, just as He commanded! He named the sky “Heaven.” It divided water; water above the sky from the

water below. And that was day two! Then, God spoke again. “Let the water under the sky come together.” The water came together and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land “Earth” and He called the waters that had been gathered together “Seas.” This also looked good to God, but He kept speaking! God opened His mouth, spoke, and grass started growing all over the earth. Trees began to grow up, too. God looked at all of this and liked it. Day three had just ended.

God continued speaking. From the words of His mouth came more light! God made two big lights, the biggest to shine during the day—the sun. The smaller of the big lights would shine at night—the moon. God made the sun and the moon to count time; days, years, even the seasons. And from God’s mouth came smaller lights, too—stars! God put them in the sky to shine and He liked what He saw. That was day four. But God didn’t stop there. He spoke and something happened in the water and the sky. There were creatures, creatures swimming in the water and flying through the sky! God spoke and the whales were created, but not just the whales. There were fish of every kind and everything that lives in the water. And in the sky, there were birds and butterflies and even mosquitoes! Anything that has ever flown above the earth or swam in the ocean, God spoke it into existence on day five! And on day six, God spoke again. Creatures appeared on the earth. There were cows and worms and wolves and every other creature that has ever walked on the earth. God liked what He had made; everything was good!

God didn’t just create these things and leave. It is God who feeds the animals. He makes flowers grow, even in the desert where no one will see. He knows when it’s time for the animals to have their babies, He knows that the wild goats like to jump from stone to stone on the high mountains. He even knows that the ostrich, a large animal with feathers, cannot fly and isn’t very smart. But God made her, and all the other animals, exactly as He wanted to. And even though the ostrich isn’t very smart, she runs so fast that she can outrun horses! How amazing! So many different animals, none of them the same. What an amazing creation! As big and amazing as this creation is, God can measure it all between His thumb and fingers. He can even hold the oceans in His cupped hands! What an amazing God! God can do anything!

Review:

It’s time to review! Who would like to retell the story? (As with previous lessons, after allowing the first student to retell the story, ask your group if anything was left out of the story or told differently. Encourage others to retell the story, as well.)

What materials did God use to create the heavens and the earth and everything in them? (Nothing!) Can you build a birdhouse out of nothing? (No.) Who else can? (No one.) Is there anything God cannot do? (No, God can do anything!) Is there anything God does not know? (No.)

Stretch out your hands. What can you measure between your thumb and fingers? (A book, a cell phone, etc.) What can God measure with His hands? (The universe, the heavens and everything in them.) If God is big enough to measure all of that, is there anywhere He cannot be? (No. God is everywhere, all the time!)

On day six, when God created the animals that live on land, He didn’t finish there. God’s big plan was not complete with the universe and animals. We’ll see, next week, what else God created.

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 4 • God Creates the First Man and Woman
Genesis 2:7-25 • Psalm 139:14-18

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “Who is the King of the Jungle?”

SHARE: God was in the beginning, before there was anything else. And then, angels were created. But God didn’t stop there! His big plan is a wonderful one and angels were just the beginning!

For starters, as those angels looked on, cheering and shouting, God opened His mouth, spoke, and light appeared—out of nothing. God liked it and He separated it from the dark. Light was “Day” and dark was “Night.” That was the very first day—Night and Day!

God opened His mouth again. “Let there be a sky,” and it happened! And that was day two—the Sky!

Then, God spoke again. All of the water came together and then there was dry land. God called the dry land “Earth” and He called the waters “Seas.” This also looked good to God, but He kept speaking! God opened His mouth, spoke, and grass started growing all over the earth. Trees began to grow up, too. God looked at all of this and liked it. Day three had just ended with the Earth, the Seas and Plants.

God kept talking. From the words of His mouth He made two big lights; the sun and the moon. God also made little lights, stars! God put them in the sky to shine and He liked what He saw. That was day four—Sun, Moon and stars.

But God didn’t stop there. He spoke and something happened in the water and the sky. There were creatures, creatures swimming in the water and flying through the sky! God created whales and fish and everything else that lives in the water. And in the sky, there were birds and butterflies and even mosquitoes! On day five, God made Sea animals and those that fly.

And on day six, God spoke again. Creatures appeared on the earth. There were cows and worms and wolves and every other creature that has ever walked on the earth. God liked what He had made; everything was good!

What an amazing God! God can do anything!

PRAY: Thank you, God, for creating such amazing things.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Review the memory verse this week by making a mural on butcher paper. Write out the memory verse. Encourage your students to decorate the mural with words and pictures of all the amazing things God created.
- Last week you began a "Creation Mobile." This week, add to that mobile. Provide your students with magazines. Allow them to look through the magazines, cutting out pictures of the many things God created. Provide yarn for hanging creation pictures from the mobile.
- Play "What Animal Am I." On small strips of paper, write out the names of animals, birds and sea creatures. Fold the strips of paper, placing them in a small lunch bag. Play charades by drawing a strip of paper from the bag and acting out the animal.
- Continue to work on memorizing the books of the Bible. This week, try teaching your students songs that will help them remember the books of the Bible.
- Go outside and play "I Spy." Choose objects that God created on days one through six.
- Make creation masks. Make a mask for each day of creation. These can be made with paper plates or construction paper and yarn. Make masks resembling the sun, the moon, water, animals, etc. Use these when retelling the story.
- Make a "Creation Quilt." Using sheets of construction paper or pieces of felt or foam, assign students a specific day or part of the creation story. Using markers, glitter, foam, yarn, etc. encourage each student to create a "quilt square" of their assigned part of the story. When each square has been completed, connect them with tape, staples or stitches to form a "quilt." Be sure to hang your quilt prominently in your Bible study space. This quilt can be used with future lessons for recalling what God created on which day.
- Make a "Creation Concoction." Begin with an empty bowl to remind us that in the beginning there was nothing, except God. Add the following:
 - Day 1—Cool Whip (for day), Chocolate Chips (for night)
 - Day 2—Mini Marshmallows (for sky)
 - Day 3—Crushed cookies (for earth), Blue instant gelatin powder (for sea), coconut—colored green (for plants)
 - Day 4—Yellow candy pieces (for sun), white candy pieces (for moon), star or sugar sprinkles (for stars)
 - Day 5—Gummy fish and gummy birds (for fish and birds)
 - Day 6—Animal crackers (for animals)
- Provide word puzzles and coloring pages that go along with the lesson.