Lesson 1

God Made Day and Night

OVERVIEW

Scripture
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 74:16

Bible Truth
God made day and night.

Life Response Aim
To thank God for making day and night.

Bible Verse
“God created the heaven and the earth.”
  Genesis 1:1, KJV
“God created the heavens and the earth.”
  Genesis 1:1, NIV

FOCUS
Day and Night

DISCOVER
God Made Day and Night

RESPOND
Thank God for Day and Night

MATERIALS

FOCUS
- Reading Center: Bible, books about day and night, Bible Picture 1
- Art Center: Paper for mural and yellow and black geometric shapes, tape or glue, yellow and black markers
- Home Living Center: Dolls, beds, nighttime clothes, and other articles

DISCOVER
- Bible
- Kitty puppet (see pages 4–5)
- Yellow and black construction paper
- Story Reminder 1 from Handwork

RESPOND
- Bible Life Student Guide, pages 3–4; attendance stickers for the inside back cover; yellow crayons
- September Parent Tips and today’s take-home cards from Pupil Bible Pictures

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets in Teaching Resources or the Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music CD or both.

Preparing Your Heart to Teach

Read these Scripture passages throughout the week: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 74:16

- Visible from Invisible (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3): God created all things simply by speaking them into existence. What words has God spoken into your life? How have you seen His creative power at work?

- God’s Light (Gen. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:6): God created physical light as well as spiritual light. How has God illuminated your life?
DAY AND NIGHT

LEARNING CENTERS

To introduce your children to this lesson, use any of the following activity options at learning centers.

READING CENTER
Reading about Day and Night

Make an attractive book display with the Bible in a prominent position and other books about day and night placed around it. Place Bible Picture 1 on the wall or a small stand.

The Bible is our very special book. In the Bible we learn wonderful things about God and all the things He made. On the very first page of the Bible, God tells us that He made day and night.

Here are some other books that tell about the day and night that God made. Let's look at this book.

Pick a book that best illustrates daytime and nighttime themes. As you talk about the pictures, emphasize the words light, day, dark, and night.

Sing the following words to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

It’s time to go to sleep. It’s time to go to sleep. God is great; He made the night So we could go to sleep.

It’s time to run and play. It’s time to run and play. God is great; He made the day So we could run and play.

ART CENTER
Illustrating Day and Night

Have a large sheet of white wrapping or mural paper about 3’ long. From yellow and black construction paper, cut out some geometric shapes for children to tape or paste onto the day and night sides of the mural. You may want to let them tear out their own shapes.

Draw a line down the middle of the paper. Label one side “Day” in yellow marker at the top. Label the other side “Night” in black marker.

We’re going to make our own day and night picture on this big piece of paper. Let’s put the sunny yellow shapes on the day side and black shapes on the night side to show that it’s dark outside.

Let the children tape or paste the colored shapes on the appropriate side of the mural. Emphasize light and darkness, day and night, as they do.

As you find appropriate opportunities, pray with the children, thanking God for making day and night.

HOME LIVING CENTER
Saying Good Night

Young children are drawn to an attractive display of dolls, teddy bears, doll beds, buggies, clothes, blankets, and other reminders of home.

Let’s pretend that it’s nighttime. What do we always do at nighttime? Yes, we go to bed. Let’s put the doll babies to bed.

Notice how the children do what they regularly do at home—put pajamas on the dolls, give them bottles, rock them, cover them up. They may even sing to them, say prayers, or tell them a short story. Follow their leading.

Then when they’re ready, invite them to pretend it’s morning and time to get the babies up, dress them, and feed them.

As your conversation with the children makes opportunity, pray.

Thank You, God, for making day when we can play and for making night when we can rest.

ICON KEY:

- Teacher Supplied Resource
- Student Activity
- Music
- Visual Teaching Aid
- Puppet
- Prayer
This week you’ll guide children to understand the Bible Truth through a Bible story, a clapping song, and Story Reminder from Handwork.

**Preparing to Hear God’s Word**

Introduce a come-join-us signal this first Sunday of the quarter to gain the children’s attention. You may use a tone on a toy instrument, ring a small handbell, or blow a whistle.

Now would be a good time for the children to meet Kitty (page 4), a puppet that will add delight to this quarter’s learning. To call the children to sit with you on the story rug, take Kitty out of her basket and stroke her affectionately. Pretend Kitty is calling the children to sit with her.

Meow! Meow! It’s time to sing and hear a story.

Sing the following song to the tune “The Farmer in the Dell.”

_It’s happy, happy time. It’s happy, happy time._
_It’s time for Bible story now._
_It’s happy, happy time._

Kitty likes to run and play, but today she wanted to come to Sunday School to see what you boys and girls do here. Would you like to pet Kitty and say hello to her in a quiet voice? Walk around the circle, calling each child by name.

Do you think Kitty would like to hear a song about night and day? That way, she’ll know what we are going to be talking about today.

Sing “It’s Time to Go to Sleep” (from page 7) to the tune “The Farmer in the Dell.”

Place Kitty inside her basket and set her down beside you. Suggest that the children be as quiet as Kitty as they listen to the Bible story.

**Bible Story**

If you need a shorter version for your younger children, tell the story as found on the take-home card from Pupil Bible Pictures.

It’s time to open our Bibles. Have your Bible open to Genesis 1 as you tell the following story.

Have two pieces of construction paper ready to show: one yellow and the other black.

This paper is dark like nighttime. When I hold it up, we can sing a nighttime song.

Sing the following song to the tune of “London Bridge.”

I’m so glad that God made night,
God made night,
God made night.
I’m so glad that God made night.
Thank You, God.

When I hold up the yellow paper, we can sing a daytime song.

I’m so glad that God made day,
God made day,
God made day.
I’m so glad that God made day.
Thank You, God.

Hold up black paper again and sing the nighttime words.

Let’s shut our eyes tight. It’s all dark, dark, dark. We can’t see anything!

Now, let’s open our eyes. When it’s dark outdoors, can you see very well? No, no, no.

When it’s dark outdoors, can boys and girls go outside to play? No, no, no.

God did not want the world to be dark all the time. Because God can do anything, He said, “Let there be light,” and just like that [snap fingers] there was light.

Sing the following song to the tune of “London Bridge.”

I’m so glad that God made night,
God made night,
God made night.
I’m so glad that God made night.
Thank You, God.

When I hold up the yellow paper, we can sing a daytime song.

I’m so glad that God made day,
God made day,
God made day.
I’m so glad that God made day.
Thank You, God.

God said the daytime was good. Boys and girls play outdoors when it’s light. But God knew we needed nighttime too.

When it’s light all the time, it’s hard for many little birds to sleep.
When it’s light all the time, it’s hard for boys and girls to go to sleep.

So God made the dark time and called it “night.” God made the light time and called it “day.”

Let’s tell God thank You for day and night.
Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”
Thank You, God, for night:
And thank You, God, for day.
Thank You, thank You, thank You
Are the happy words we say.

You can tell your family and friends that the world was dark before God made the light.
Now turn your picture to the yellow side. The light picture reminds us of daytime.
You can use this picture all by yourself to show your family that God made day and night.
The children want to practice repeating the Bible words as they turn to each part of the picture.
Show the children the back of the Story Reminder and tell them to show this writing to their parents.
Print the children’s names on their Story Reminders and put them in a safe place until time to go home.

**Day and Night Picture**
This is a good time to have children go to tables so they can enjoy their Story Reminders.
Prepare Story Reminder 1 for each child, following directions on page 2 of Handwork. Be sure to add a paper-reinforcement ring to make the area stronger where the brass paper-fastener turns.

Let’s see how you can use your Story Reminder to tell your family the Bible story today. You see, God gave us some dark time and some light time. He gave some night to rest and sleep, and He gave some day to play and work.

Give each child a completed Story Reminder.

Let’s see if you can use your Story Reminder to show that God made night and day. First, pretend it’s nighttime by showing the dark picture.

Check to see that each child has the dark section displayed.

**Creation Look-and-See Box**
Here’s a learning aid that will capture the interest of your children throughout the quarter. Each week you can add features that fit the lesson theme.

Materials:
1. Select an adult-size shoebox.
2. Starting 1” from one end of the lid, cut a rectangle 3” x 5 1/2” with a razor blade.
3. Cut a 2” x 1” rectangle opening in the upper center of each end of the box, just below the lip of the lid when placed on the box.
4. Cut a strip of black paper and yellow paper to fit in the box as shown in the diagram.

Hold up the closed look-and-see box. Turn it from side to side.

This is a very special box. What do you think is in it? Can you guess? Maybe if you look into this little window, you’ll be able to see what’s inside. Let me try first. Look into the hole at the dark end of the box. Hmmm, that’s strange.

Don’t reveal what you saw or didn’t see. Show curiosity, but not excitement. Let children take turns looking in.

Why can’t we see anything in this box? That’s right. It’s all dark inside. And that is how our big world looked long, long ago. It was all dark.

Then God made light. What do you see when you look into the other side of our look-and-see box?

Isn’t it good to see the light?
God made day, and God made night. Let’s thank our great God for day and night. Sing “God’s Lights.”
Thank God for Day and Night

Now your children will want to do something about what they’ve learned. They’ll enjoy doing the activities in their student guides, singing, and thanking God in prayer.

God Made Day

Give each child a copy of the Bible Life Student Guide open to page 3, or pages 3–4 if you have separated the pages. Review the Bible story by completing page 3. Page 4 reinforces the Life Response Aim.

Give children yellow crayons to show that God made day.

If you are using the attendance stickers, show the children the inside back cover and let each child put an attendance sticker on the page.

Turn to page 4. We see our friends Debby and Dan. Debby is glad God made day. She and Dan can play with their toys every day.

Dan is glad God made the night so he can sleep. Then when day comes again, he’s ready to play.

Let’s add a pretty red ball to show what Debby and Dan are playing.

Give each child the sticker of a ball from the center page.

Gather the children at the wall display of day and night made in Focus. Sing day and night songs that the children especially enjoyed today. Then conclude by singing together “O Give Thanks.”

Let’s thank God for making day and night.

Today send home the September Parent Tips from Pupil Bible Pictures and the appropriate picture card.

The Parent Tips article is about spiritual development, specifically in 2 and 3 year olds. Parental involvement in their child’s spiritual development is critical. The take-home piece has been updated to make this involvement easier by giving parents tools to reinforce the Sunday School lesson aim at home.

Creation Scrapbook

Your children will enjoy making a scrapbook to show what God made. This week you’ll make the first two pages. The first will be on black construction paper and the second on yellow. You’ll also need pictures cut from catalogs and magazines that show day and night activities.

We’re going to start making a big book. We’ll paste pictures on the pages to show what God made. Today we’ll paste some pretty day and night pictures. We can put day pictures on the yellow page and night pictures on the black page.

Spread the pictures on the table. As the children choose and paste pictures, talk about each one, emphasizing whether it is a day or a night activity.

Birthday Celebrations

Establish a special type of birthday celebration for your children. Create a fun, colorful birthday chart that lists their names and birth dates. Show the children their names on their birthdays. Give each one a memento of his or her special day, such as a birthday badge from page 5 of Handwork, a paper leaf with his or her name written on it, or some other special item.

What’s in Store for Your Children?

Day and Night

Your children will enjoy making day and night signs to worship God for creating day and night.

Correlated Church Time®

In Church Time® your children focus on the same Bible Truth and Life Response Aim that they did in Sunday School.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

Transition: 25–30 minutes
Preparing Their Hearts: 15 minutes
Worship and Story Time: 20 minutes
Hands-to-Hearts Activities: 10–15 minutes
Good-bye Time: Until parents arrive
God Made Day and Night

Long, long ago, our big world was all dark. No sky. No bright sun. No shiny moon. No twinkling stars. And no people. Nothing but darkness all the time, everywhere.

But our great God was going to change all that. God just said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. God saw that the light He had made was good.

Then God made it light part of the time, and left it dark part of the time. He called the light time day. He called the dark time night.

That was the very first day and night. And after that there has always been day and night. Our Lord is a great God.
Debby and Dan learned in Sunday School that God made day and night. They like daytime when they can play with their toys. At nighttime Debby and Dan can sleep because they are tired.

“Dan, I’m so glad God made light time. He called it day,” Debby said.

“And I’m glad God made dark time. He called it night,” said Dan.

Can you say with Debby and Dan, “God called the light day, and the darkness He called night”?
2’S & 3’S

Compliment your teaching with these fun and easy to use classroom resources designed to make every lesson memorable.

**Teaching Guide**

The Teaching Guide is designed to help you get the most out of your preparation and class time. Included are full lesson plans, teacher training resources, age-appropriate tips, a teacher’s devotional, and more.

*One per teacher recommended.*

**Teaching Resources**

Create interest all hour long with this packet of colorful visuals and teaching aids. Packet includes an attendance chart, memory verses sheet (in KJV and NIV), flannel graphs, pocket storytellers, mural art, peep boxes, puppets, song sheets, and teaching pictures for display.

*One per class recommended.*

**Bible Life**

Capture the imaginations of your little ones with their own Bible workbook, featuring simple pictures, activities, stickers, and a short story to demonstrate the Bible Truth in action. Plus, these pages help parents reinforce the Bible Truth and intended lesson response at home.

*One per student recommended.*

**Handwork**

Tie the lesson together with these handwork sheets designed for little children. These craft activities become lesson reminders for children throughout the week. A Parent and Child Time activity or song is included.

*One per student recommended.*

**Pupil Bible Pictures**

Help parents nurture a child’s spiritual development at home. These easy-to-use cards come with a Bible picture that reverses to include the Bible story and review questions. The monthly Parent Tips card has age-appropriate tips for learning and a monthly review of the theme and Scripture references.

*One per student recommended.*