

God Made the Sky and Earth

Lesson 1



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-19

Bible Memory: Genesis 1:1, 31

“In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. . . . And it was very good.” (*ICB*)

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. . . . And, behold, it was very good.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ God made the sky and the earth.











Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Your children may know that God created the world, but this lesson can add sight, taste, sound, smell, and touch to God’s creation. Take the time to wonder at the shape of a cloud, the taste of a raindrop, the sound of the rustling wind, and the smell and feel of a perfect flower. You will be ready to pass on to your children the amazing fact that God created our world *ex nihilo*, out of nothing!

Bible Background for the Teacher

The Hebrew word for “God” in Genesis 1:1, *Elohim*, implies God’s power and glory. Verse 2 describes the earth as it first appeared when it was called into existence—formless, empty, dark. Then God spoke! He had a plan and a purpose for everything He was about to make. The Bible says that God’s Word was carried out instantaneously. God himself named the day and night, the sky, the land, and the seas. He is ruler of all.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 GETTING STARTED Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore things God made on Days 1-4.</i></p>	 Puzzles Quick Step It Fits Together  Game Creation Clues Search  Wonder Seeds of Creation	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 photo puzzles • <i>Make-n-Share</i> and stickers for lesson 1, Scout puppet • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • scissors • grown plants and their seeds
<p>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY Use all these activities to help children <i>tell what God made on Days 1-4.</i></p>	 Sing & Pray  Bible Time  Bible Review  Bible Memory Sing and Pray Bible Time God Made the Sky and Earth Bible Review Bible Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> CD, <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 spyglass 1b and sheet 1 “I Spy” poster 1a, <i>Resources</i> CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tape, CD player, Bibles, highlighter, tape
<p>3 GROW AND GO Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>thank God for making the sky and the earth.</i></p>	 Craft Quick Step Creation Clues Cards  Wonder Creation Grab Bag  Active Play Memory Motions Closing the Hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make-n-Share</i> and stickers for lesson 1, Scout puppet • none • Bible Memory Motions from Bible Discovery, <i>Teaching Picture 1</i> • <i>Heart Tugs</i> issue 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • washable markers, blunt-tip scissors, resealable plastic bags • paper bags, creation items (see activity) • Bible with Bible Memory highlighted from Bible Discovery • none

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore things God made on Days 1–4.**

Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Welcome

- Use Scout to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step It Fits Together

Before class, punch apart the puzzles and mix up the pieces.

SAY: **The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let's look at some things God made on the first four days.**

Encourage children to work together to match the picture pieces. Let them try silly combinations before they correctly match the pieces.

ASK: **What would it look like if the apples were growing above the sky? Or if the sun was in the ocean?**

God put everything in our world together in the right order so that we would have a perfect place to live!

Especially for 4s!

Have 4s put together one picture at a time. They can try silly combinations after all the pictures have been matched.

Creation Clues Search

Before class, cut apart a set of the lesson 1 Creation Clues cards from *Make-n-Share*. Put a dog biscuit sticker on each card (or tape a real dog biscuit to each card). Hide the cards in your room.

SAY: **The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let's look around the room for some hidden Creation Clues cards. Scout will help us find the cards by barking loudly or softly.**

Allow children to look around the room. Scout can bark louder if a child is near a card and softer if farther away. When both cards have been found, show both sides of the two Creation Clues cards.

ASK: **What are some things God made that you see on these cards? What color is that thing? How does it smell? taste? sound? Ask appropriate questions for each item the children name. What is your favorite thing God made?**

Seeds of Creation

SAY: **The Bible tells us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth in six days. Let's look at some things God made on the third day.**

Show the seeds and plants, and ask the children to match each seed with its grown counterpart. Allow children to touch and smell the seeds and plants. Cut an apple in half and show children the star shape the seeds form. ♥ **God made the sky and the earth. He is so creative!**

ASK: **Why do you think that plant matches that seed? Does an apple seed always grow an apple? What other kinds of trees, flowers, vegetables, or fruits can you name?**

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Resources sheet 2 photo puzzles



Keep questions factual for concrete thinkers. Put the puzzles together wrong; then let children tell what is wrong and help you fix the puzzles.

Materials

Scout puppet, one set of cards and stickers from *Make-n-Share* for lesson 1, scissors (optional: dog biscuits and tape)



Teaching Tip

A set of Creation Clues cards will be used throughout the unit, so be sure to keep them each week.

Materials

grown plants and seeds (Examples: apple and apple seed, ear and kernel of corn, flower and flower seed)



Cleanup

Sing "Cleanup Song," found on the *Resources* CD Teacher Helps, as you encourage children to help clean the room.



Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)



Use all these activities to help children **tell what God made on Days 1–4.**

Materials

Resources sheet 2
spyglass 1b, tape,
Resources CD tracks 1 and 4,
CD player



Before Class

Fold the spyglass in half and tape closed.

Materials

Resources sheet 1
“I Spy” poster 1a and
sheet 2 spyglass 1b, Bibles



See the Special Needs
Tip article on the

Resources CD for a way to help children who struggle with visual perception. The “Seeing Clearly” tip can be used for all lessons in this unit.

Materials

“I Spy” poster and
spyglass used in
Bible Time



Materials

Bible, highlighter,
Resources CD Unit 1
Memory Motions printable file,
tape



Sing and Pray

Sing “Thank You, God” (verse 1) and “In the Beginning.”

PRAY: **God, thank You for making the sky and the earth. We are so glad to learn from the Bible how You made our world. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the spyglass. ASK: **Have you ever wanted to be a detective, looking for clues about how something happened? Today we’re going to look at some clues to find out what happened when ♥ God made the sky and the earth.**

Bible Time

Display the “I Spy” poster. SAY: **For our first clue, we need to look in our Bibles. Help children open their Bibles to the book of Genesis. Point out the word *Genesis*. The Bible tells us what it was like before anything was on the earth. There was no air or land or light. Everything was dark and without any kind of shape.**

But then something happened! God spoke. On the first day, God said, “Let there be light.” And just like that, there was light! Clap your hands together once. Have children do so too.

On the second day, God made the sky and the air we breathe. Have everyone take a deep breath and let it out. **Raise your hand if you see the sky on our poster.** Place the spyglass over the sky.

On the third day, God made the dry ground appear. Then God said, “Let the land have plants!” All of a sudden, trees and vegetables and flowers and grass appeared on the ground. Which of these creations do you see on our poster? Place the spyglass over each item as the children name it. **God saw that the land and the plants were good.**

On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Do you see any of these things on our poster? Place the spyglass over the sun, moon, and stars. **God saw that the sun, moon, and twinkling stars were good.**

In just four days God had created a beautiful and bright world!

Bible Review

Let children take turns placing the spyglass over various items on the poster. The children can say together on what day God made that item.

ASK: **On what day did God make light?** (Day 1)

When did God make the sky? (Day 2)

When did God make the dry ground and plants? (Day 3)

When did God make the sun? the moon? the stars? (Day 4)

Bible Memory Genesis 1:1, 31

Before class, highlight Genesis 1:1, 31 in your Bible. Print and display the motions from the CD.

SAY: **Genesis is the very first book of the Bible, God’s special book. In Genesis, we learn about the time when ♥ God made the sky and the earth.** Show the Bible Memory in your Bible. Read aloud the verse and ask the children to say it with you. Begin teaching the motions to the children.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **thank God for making the sky and the earth.**

Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Quick Step Creation Clues Cards



SAY: **Scout is thankful that ♥ God made the sky and the earth.** Nod Scout's head. **We can thank God too. Every time you name something to thank God for, Scout will give you a dog biscuit sticker to put on one of your Creation Clues cards.**

Help children cut out the cards. As they complete the cards, guide them to name things God created on each day. Have Scout give each child one sticker for each of the first four days of creation. Help children print their names on their cards. Put each child's cards in a separate plastic bag. Keep everyone's cards as more will be added throughout the unit.

ASK: **Do you remember what God made on the very first day? (light)**
What is something in the sky that you can thank God for?
What is a plant that God made on Day 3?

Creation Grab Bag

Before class, place each creation item in a separate bag.

SAY: **We can be thankful because ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Let's take turns discovering some things we can thank God for.**

Have children sit in a circle. Pass one bag around the circle, and let children take turns touching the object in the bag without looking inside the bag. After everyone has had a turn, let children guess the object. They can thank God by naming something special about that object—how it feels, looks, smells, sounds, or tastes. Repeat with several bags.

ASK: **How does an apple taste? How does that make you thankful?**
I'm so thankful God made smooth, cold rocks! What are you thankful God made? Take time to pray with the children.

Memory Motions

SAY: **Let's learn the words in our Bibles that tell us that ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Then we'll thank God for what He made.**

Show children the words in your Bible as you read them aloud. Say the words together. Say the Bible Memory again, adding the motions. Between times of saying the Bible Memory, ask children to name things they are thankful God made. They can look at the teaching picture for ideas.

ASK: **Why are you thankful God made the sun?**
What will you say to thank God for making splishy, splashy water? Allow each child to say a thank-You prayer to God.

Especially for 4s!

Teach only the first part of the Bible Memory and choose fewer motions. Point to items on the teaching picture that children can thank God for.

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving now have their activity projects and a copy of today's *Heart Tugs*. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Scout puppet, *Make-n-Share* and stickers for lesson 1, washable markers (or crayons), blunt-tip scissors, resealable plastic bags



Materials

paper bags, creation items (Examples: rock, small stick, potato, apple)



Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted and *Resources* CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions from Bible Discovery, *Teaching Picture 1*



God Made the Sky and Earth

Lesson 1 Extra Hour



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-19

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Bible Background for the Teacher

The Hebrew word for “God” in Genesis 1:1, *Elohim*, implies God’s power and glory. Verse 2 describes the earth as it first appeared when it was called into existence—formless, empty, dark. Then God spoke! He had a plan and a purpose for everything He was about to make. The Bible says that God’s Word was carried out instantaneously. God himself named the day and night, the sky, the land, and the seas. He is ruler of all.

Lesson 1 at a Glance—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore things God made on Days 1-4*.



Quick Step
Scout’s Creation Clues

Wonderful Water!

Creation Texture Pictures

HeartShaper Materials

- Scout puppet

- none

- none

Other Materials

- none

- ice, ice bucket, paper towels
- creation items (see activity), sidewalk chalk, hair spray, plain white paper, tape

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell what God made on Days 1-4*.



More! Sing and Pray

Bible Time—Another Way!
God Made the Sky and Earth

More! Bible Review

More! Bible Memory

- *Resources CD, Teaching Picture 1, Resources CD*
- Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file

- CD player, Bibles, flashlight, construction paper strips

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *thank God for making the sky and the earth*.



Quick Step
Scout Puppet Story

“It Is Good!”

Saying Good-bye

- Scout puppet

- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- grass clippings, tree twig, 2 small rocks

- none

- none

More! Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore things God made on Days 1-4.**

Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivals, giving each a name tag.
- Play a game of Duck, Duck, Goose, using the words “Dark, dark, light.” When a child taps another child on the head and says “light,” the child tapped says “God made the sky and the earth!” The two children exchange places, and the game continues.
- Serve a snack. Follow your church’s policy for taking restroom breaks.

Quick Step Scout’s Creation Clues

Show Scout. SAY: **Scout is so glad that ♥ God made the sky and the earth. He wants you to guess some of his favorite things that God made.**

Have Scout whisper to you; then give children clues, such as the ones suggested below. Children can guess what creation you are describing. Then let the children take turns giving clues for Scout and others to guess.

- **I’m thinking of something God made on Day 4 that is big and round and bright. It shines at night.** (moon)
- **I’m thinking of something God made on Day 3 that is yellow and sweet. Monkeys love to eat these, and so do boys and girls.** (bananas)

Wonderful Water!

SAY: **We are learning about how ♥ God made the sky and the earth. I am holding one of the most wonderful things God made. People can’t live without this special thing. Plants and animals can’t live without it. I am going to let each of you hold some of this special thing God made.**

Offer ice to each child who wants to hold a piece over a paper towel. Ask children to watch what happens when they hold the ice in their warm hands. Then allow each child to eat small pieces of ice.

ASK: **What is this special thing God made?** (ice, water)

What happens when you hold it in your hand? (it melts)

What are some ways we use water? (bathing, drinking, watering flowers)

Creation Texture Pictures

SAY: **♥ God made the sky and the earth in just one week. Let’s explore some things God made.**

Help each child tape two sides of a full sheet of paper to his workspace. Allow each child to choose a creation item to lay on the full sheet. Place a half sheet of paper over the item and tape it at the corners to the full sheet beneath. The child should use the flat edge of the chalk and rub it across the paper to bring out the texture of the creation item. Spray the chalk rubbing with hair spray to fix it in place on each picture.

ASK: **What thing that God made did you rub on your paper?**

Are the creations smooth or rough or prickly?

Especially for 4s!

Use crayons and leaves. The leaves are easier to work with, and the crayons will not rub off onto clothes and faces.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Scout puppet



Game



Make this activity tangible. Have objects (or pictures of objects) for children to see and hold.

Materials

small pieces of ice in ice bucket, paper towels



Wonder

Materials

creation items (Examples: different types of leaves, stones, tree bark, sticks), sidewalk chalk, hair spray, plain white paper, tape (optional: crayons)



Art

Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)



Use all these activities to help children **tell what God made on Days 1–4.**

Materials

Resources CD track 1,
CD player, Bibles



More! Sing and Pray

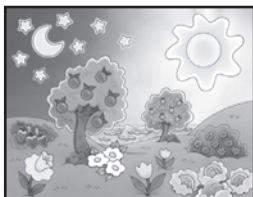
Sing “Thank You, God” (verse 1).

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible to help us learn how You made our world. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Help children open their Bibles to the book of Genesis and point to the word *Genesis*. **The very first book of the Bible tells us that God made the world in just one week. Do you know how much time is in a week? Let’s say the days of the week together.** Say the days aloud slowly. **You can help me tell what God made on the first four days.**

Materials

Teaching Picture 1



Bible Time—Another Way!

Show the teaching picture. **SAY: This picture shows some of the things God made when ♥ God made the sky and the earth. Each time I tell you something God said, cup your hands around your mouths and repeat in big, deep voices what God said.** Demonstrate; then tell the Bible lesson.

On the first day, God spoke into the black, empty, cold space. He said, “Let there be light.” Repeat phrase in deep voices: “Let there be light.” **God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.”**

On the second day, God spoke again. He said, “Let there be sky.” Repeat phrase.

On the third day, God said, “Let dry ground appear.” Repeat phrase. **Then God said, “Let there be plants.”** Repeat phrase. **Immediately the earth was filled with trees, grass, flowers, fruits, and vegetables!**

On the fourth day, God said, “Let there be lights in the sky.” Repeat phrase. **One light ruled the day—the sun. The other shone at night—the moon. God made twinkling stars too. And God saw that they were all good.**

Teaching Tip

The Resources sheet 1 poster 1a can also be used for this Bible Time.

Materials

Teaching Picture 1,
flashlight



More! Bible Review

SAY: Let’s light up some of the things God made on each of the days of creation. Review the things God made on each day. Then call out a day. Allow children to take turns shining the flashlight onto the teaching picture to show something God made on that day.

ASK: What did God make on Day 1? Day 2? Day 3? Day 4?

Can you shine the light on your favorite thing God made?

Materials

Resources CD Unit 1
Bible Memory Motions
printable file, Bibles, construction
paper strips to use as bookmarks,
Resources CD track 4, CD player



More! Bible Memory Genesis 1:1, 31

Before class, print the motions from the CD.

SAY: When we learn Bible Memory verses, we are learning from God’s special book, the Bible. Today’s Bible Memory, Genesis 1:1, 31, is from the very first book of the Bible. Let’s find Genesis 1 in our Bibles.

Help the children open their Bibles to the first page of Genesis. As each child finds the page, mark the page with a bookmark. Then ask the children to practice opening their Bibles to the marked pages. Teach the Bible Memory motions; then sing “In the Beginning” as you do the motions together.

ASK: What book tells us ♥ God made the sky and the earth? (Bible)

Teaching Tip

Provide extra Bibles so each child can have one. Depending on the skill level of your children, you may need to place bookmarks in their Bibles before the activity.

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

3 Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **thank God for making the sky and the earth.**

Focus

♥ God made the sky and the earth.

Quick Step “Scout’s Work and Play Day”

Before class, put some grass on Scout’s head.

SAY: **Scout, what is on your head? It looks like grass.** Scout nods, then whispers to you. **Oh, sounds like you had a good day! Listen, children, and I’ll tell you about Scout’s day.**

Scout was sleeping in his doghouse when he heard a loud whirrrrr. Scout’s people family had come outdoors, and Dad was mowing the grass. Scout knew he could help. He picked up some twigs that had fallen into the yard. Scout picks up twig. Maybe he would get to play fetch later!

Scout lay in the warm sun and watched for dangerous enemies—like cats and rabbits. Scout lies down, peering back and forth. Scout watched as Mom dug around some flowers. The children pulled weeds and watered flowers. Scout dug in the dirt too. Pretend to do so. He found two smooth rocks. Show rocks. Scout rolled in the fresh, green grass.

Roll Scout.

Then Scout saw something he really liked! The children had ice-cream cones. Scout jumped up and ran over to the children. They laughed as he licked up a drip of ice cream. Pretend to lick. Finally, Scout lay on the soft grass in the shade of a big tree. Scout sighed a happy sigh and took a long nap. Cradle Scout in arm.

ASK: **What did Scout enjoy that God made?** (sun, rocks, grass, tree)

What are you thankful for that God made? What can you say to thank God? Encourage each child to say a thank-You prayer to God.

“It Is Good!”

SAY: ♥ **God made the sky and the earth in just one week. Let’s learn a rhyme to help us remember all the wonderful things God made on Days 1–4.** Give each child a copy of today’s *Heart Tugs*. Teach children the rhyme “It Is Good!” Look at the pictures and practice doing the motions together.

ASK: **What things that God made on Days 1–4 are you thankful for?**

Let’s thank God together for those things. Do so.

Epecially for 4s!

Ask children to listen to you say the rhyme and imitate you as you do the motions. Don’t expect them to be able to say the words with you.

Saying Good-bye

- As children wait for parents to come, play Dark, Dark, Light from Transition Time.
- Be sure children have projects made in class and a copy of today’s *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to do the activities and talk about the things God created on Days 1–4. Note: *A Family Together Time* is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Scout puppet,
grass clippings, tree twig,
2 small rocks



When asking children what they are thankful for, offer picture or word choices. (Examples: “Are you thankful for a sister or a brother?” “Are you thankful for a family car or a mini-van?”)

Materials

Heart Tugs issue 1



Teaching Tip

Encourage children to stand and use large sweeping motions. This is a good large-muscle activity for 4s and 5s.

Cleanup

Divide the class into teams. Give each team an area to clean. Praise team members as they complete their tasks.

