

# A Powerful God

## Lesson 1



**Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-28










**Bible Memory:** Psalm 139:13-16

**Focus:** ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

O Lord God, how Your power and love are shown in the glory and majesty of creation! As Your Spirit moved over the water, may it work in my life and in the lives of the preteens I teach. May Your Spirit help them move from merely knowing the facts of creation to a personal faith in Your power and love. Give me Your words, Lord, to lead the preteens to know You more and more. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>experience the vastness of God's creation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Creation Guess-It Game</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Creation Match-Up</p>	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources sheet 2</li> <li>• Resources CD Creation Match-Up printable file</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dark construction paper, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive</li> <li>• pencils</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help students <i>describe God's power and love as seen in creation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> Genesis 1:1-28</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Psalm 139:13-16</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for lesson 1</li> <li>• Resources sheet 3</li> <li>• Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, roll paper, markers, reusable adhesive, pencils</li> <li>• Bibles, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker</li> <li>• Bibles</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>identify examples of God's power and love in His creation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Look Closely</p> <p> <b>Option</b> God's Power and Love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for lesson 1</li> <li>• Resources sheet 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• paper, pencils</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>praise and thank God that His power and love are seen in His creation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Just Pray</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Dough Creations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for lesson 1</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• modeling dough</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **experience the vastness of God's creation.**

### Welcome

- Welcome each student by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

### Quick Step Creation Guess-It Game

Before class, tear apart the photo cards. Place a sheet of dark construction paper over each photo, leaving only a part of each photo showing.

ASK preteens to think how they would answer this question: **What do you think is the most ginormous, greatest thing that God created?**

After a few seconds to think, ask students to find out how two others in the room would answer that question. When preteens are done, have a few volunteers share what they heard. Then divide the class into two teams. Tell students that you'll show each team, one at a time, a photo of something that God created, but they'll only see a small part of it. If they guess what it is, award 40 points. If not, show a little more of the photo. If they guess it correctly, award 30 points. If not, let the other team guess, awarding 30 points for a correct response. If not correct, show a little more of the photo, awarding 20 points for a correct answer. When finished with the game, have kids display the cards on a wall or bulletin board.

ASK: **What do you think about God when you look at what He created?**

(He's mighty and awesome. He's creative.)

**What part of God's vast creation would you like to explore someday?** Accept responses.

Refer to the photo cards. SAY: **Think about the vastness, the awesomeness of God's creation—from the depths of the ocean to the sun and stars, from a little baby to an elderly adult. Let's dig into God's Word to find out how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

### Option Creation Match-Up

Have preteens get into small groups. Give each group a copy of the Creation Match-Up page and a pencil. Ask students in each group to work together to match Column A to Column B. When the groups are done, let them take turns telling their matches. (Answers: 1=c; 2=g; 3=b; 4=h; 5=a; 6=d; 7=e; 8=f)

ASK: **What do you think about God when you consider what He created?**

(He's mighty and awesome. He's creative.)

**What part of God's vast creation would you like to explore someday?** Accept responses.

SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word to find out how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

## Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

### Materials

*Resources* sheet 2 Photo Cards, dark construction paper, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive (optional: pushpins)



### Tech Tip

Go online to find images of God's creation to show students. Or let preteens use their phones to search for images of impressive things God made.



For some preteens with disabilities, circulating through a room and approaching peers for information might be very difficult. Instead, put students into small groups and have them discuss the question.

### Materials

copies of *Resources* CD Creation Match-Up printable file (1 per small group), pencils



### The Beat

Check out The Beat, an optional Focus In activity that uses current events, trends, or media to introduce the lesson. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com) and click on The Beat to download a free attachment.

## Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

# Explore His Word (25 minutes)

**2** Use these activities to help students **describe God's power and love as seen in creation.**

## Bible Background for the Teacher

God is uncreated, separate, and apart from any created thing. The existence of an uncreated creator is the reason there can be anything instead of nothing. The universe is not self-explanatory. It exists because God upholds it by His powerful word (see Hebrews 1:3). This great act of immeasurable power was also God's act of immeasurable love. We can clearly see that ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

God's work proceeded in an orderly fashion. He did not leave the world void and uninhabitable. Genesis 1 does not describe any creative method of God beyond speaking. It is astounding for us to contemplate the perfection and intricacy of God's system! He had a plan that led to the final creation of human beings made in His image. Being created in God's image is God's acknowledgment that He puts more value on humans than on other elements of creation. As image-bearers, we represent God. Our holy living should reflect God's majesty. Genesis 1 lays the foundation for all that follows—from the very beginning to the very end when God will create "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).

### Materials

Bibles, 6 lengths of roll paper, markers, reusable adhesive, *Activities* for lesson 1, pencils



### Note

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

### Tech Tip

Go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) or a similar website to play a dramatized reading of the Bible verses.

## Bible Exploration Genesis 1:1-28

**ASK: Where in the Bible would we look to read about the beginning of the world?** (Genesis 1)

Have preteens turn in their Bibles to Genesis 1:1. SAY: **Let's read together verses 1-28. Listen not only for what God created, but how.** Have volunteers take turns reading the verses.

**ASK: What do these verses tell you about God and who He is?**

(God created everything. He is powerful. He loves His creation very much.)

**How did God create everything?** (by speaking)

**Why do you think God created things in the order that He created them?** (Students could give several examples, such as: God created dry ground before He created plants. God created the sky before He created birds. God created water and food supplies before He created people.)

**On which day do you think God showed His greatest power? Why?**

Answers will vary. Encourage students to talk about the many awesome things God made and how those things show God's power and love.

Divide the class into six groups. Give each group a length of roll paper and markers. If you have a small class, cut a long length of roll paper, and let preteens work together to illustrate all the days of creation. SAY: **Each group will illustrate one day of creation. Make your drawings match what Genesis 1 says in your assigned verses. Read closely so you'll illustrate what the verses say God created.** Day 1=verses 1-5; day 2=verses 6-8; day 3=verses 9-13; day 4=verses 14-19; day 5=verses 20-23; day 6=verses 24-28. Tell the groups to also write at the top of their papers what day of creation they are illustrating.

When the groups are done, ask them to display their illustrations, in order, on a wall. Then beginning with day 1, let the groups explain what they drew. Ask these questions after each group is done:

**ASK: How is God's power seen in what He created?** This will differ for each day of creation, but make sure students understand how only our powerful God could create what He did in the way that He did.

**How is God's love seen in what He created?** This will differ for each day of creation. (God created a lot of food sources to give us a big variety of food. God created a lot of trees and plants for us to use and enjoy.)

Distribute the activity leaflets, and ask preteens to look at the activity God, the Creator. Read the instructions, and let preteens pair up to do the page together. When students are done, have volunteers tell which days the things were created on. (Answers: 1=day 1; 2=days 3, 5, 6; 3=day 3; 4=day 4) Also have volunteers tell on which day each of the things pictured were created on. (Answers: A=day 4; B=day 5; C=day 6)

**SAY: God planned every aspect of creation, and everything He made was for us! How awesome that ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

## Bible Memory Psalm 139:13-16

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Display the Psalm 139:13-16 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Write "Psalm 139:13-16" on the board. Ask a volunteer to come to the board and tell what each part of the Scripture reference means. (Psalm is the name of the book, 139 is the chapter number, the colon separates the chapter and verse numbers, and 13-16 are the verse numbers.) Have preteens find Psalm 139:13-16 in their Bibles, and ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

**ASK: Who wrote these verses?** (David) If students aren't sure, have them look at the notes under the chapter number.

**What do you think is the main thought in these verses?** (that everyone is created by God and that makes everyone special, that everybody should praise God for making them)

**SAY: No matter what you think of yourself or what others think about you, you are wonderful because God made you! ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation—and that includes you!** Encourage preteens to begin memorizing these verses.

### Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 3, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



### Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

### Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file.



## Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

# Make It Real (15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help students **identify examples of God's power and love in His creation.**

### Materials

Activities for lesson 1, pencils (optional: magnifying glasses)



### Quick Step Look Closely



Ask preteens to look quickly at the shirt or top they have on. Let several share what they see. Then ask them to look at their shirts or tops more closely and let several share what they see. If you have magnifying glasses, let preteens use them. SAY: **When you look more closely at something you see more details. That's how it can be with God's power and love in His creation. We may think about it once in a while, but when we look more closely or think about it more, we'll discover lots more.** Ask preteens to turn in their activity leaflets to Look Closely. Have a volunteer read number 1.

ASK: **What did God create in the sky or in space that shows His power?**  
(sun, moon, stars, planets, galaxies)

**What did God create in the sky or in space that shows His love?**  
**Why do you say that?** (the sun, it keeps us warm)

Tell students that for number 1 they might write something like this: "by the way He created the planets and by the way He created the sun that keeps us warm." Be sure to tell preteens that there are a variety of ways these can be completed. Let students work alone or with a partner on the rest. When preteens are done, let volunteers share what they wrote. SAY: **Let's try to look more closely every day to see examples of how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

### Materials

paper, pencils, Resources sheet 2 Photo Cards (you might have used these in the Focus In Quick Step activity)



### Option God's Power and Love

Ask preteens to hold up their arms and make a muscle. Look at everyone's muscles and point out who has the largest muscle. SAY: \_\_\_ (name of student) **is the most powerful person in our class.** Distribute paper and pencils. Ask students to draw the best heart they can. Look at the paper hearts and point out who made the best heart. \_\_\_ (name of student) **shows the most love of anyone in our class.**

ASK: **You agree with what I said, don't you? If not, why not?** (no; having a big muscle doesn't mean someone is the most powerful, making a good heart doesn't mean that someone shows the most love)  
**What's one way we can learn about God's power and love?** (by thinking about what He created)

Divide the class into four groups, and ask each group to huddle up. Give each group a sheet of paper, a pencil, and the photo card (or cards) that shows something God created: group 1=sky or space; group 2=nature; group 3=animals; group 4=people. Each group is to answer this question: Thinking about the sky and space (or nature or animals or people), what are some examples of God's power and love? Tell the groups they have four minutes to come up with the biggest list they can. When time is up, let each group report. SAY: **Examples of how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation are all around us. Let's praise and thank God!**

### Teaching Tip

There are usually a few students who tend to dominate discussions. Encourage everyone in the groups to participate.

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **praise and thank God that His power and love are seen in His creation.**

## Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

### Quick Step Just Pray

SAY: **Some people praise and thank nature itself. But we, as Christians, praise and thank God, the creator of nature. Some people praise and thank people for the great abilities they have. But we, as Christians, praise and thank God, the creator of people. Let's praise and thank Him right now that ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation. Think about the vastness, the awesomeness of God's creation.** Encourage preteens to call out what they would like to praise and thank God for. Tell students that they can simply call out a word or phrase, such as "family" or "the sun" or "my cat Whiskers." Encourage all preteens to call out something.

Then have students turn in their activity leaflets to Just Pray. Ask a volunteer to read the prayer that's been started. Tell preteens to complete the prayer on their own, praising and thanking God for His creation. When students are done, invite the preteens to silently pray their prayers to God. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer. PRAY: **Dear God, we are in awe of Your power. By speaking, You brought forth the world and everything in it. God, we are in awe of Your love. You show us love through the people you created to care for us. And You showed us the greatest love possible when You sent Jesus to earth. We can't praise and thank You enough. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Option Dough Creations

SAY: **Think about the vastness, the awesomeness of God's creation. Think about how powerful God is to create the entire world from nothing, just by speaking! Think about how deep God's love for us must be to create all the many things and people that He did—just for us!** Give each preteen some modeling dough. Encourage them to form something that they would like to praise and thank God for. It might be a person, something in nature or space, food, or an animal. As preteens work, you could play some songs that praise and thank God. When students are finished, let volunteers show and tell about what they made with the dough.

Close with a time of prayer. SAY: **Some people praise and thank nature itself. But we, as Christians, praise and thank God, the creator of nature. Some people praise and thank people for the great abilities they have. But we, as Christians, praise and thank God, the creator of people. Because ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation, let's praise and thank Him right now.** Ask volunteers to offer praise and thanks to God for specific things and people He created.

### Materials

Activities for lesson 1, pencils




### Tech Tip

Let preteens choose a song that praises and thanks God and find photos that illustrate God's power and love in nature. Then let them create a presentation of these pics set to music.

### Materials

modeling dough  
(optional: songs that praise and thank God from your music collection)



 See the *Resources* CD Special Needs Helps 1 printable file for activity adaptations.

### Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their preteens at home. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

