

Why Teach Genesis in Sunday School?

The Vision

It's impossible to understand any subject until you know its origin. The first eleven chapters of the book of *Genesis* tell the origin of all things: the universe, galaxies, stars and planets, including Earth, life, man, marriage, language, nations, government, culture, and religion. More important, *Genesis* tells us about the origin of sin and evil, and God's plan of redemption through the chosen people, Israel, and ultimately Jesus, the Messiah.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork (Psalm 19:1)

Genesis begins with God's act of creation. Not only God's greatness, majesty and amazing creativity, but also His goodness and mercy can be clearly seen in the world around us.

For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Teaching about *Genesis* and God's creation in Sunday School is the best way to equip our children to defend their faith when they are confronted with the world's false ideas about evolution. It can also help children to develop good critical thinking skills as well as a love for good science. We want to teach about creation in a way that will excite and challenge our children and deepen their love of their great and awesome God.

We feel the most effective way to teach *Genesis* to children is by providing a hands-on learning experience that keeps the subject matter relevant to a child's interests and needs. So, we have prepared the following fourteen lessons with accompanying craft, game, and science activities designed to reinforce the lesson objectives.

Week #	Lesson
1	How Did the World Begin? (<i>Genesis</i> 1:1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who made God?• How did God make everything?• Was Jesus there?
2	Day #1 of Creation — Light & Darkness (<i>Genesis</i> 1:1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How could there be light before there was a sun?

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created (Revelation 4:11)

Week #	Lesson
3	<p>Day #2 of Creation — Atmosphere/Separated Waters (Genesis 1:6-8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was it good in the beginning or is it getting better?
4	<p>Day #3 of Creation — Land, Sea, Vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed after its kind • Earth mural • Seed experiments • Garden terrariums • Why are plants important? • Why did God make so many different kinds?
5	<p>Day #4 of Creation — Sun, Moon, Stars, Season, Days, Years (Genesis 1:14-19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasons, days, years, calendars • Solar system • Why did God make night and day?
6	<p>Day #5 of Creation — Fish & Birds (Genesis 1:20-23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order and complexity • Structure and function • Sea monsters? • How do birds fly? • Flying dinosaurs?
7	<p>Day #6 of Creation — Animals, Man & Woman (Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-8,18-24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same day; not evolution! • Dinosaurs? • Ecology, taking care of God's earth
8	<p>Man is unique from animal & more precious to God — We are not evolved (Matthew 10:31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clay sculptures • Living cells • Breath/oxygen • Carbon • Fingerprints • Do animals go to heaven?
9	<p>Day #7 of Creation — Sabbath Rest (Genesis 2:1-3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished; not evolving • Jesus is our peace • Worship and praise

Week #	Lesson
10	<p>Sin Enters the World (Genesis 2:7 - 3:24; Romans 3:23; 1John 1:9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice/consequences • Imitation and lies • Blame shifting • Cause and effect • Results of sin • Promise of Jesus
11	<p>Cain and Able (Genesis 4:1-16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What pleases God • Sin is crouching at your door • Worship/special thanksgiving
12	<p>Civilization, not cave men (Genesis 4:16 - 5:32)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted men or cave men? • Eliminate missing links • Evil multiplies • Calculate time line • History passed by word of mouth
13	<p>Noah and Flood (Genesis 6:1 - 9:17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinosaurs in ark? • Fossils • Volcanoes • Rainbows • Legends from different cultures • Promise
14	<p>Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of languages • Pyramids, Aztecs • Worship of heavens • World peace and unity through Jesus, God of the nations

In teaching these fourteen lessons, we earnestly desire to:

1. Teach the attributes of God as revealed through His creation.
2. Show that there is scientific evidence that supports the Word of God (that is, God's Word and God's world agree!)
3. Show Jesus in creation and in the Old Testament prophecies (that is, the Gospel in Genesis!)

The Daily Format

Each morning the children and all the teachers meet together in a large group for a corporate teaching and worship time. The teachings are short and simple so that we keep even the youngest child's attention.

After the teaching and worship time, the children split up into color groups, not according to age or grade level. Each color group is a mixture of ages so that the older children can mentor the younger ones. The color groups rotate in 15 or 20-minute time blocks through the following three learning centers:

1. **Imagination Station** (Craft Center)
2. **Fun House** (Game Center)
3. **God's Weird and Wonderful World** (Science Lab)

Each learning center leader repeats their activity for each of the color groups. As an alternative, if you're short on time, you can use the learning center activities in each lesson as electives from which the children can choose. Or, if your Sunday school is small, you can choose to do only one of the suggested activities.

We Need A Team

It's best to have lots of helpers to make this Sunday School program successful. The Lord uses different personalities with differing gifts and resources in the most incredible ways! And, it's so much fun to work together! So, don't be shy about getting involved. We need a team of people to fill the following roles:

- **A People Planner:** Someone willing to make calls, host a sign-up table, print a schedule, keep communications updated, etc. Or, get five different people to oversee the scheduling for the following teams:
 - Teachers
 - Worship Leaders
 - Craft Leaders
 - Game Leaders
 - Science Leaders
- **A Decoration Planner:** Someone with a vision for "setting the scene" and creating eye-appealing room decorations based on the creation theme. This person can pull together a team to decorate bulletin boards, etc.

- **Teachers:** People who can teach God's Word to children in a simple, understandable style.
- **Worship Leaders:** People who have a desire to lead children in the worship of God with songs related to the creation theme or God's majesty.
- **Craft leaders:** People who are creative, love crafts, and kids! (Have you considered edible crafts with a Creation theme, like ants on a log? Celery sticks coated with peanut butter and raisins sitting on top!)
- **Games Leaders:** People who like games and kids, and have the vision for creating games that will reinforce the weekly lesson objectives or encourage the children to memorize God's word.
- **Science Leaders:** People who want to help children discover God's weird and wonderful world, as well as develop a love for good science disciplines.
- **Helpers:** People who can assist the leaders and help the kids. The high schoolers make excellent helpers and that way they don't miss out on all the fun!

Many hands make work light and much more fun. The trick is to keep the vision and be flexible!

Decorating Ideas

Here are some ideas for decorating the rooms for the Children's Creation Curriculum.

1. Use Dinosaurs as the theme.
 - Print the words: "Digging for God's Truth" across the bulletin board. Add pictures of dinosaurs.
 - Use dinosaur decorations available from stores. Look in places like party goods stores, teacher's supply stores, and the birthday section of drug and department stores.
 - Put up maps showing where dinosaur bones have been found.
 - Display inflatable dinosaurs in the classrooms.
 - Display digging tools such as shovels and picks.
 - Use large dinosaur footprints to point the way to each Learning Center.
 - Display books on dinosaurs.
 - Prepare several banners to hang throughout the Sunday School area.

- Make large dinosaur eggs from construction paper and hang them in the doorways. Make some of them cracked as if they are hatching.
- Using L'eggs containers, make dinosaur eggs by attaching self-adhesive dots to the eggs or by painting stripes or dots on the eggs. Display them in various places around the classrooms.
- Make a huge dinosaur using an overhead projector. Make a transparency using a coloring book sketch of a dinosaur or clip art. Project the picture and trace it either directly onto a 4' x 8' self-standing display unit or trace it onto butcher paper. Then you'll have to cut out the dinosaur and glue it to the display unit. (Note: if you traced the picture, you could have the kids paint and decorate it as one of the Craft Center projects.)

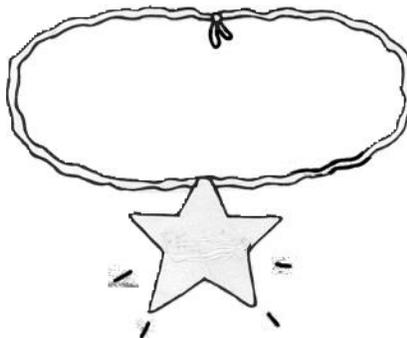
2. Use the Noah's Ark theme as one of your bulletin boards.

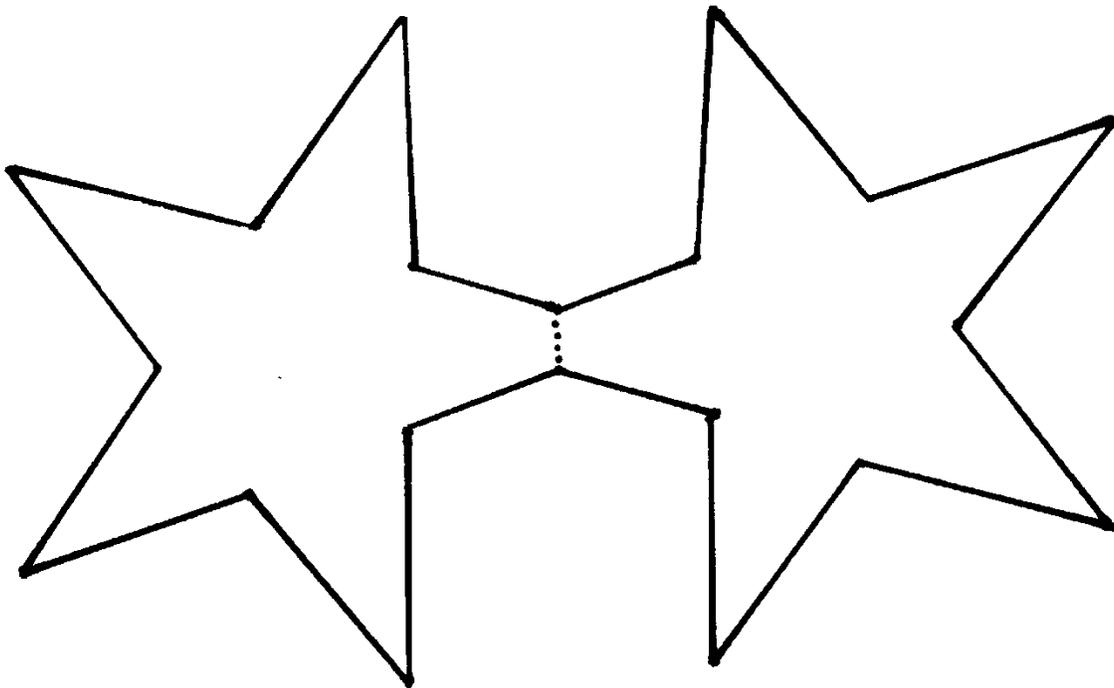
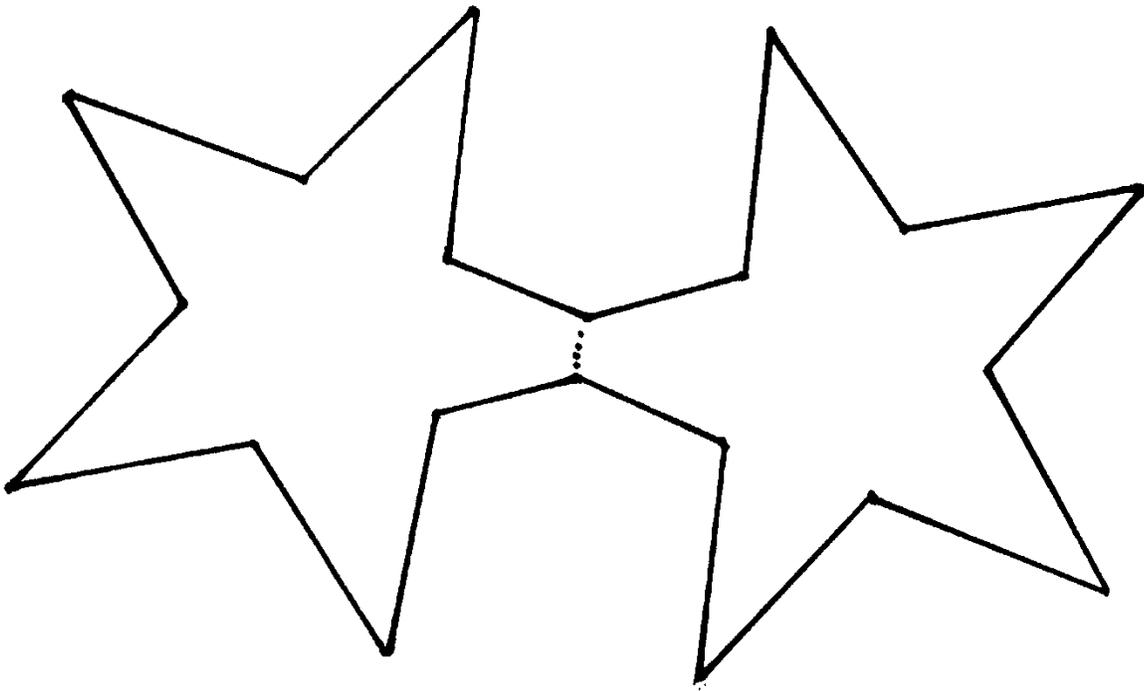
3. Use the Days of Creation as a theme.

- Each room could be a different Day of Creation.
- Make one bulletin board a collage of things made on each day.

Name Tag Idea

Copy the double star pictured on the next page onto different colored paper according to the children's color groups. Fold it on the broken lines. Write the name of each child in the center of the star. Let the children decorate with glitter, if desired. Fold the star over a piece of yarn long enough to fit over the child's head. Tape the star to the yarn to hold it in place.





Schedule Forms

Use the following pages to help you make the schedule.

