

Creation

How Did the World Begin?

LESSON WARM UP

How do you think the heavens and the earth came into being? (*Let the children respond.*) Just how did God create the earth? Some say that there was a sudden explosion and the universe appeared. Others say God started the process and the universe evolved (developed) over billions of years.

The universe did not just happen or evolve. God created this amazing, complex world where we live very carefully. Today we're starting a series of lessons about how the world was *really* created. We'll begin a study in the book of Genesis. That's the first book in the Bible and it tells about the beginnings of things.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You that you made us such a beautiful world to live in. And thank You for having Moses write down all about the days You created it so that we might learn about it. Open our eyes, Lord, so that we might see the beauty and the wonder all around us so that we might appreciate Your marvelous creativity and give You all the credit for being so amazing. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

LESSON

Our universe is so complex it speaks of a supreme God who created the earth out of His great love and with a wonderful imagination, like an artist. God, who can do anything because He is all-powerful, had a special plan. Because God is love, He wanted to make a world that would be just right for humans to live in so that He could share His love with people. God didn't *need* to make the world, He *wanted* to because love is best when you can share it with someone else.

The world didn't just happen all on its own, either. God planned every detail of it so that it would be the perfect environment for us to live in. For example, it had to be just the right temperature. The sun couldn't be too close or it would be too hot for us to exist. The sun couldn't be too far away, either, or it would be too cold for us. He knew that we would need air to breath and water to drink and food to eat. So He had to plan every detail just right.

Before we begin learning the truth about the creation of the world, I want to talk about some of the lies people tell us about. Everywhere you go the lies are told, so you need to learn to watch out for them. People who don't know God teach lies about creation in school or on TV and in movies. You can come across lies about creation at the library or in museums, in aquariums or at parks. You need to watch out and have your Sword of Truth ready, that's the word of God.

How Long Did It Take?

Big Bang:

Some people think that all of a sudden there was a big explosion and the universe appeared out of nothing. This doesn't make sense. Think about this wristwatch I'm wearing. Do you think that if you put all the watch parts on the table along with a cherry bomb that if you exploded the bomb, the hands and the little gears and the screws would all just happen to land together in just the right way so that this watch would keep perfect time? No, the watch, by its very nature tells you that there must have been a watchmaker. Just like you couldn't have an explosion in a junkyard and expect a perfectly running automobile to land on the street.

Days Of Creation

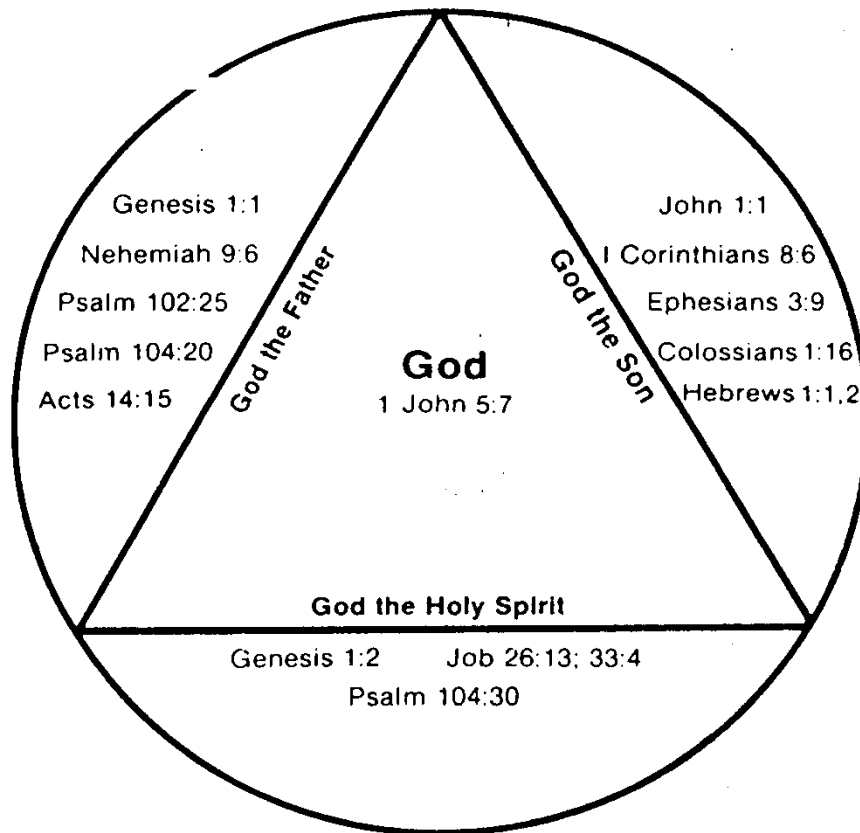
Some people think that it would be impossible for God to create our universe in just six 24-hour days. They say it must have evolved over great periods of time. Or, they say that maybe each day of creation was really 1,000 years. Is anything too hard for God? Is there anything He can not do? The Bible is our only reliable source of

information. There are no mistakes in God's Word; we can trust everything it tells us. We can believe just what it says: God created the universe in 6 actual days!

Who Made the Universe?

Trinity in Creation

(Teacher, draw *Trinity in Creation* chart, shown on the next page, on the white board and explain...) The circle reminds us of our eternal God having no beginning and no end. The triangle reminds us of how our God is one in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know from scripture that each person of the Trinity was there to help create the world and everything in it.



The Father

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Nehemiah 9:6

You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

You can see that God the Father was involved in the creation of the world.

The Son

And God the Son, that is Jesus, was also involved in the creation of the world. (Have children look up and READ the following scripture:)

Hebrews 1:2-3

...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

The Spirit

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God the Holy Spirit was actively involved in the creation of the world as well.

There is only one God, but He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We call God a *trinity* which means *threefold*. Look at the triangle. This one triangle has three sides. It's a trinity too.

Conclusion

God created the heavens and the earth. (Review the memory verse.)

Closing Prayer

Lord, it is a wonder that You created a world that is just right for people to live in. You made air that we can breathe, You placed the sun so that it is just the right temperature for us here on earth and You've given us food and water so that we might live. You are a marvelous God, thank You for making for us such a nice place to live. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

You can use the Learning Center activities as electives from which the children can choose, or you can divide a large group into three and let the subgroups rotate from one center to the next. Or, if your Sunday school is small, choose one of the following activities:

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Divide a horizontal sheet a paper down the middle with a line. Let the children draw pictures of Things God Made on one side and Things Man Made on the other.

Who Made It?

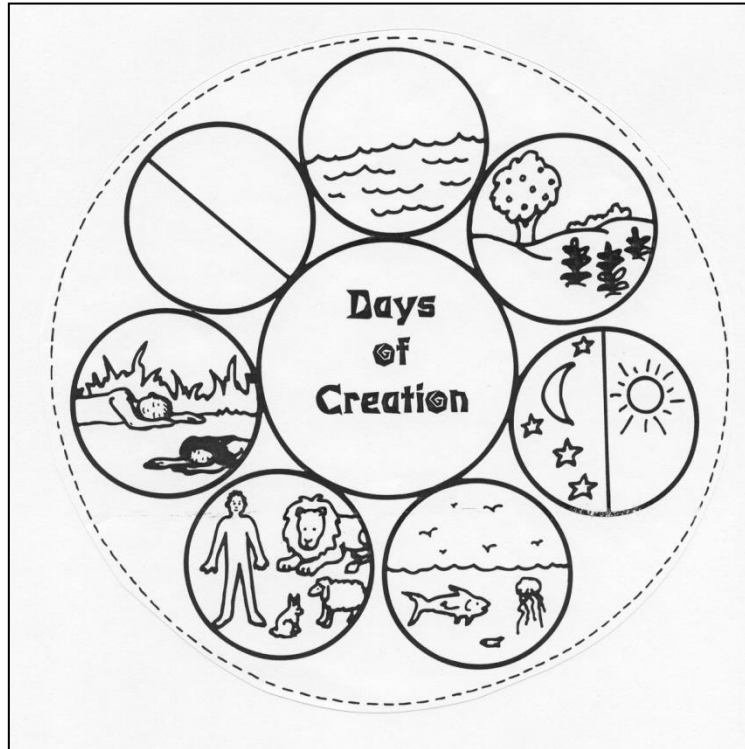
Things God Made

Things Man Made

Fun House

(Game Center)

Note: for this and other games in the series you will need creation visuals that you can use each week. Draw an enlarged version of the pictures shown below. Or, if you have an overhead projector, you can enlarge each circle and trace it. Then, copy them on to card stock, color them, and have them laminated.



Play Sequence

Let a child see how quickly he can pull the creation visuals out of a paper bag one at a time and place them in proper sequence – first to seventh. With several sets of creation visuals, you can have children race to see who's fastest. Or, you can divide the children into teams and use them in a relay race.

Game Questions for Lesson #1

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

1. Who made the universe? (*God*)
2. How did God create the universe? (*Very carefully and thoughtfully. He planned every detail.*)
3. Why did God create the universe? (*So He could share His love with humans.*)
4. What is the Big Bang theory? (*Some people think that all of a sudden there was a big explosion and the universe appeared out of nothing.*)
5. Why doesn't the Big Bang theory make sense? (*Order doesn't just happen from disorder.*)
6. What is the Evolution theory? (*Some people think that it was impossible for God to create our universe in six 24-hour days. They think it must have evolved over great periods of time.*)
7. Where do we learn the truth about how the universe was formed? (*The Bible*)
8. Why is a circle a good reminder of what our God is like? (*It has no beginning and no end*)

- 9. Why is the triangle a good reminder of what our God is like? (*It is a trinity. Just like a triangle has 3 sides so our God is three persons.*)
- 10. Which person of the trinity created the universe? (*All three were present*)

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Learning Observation Skills

Go outside, walk around and observe and record all the things that you see that God made and that man made. Note each item's properties. Ask the children, "How can you tell if man made something or if God made something? Do you think that the natural things could have been formed by accident or were they designed by an intelligent Being?"

	Things God Made		Things Man Made
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
4.		4.	
5.		5.	
6.		6.	
7.		7.	
8.		8.	
9.		9.	
10.		10.	

