

# God, the Great Creator

(Genesis 1: — 2:3)

## Pre-Session Warm Up

Today we're going to start a new series of lessons all about God's attributes. An *attribute* is a character trait or quality about someone. For example, one of my attributes is that I love children and I'm passionate about teaching them about God.

God has lots of different character traits. He is **wise**; He's **loving**; He's **good**; He's **forgiving**, and He's **faithful**—He always does what He says He will do.

In today's Bible study we're going to learn that God is **creative**. The Bible tells us that God created the whole universe out of nothing. We have a great and awesome and creative God!

## Opening Prayer

Father, tune our ears so that we might learn more about You today. You are such an awesome God! Draw us a little closer to You as we learn about the wonderful way You made the world we live in. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Memory Verse

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

## Lesson

[Teacher, shake up a bag full of Lego's, spill them out, and ask, "What can you make out of these?" (Allow responses.) Then shake up an empty bag, spill it out and ask, "What can you make out of this?"] You can't make anything out of nothing! Only God can do that!

Before God created the heavens and the earth, there was nothing. There was no land, no trees or flowers or animals or even people; there was only God.

Close your eyes and imagine nothing but darkness—no sounds, no colors, no light. Only God existed.

God has always lived; He is **eternal**. That means God had no beginning and He will have no end. He told Moses His name is "I AM" because He *is* and always *was* and always *shall be*.

At first there was nothing. Then God created the heavens and earth.

Genesis 1:1

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

There was no shape to the world and there was nothing in it, on it, or around it. The world was dark, just like night, except there were no stars or a moon. There was only deep, deep water all around, and it was totally dark.

Genesis 1:2

*The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

The verse says, *The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*. God was **present everywhere** at the time of creation, just like He is today. God **never changes**, He is always the same. The idea here of God hovering over the waters is similar to a mother bird caring for and protecting her young. God is always close to us caring for and protecting us, like a mother bird.

At first there was only darkness. So, after God created the heavens and the earth the next thing God needed to create was light. And because God is **all-powerful**, all He needed to do was speak it into existence.

Genesis 1:3

*Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

God spoke. He said, “*Let there be light!*” And there WAS light! Isn’t God’s word powerful!

We know from verse 14 that God didn’t create the sun, moon, or stars until the 4th day of creation. What do you think made it light until then? (*God Himself!*) That is why Jesus said that He is the light of the world.

Genesis 1:4-5

*And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. (5) God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.*

He was well pleased with the work He did on that first day of creation, But the world wasn’t finished yet. There was more God wanted to do!

### **Day #2**

The second day God created the sky.

Genesis 1:6-8

*Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” (7) And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. (8) God called the space “sky.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.*

God created the sky. It was more than the blue sky above us; God stretched layers of gases and water around the earth to make an atmosphere that we could live in. So now there was light and sky and an atmosphere surrounding the earth. But every bit of the planet itself was water. There was much more God wanted to do!

### **Day #3**

On the third day, God created two things. First, He created dry ground:

Genesis 1:9-10

*Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. (10) God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good.*

When the water gathered into seas, mountains and hills and islands appeared! There was still a lot of water – and it made rivers and lakes and creeks. Next, God created plants:

Genesis 1:11-12

*Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. (12) The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.*

There were plants, trees, and fruit and flowers of every kind.

### **Day #4**

On the fourth day, God created the sun, and the moon, and the stars:

Genesis 1:14-18

*Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. (15) Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. (16) God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. (17) God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, (18) to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.*

God made a special bright light and put it in the sky to shine during the day. We call that light, *sun!* And he made the moon and stars to shine at night.

And God looked at the beautiful planet and saw how good it was. It was a beautiful, perfect planet, except that it was empty! All those lakes and seas, forests and fields and prairies were very quiet.

What do you think was missing? Can you imagine a world without birds or fish or animals?

### **Day #5**

On the fifth day, God created fish and sea life in the rivers and oceans. And, He created birds, butterflies and every other creature with wings to fly in the sky.

Genesis 1:20-22

*Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." (21) So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. (22) Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."*

### **Day #6**

On the sixth day, God created two things. First, He created animals:

Genesis 1:24-25

*Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. (25) God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.*

Animals roamed all over the earth—walruses and wallabies, iguanas, and ibexes!

What are some unusual creatures you can think of that God made?

Now this was all very wonderful—but there was something else God wanted to create.

Genesis 1: 26-27

*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." (27) So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

The first people, Adam and Eve, were different from everything else God had created. God lovingly created people to care for all that He had created. More than that, God created people to love Him and to be loved by Him. The Bible tells us that people were created in the image of God—that means we are like God in some important ways.

Best of all, the people God made would be able to talk with God and know Him. Day and night, people could pray and know that God would hear them. That's what made people the most amazing part of all of God's wonderful creation.

### **Day #7**

And what about the seventh day? Well, on the seventh day God rested from the work of creating the world.

Genesis 2:1-3

*So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. (2) On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. (3) And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.*

God was happy with His creation. The world was off to a perfect start.

God's creation is all around us. We can see it, taste it, touch it and hear it from the minute we wake up with birds chirping outside our windows until the minute we go to sleep with the glow of the moon

and stars at night. Sometimes we don't even notice the amazing way God has made the world! But when we pay attention to what God has made, it reminds us of how wonderful God really is.

Read Psalm 9:1 aloud. God is amazing! God made our wonderful world and everything in it—all the bugs, the fish, the animals, the birds—everything! What are some things God created that you praise Him for? (People, Beaches, the sun.)

God is the creator of our world and of you and me! We can thank God for all the wonderful things He made for us to enjoy.

## Closing Prayer

[Teacher, let the children thank God for specific things that God created that amaze them. Then close with the following prayer:

Father, we praise You for Your love and Your wonderful creation. Thank You for being our awesome creator. We're glad for all the animals and other wonderful things You have made in this world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Learning Activities

### Craft Corner

#### *Balloon Animals*

Allow the children to create animals with an inflated balloon.

- Using the fish tail and fin patterns, have children cut and color the shapes and tape them to a balloon.
- Provide fun materials like wiggle eyes, stickers, tissue paper, chenille wire, permanent markers, glitter glue, puff paint, etc.

- Assist children in taping one end of a string to the top of the balloon to hang from the ceiling.

### Game Center

Use the following questions in a discussion or game of your choice:

1. Why do you think God made light? Plants? Birds?
2. What is one thing God create that amazes you? (A beautiful sunset. Fifteen-foot waves in Hawaii. A unique fish at the aquarium.)
3. What is one powerful thing God created?
4. What's one thing that you think that really shows God's wisdom?
5. God's creation is all around us—in the sky, the sea, even in the mirror! How can thinking about God's creation help us to praise Him? (Helps us see God's care and power. It helps us to see God's power and greatness and gives us reasons to thank Him.)
6. What words would you use to describe what God created? (Wonderful. Amazing. Awesome. Good.)

# Fish Fin Patterns



