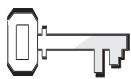


LESSON FIVE



References

Genesis 1; 2; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44-51



Memory Verse

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

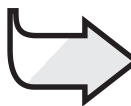


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God created our world and everything in it for our enjoyment.

Feel happy because God made good things for us to enjoy.

Respond by praising God for making our world and giving us life.



The Message

We worship God when we thank Him for creating our world.

A New World

Monthly Theme

We thank God for His presence with us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God created our world in six literal days, created human beings to enjoy it, and celebrated with them on the seventh day, which we call the Sabbath. God looked at everything He made and pronounced it good. Adam and Eve, the first humans, were to name the animals and care for the earth and all things God had created for their enjoyment.

This is a lesson about worship.

Praising God for all He made is a part of worshiping Him. Just as God celebrated with Adam and Eve, He wants to celebrate with us as we gather to worship Him.

Teacher Enrichment

"One of the most outstanding features of the world in which we live is the evidence of design and order. Whether one uses the telescope, microscope, or the naked eye, intricate design and order are obvious even to the untrained observer. From the electron's path about the nucleus of the atom to the sun's path through the galaxy, all follow a given order. . . .

"Is it possible to comprehend the design of a living organism and deny the existence of a master designer? Is it possible to believe that life just happened? Is it possible to believe that life, as we know it, will continue throughout eternity, placing our only hope for perfection on a random genetic mutation? . . .

"The bottom line is best described in Joshua 24:15 (NIV): 'But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'

"We are not asked to make this choice without evidence that God is a real and personal God. God has given us great minds with which to weigh all the evidence, be it scriptural, scientific, or experimental. God has also promised to direct us in truth through His Holy Spirit. This choice cannot be the choice of parent, friend, or teacher. It must be our own" (*The Earth: Origins and Early History*, Clyde L. Webster Jr., North American Division Office of Education).

Room Decorations

As God the Creator is a dominant theme for the next five

weeks, set up a “show and tell” nature table in one corner of the room. Add different things each week and encourage the children to bring their own nature treasures.

Create bulletin boards with various pictures of nature themes. For example: birds, fish, the human body. Encourage the children to contribute. Emphasize their complexity combined with the evidence of design and order.

Add an altar on the fourth week. This can be made of stones, boxes painted to look like stones, or chicken wire covered with newspaper/papier-maché and painted a stone color.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Creation Learning Center</i> B. <i>Leaf Rubbings</i>	tables, microscope/magnifying lens, prism, small pet animals, variety of plants variety of leaves, paper, crayons
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> seashell or other natural container none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	paper cups; water; bowl; inflated blue balloon; twig; bucket of soil; stars, sun, and moon shapes (see p. 142); circle of dark paper; small plastic animals and fish Bible Bibles, flashlight, fan, green leaf/plant, picture of sun, picture of fish and/or bird (see p. 142)
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Planning to Build</i>	paper, pencils/markers, toy building blocks
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Operation Clean-up</i>	information about a local environmental project

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share an experience from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- tables
- microscope/
magnifying lens
- prism
- small pet
animals
- variety of
plants

A. Creation Learning Center

In advance, set up at least three nature stations in the room. (See suggestions below.) Form as many groups as stations and have the children move from station to station to observe each in turn. The object is to build an appreciation of things God created for our enjoyment. An adult should assist at each station.

- An examination table with a microscope and/or magnifying lens and various objects from nature, such as different kinds of leaves, bugs, feathers, rocks, etc. If available, use a prism to observe light rays.
- A station with some small animals, a gerbil or hamster, a bird, fish, frog, ants, insects, or other creatures that the children can view or pet.
- A botany center with different types of plant life. Include pots, soil, and seeds that the children can plant.

Create learning centers that focus on Creation relative to your geographic location. For example, if you live near the seashore, focus on marine life. If you live near a desert, feature plants and animals that live in the desert.

Debriefing

Bring the children together and ask: **What did you think was the most interesting thing to look at? Why? Do you think that you could create any of those animals or plants? Why not? In our story today we are going to hear how God created the world for you and me to enjoy. We just looked at a few things that God has made, but we can praise Him for giving us so many wonderful things to see and explore. And that brings us to today's message:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR CREATING OUR WORLD.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- variety of
leaves
- paper
- crayons

B. Leaf Rubbings

Distribute a leaf, paper, and crayons to each child. Give the following directions. Place the leaf under the paper. Rub the spot lightly with a crayon. The pattern of the leaf will emerge on the paper. Encourage the children to do several rubbings and create a pattern on their paper.

Debriefing

Admire the leaf rubbings. Ask: **Does anyone know the name of any of the leaves we have used? Are these all the different types of leaves God created? Can you think of any other trees? Why did God create so many different trees?** Accept answers. **God made all these things because He loves us. Today we are going to discover what the Bible has to tell us about how God created the world. When we see all the wonderful things that God has done, we can be happy and praise Him. And that's what our message is about:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR CREATING OUR WORLD.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"All Nations of the Earth" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 22)
"Every Flower That Grows" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 55)
"He's Everything to Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 43)
"Philippians 4:4 [Rejoice in the Lord Always]" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 23)
"O, How I Love Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 114)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize worship in the mission story.



Offering

Say: **God has many wonderful and beautiful things for us to enjoy. This shell is just one example. Giving our offerings is one way that we can worship Him and help others learn about His love.**

You Need:

- large seashell or similar natural container



Prayer

Have children form a circle. Begin the prayer by saying, "Dear Jesus, we thank You for . . ." Go around the circle, giving each child the opportunity to name something in nature for which they are thankful.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- paper cups
- water, bowl
- blue balloon (inflated)
- twig
- bucket of soil
- stars, sun, moon shapes (see p. 142)
- circle of dark paper
- small plastic animals, fish

Experiencing the Story

All the materials are optional. You can either give the children things to do as you tell about each day, or let them follow your actions. For best results, review the story and prepare the items used to illustrate each point.

Read or tell the story.

[Turn out lights.] God had a plan. He wanted to create a world. He wanted this world to be beautiful and full of creatures that walked, flew, crawled, swam, and talked.

God found a dark, empty, watery spot in the universe. Then He said out loud, "Let there be light." And light appeared. *[Turn on lights.]* God called the light day and the darkness night. The light was morning. The dark was night. Together these were the first day. *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was good.]*

But everything was still watery. Not good for walking, flying, or crawling. So God spoke again, "Let there be something to divide the water in two." *[Pour out a small paper cup of water for each child. Have them come and fill a bowl with water.]* When He finished speaking, the water had divided into two parts with space in between. The space was dry and light and blue. God called that part sky. *[Have a child hold up a blue balloon to represent the sky.]* It was the second day. *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was good.]*

Next God decided to make a place for the creatures to walk and crawl. He said, "Water, come together. Make room for dry ground." And the water did. God called the ground land. He called the water that was left seas. To the land He

said, "Produce plants and trees for food and shelter." *[Give children a twig to plant in bucket of sand/soil. Or have the children pretend to stretch and grow like a tall tree.]* This happened on the third day. *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was good.]*

Then God was ready to make lights. He said, "Lights, hang yourselves in the sky." And lights appeared. A big one, the sun, marked the day. A smaller one, the moon, marked the night. God also made the stars. *[Give children stars, sun, and moon to stick on large dark circle. Or open and close fingers in a "twinkling" movement.]* With these day markers in place, God ended the fourth day. *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was good.]*

Now the earth was ready for some of the creatures God had planned. "Sea creatures, the water is ready for you. Birds, the air is ready for you," said God. And fish and birds appeared. God blessed them saying, "Fill the seas. Fill the air." *[Distribute small plastic animals/fish. Let the children place them in the bowl with water or under the plants. Or flap arms like a bird and wiggle like a fish.]* And God did this on the fifth day. *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was good.]*

The next day, God said, "I am ready to make animals." And He did. But He wasn't finished yet. "Let us make man in our image," He said.

So God did something different. He gathered up some earth like clay, and He began to shape it. He formed it into a creature with two legs, two arms, a body, and a head. Then He breathed into the face of the creature. *[Take a deep breath and blow out.]* And the creature opened its eyes and sat up. It was a man!

God called the man Adam. He showed Adam everything He had just made. "This

is all yours, Adam. Take care of it."

God wanted Adam to have a family. God put Adam to sleep. While Adam was sleeping, God removed one of Adam's ribs. *[All lie down.]* He took Adam's rib and made a wife for him. When Adam saw his wife, he said, "You are my perfect partner!" He called her Eve. It was the end of the sixth day. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was very good.]*

Finally, on the last day of Creation week, God looked at all the good things He had made. And He and Adam and Eve and all the other creatures rested and enjoyed their new home. It was the seventh day, the wonderful day we call Sabbath. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." *[Say together: God looked and saw that it was good.]*

Debriefing

Ask: **How do we know that God made plans when He created the world?** (Everything was created in the right order. Animals were not created before the plants. Plants were not created before there was sunlight to help them grow.)

What do you think about God's plan?

What do we celebrate every week to remind us of Creation? (the seventh-day Sabbath) **Let's praise God for the wonderful things He has made by singing "All Things Bright and Beautiful"** (*Sing for Joy*, no. 51).

Remember our message for today:



**WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE
THANK HIM FOR CREATING
OUR WORLD.**

Memory Verse

Use the following motions to teach the memory verse. Repeat until the children know the verse.

**In the
beginning
God
created**

Mime turning a key in a lock.
Point upward.
Pound fists together, one above the other.

the heavens

Bring hands upward toward each other.

and the earth.

Left hand with palm down in a fist. Right hand grasps left and rocks from side to side.

Genesis 1:1

Bible Study

Have the children open their Bibles to Genesis 1.

Say: **I am going to hold up some things that represent the different days of Creation. Look through Genesis 1 and 2 to find the verse that tells about it; then stand up and read the verse.** Assist as necessary.

1. Hold up a flashlight, turn it on. (Genesis 1:3-5)
2. Turn on an electric fan or hold up a hand fan. (Genesis 1:6-8)
3. Hold up a plant or green leaf. (Genesis 1:9-13)
4. Point to the sun or show a picture. (Genesis 1:14-19)
5. Hold up a picture of a fish or a bird. (Genesis 1:20-23)
6. **What was still missing from God's wonderful world?** (animals and people) (Genesis 1:24-31)
7. **What did God say at the end of every day?** (He said that it was good.) (Genesis 1:31)
8. **God made something very special on the last day. What did He make?** (the Sabbath) (Genesis 2:1-3)

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about our God, the Creator? Why do you think that God created such variety and beauty?** Accept answers. **I think God**

You Need:

- Bible

You Need:

- Bibles
- flashlight
- fan
- green leaf/plant
- picture of sun (see p. 142)
- picture of fish and/or bird (see p. 142)

created such beauty because He loves us. How can we show Him how we feel about all that He made? Remember today's message:



**WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE
THANK HIM FOR CREATING
OUR WORLD.**

Say that with me.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper
- pencils/markers
- toy building blocks

Planning to Build

Say: **I want to build a house. I have heard that if I throw these blocks up in the air they will come down as a house. Would someone like to try?** (Have two or three children try.)

Allow response time as you ask:

What was the problem? Why did we not get a house? What does a builder do when he is going to build a house? Yes, he has a set of plans. Then he carefully places each block or brick in the right place.

Say: **The Bible tells us that God made the earth and everything in it in six days. On the seventh day He rested. It is wonderful to know that God planned our world and created so many wonderful things for us to enjoy.**

Let's thank Him for making our

world. **Draw a picture of one thing God made that you especially like. On your picture write a sentence to thank Him for it and sign your name.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Who wants to show their picture and tell us about it?** Allow time. Encourage the children to read their "thank-You" sentence.

Allow response time as you ask: **How can we show God our appreciation for the things He created?** (Be kind to animals; take care of the earth by not littering; take care of our bodies, etc.) **Most importantly we can praise and worship God by thanking Him for creating such a wonderful world. Remember . . .**



**WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE
THANK HIM FOR CREATING
OUR WORLD.**

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Operation Clean-up

In advance, check to see if your community has any environmental clean-up or beautification projects. For example, a city park where the flower beds need weeding, or a street where litter needs to be picked up. Work with community officials to plan a day on which you and your primary class may help.

Alternatively, identify and plan a project that will beautify your local church.

Explain about the project and encourage the children to commit to helping on a given day at a given time. Say: **God told Adam that his job was to take care of the earth. He wants us to do the same.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Why is it important for us to care for the area around us? Looking after our surroundings and God's cre-**

ation is one way of praising God for what He has made.

What do you think about our project? What will people in our church or community think about our work? Name some other ways we can show thanks to God for our world.

Let's say the message for today again.



**WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE
THANK HIM FOR CREATING
OUR WORLD.**

Important! Follow-up by contacting the parents and explaining the project. Ask the parents for permission and invite them to participate. Secure written permission from parents before allowing a child to participate.

Closing

Close with prayer, thanking God for all He has made and for showing us how much He loves us.

You Need:

- information about a local environmental project

A New World

References

Genesis 1; 2;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp. 44-51

Memory Verse

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

The Message

We worship God
when we thank
Him for creating
our world.

Have you ever noticed how beautiful nature is? The colors of a butterfly, the beauty of a sunset or the amazing stars; all these didn't just happen. God planned each one as part of the perfect world He created.

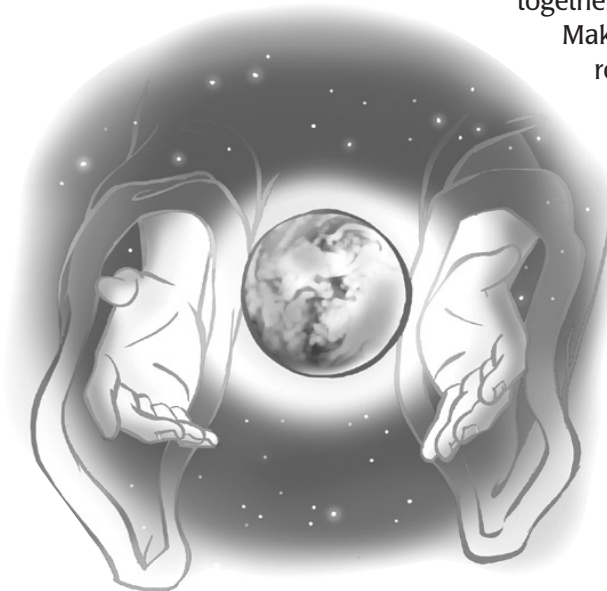
God had a plan to create a world. He wanted this world to be beautiful and full of creatures that would walk, fly, crawl, swim, and talk.

God found a dark, empty, watery spot in the universe. He said, "Let there be light." And light appeared. God called the light day and the darkness night. The light was morning. The dark was night. Together these were the first day.

But everything was still watery—not good for walking, flying, or crawling. So God spoke again, "Let there be something to divide the water in two." The water divided into two parts with a space in-between. The space was dry and light and blue. God called the upper part sky. It was the second day.

Next God decided to make a place where creatures could walk and crawl. He said, "Water, come together.

Make
room
for



dry ground." God called the ground land. He called the water that was left seas. He looked at the land and said, "Produce plants and trees for food and shelter." This happened on the third day. "And God saw that it was good."

Then God was ready to make lights. He said, "Lights, hang yourselves in the sky." And lights appeared. A big one, the sun, marked the day. A smaller one, the moon, marked the night. Together, with smaller lights, the stars, they would mark the seasons and years. With these day markers in place, God ended the fourth day. "And God saw that it was good."

Now the earth was ready for some of the creatures God had planned. "Sea creatures, the water is ready for you. Birds, the air is ready for you," said God. And fish and birds appeared. God blessed them saying, "Fill the seas. Fill the air." "Multiply and fill the earth." That ended the fifth day. "And God saw that it was good."

The next day, God said, "I am ready to make animals." And He did. Large ones and small ones. He told the animals to multiply and fill the earth." But He wasn't finished yet. "Let us make man in our image," He said.

Then God did something different. He gathered up some clay and He began to shape it. He formed it into a creature with two legs, two arms, a body, and a head. Then God breathed into the face of the creature. And the creature opened its eyes and sat up. It was a man!

God called the man Adam. He showed Adam everything He had just made. "This is for you, Adam. Take care of it."

God then put Adam to sleep. While Adam was sleeping, God took Adam's rib and made a wife for him. When Adam saw his wife, he exclaimed, "You are my perfect partner!" He called her Eve. And that was the end of the sixth day. "And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

The next day God looked at all the good things He had made. And He and Adam and Eve and all the other creatures rested and enjoyed their new home. It was the seventh day, the wonderful day we call Sabbath. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." God's new world was complete.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Take a nature walk with your family. Play a game in which you start off by saying, "I see something that God made." Give clues. The person who guesses what you describe chooses the next object. Read your lesson together, then thank God for the wonderful things He made.

Sunday

- For family worship read and discuss Genesis 1:1-3. Close your eyes and imagine what life would be like if it were dark all the time! List things that you could not do if there were no light.
- We rest at night, but some creatures are active then. Find out about an animal where you live that comes out at night. Thank God for animals that like to go out in the dark.

Monday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 1:6-8. Say a prayer of thanks for water.
- Draw some fish shapes on a piece of paper. Write one word of the memory verse on each fish. Cut out the fish and mix up the words. Practice saying your memory verse as you put the fish in the right order.

Tuesday

- Find a pretty leaf. Take a sheet of paper and place it on top of the leaf. Use a crayon to rub over the leaf. Watch the shape of the leaf appear on your paper.
- Look up Ecclesiastes 3:11 and write it above your leaf rubbing.
- Share the leaf rubbing with your family during worship and tell them how much God loves them. Sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 51) together. Then, thank God for

trees and plants.

Wednesday

- If possible, for worship go outside with your family after dark and look at the stars. How many constellations (stars grouped together in a certain way) can you identify? Draw some constellations on paper. Use a book to learn more about them.
- Read and discuss Psalm 8:3, 9; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 136:1, 7, 9. Then thank and praise God for creating the sun, moon, and stars.

Thursday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 1:20-23 to discover what else God created on the fifth day.
- Find out how fish breathe. Why can't they live on land?
- Take a glass and stuff a dry cloth or paper towel into the bottom. Fill a basin with water and, holding the glass upside down without tilting it, put it all the way under the water. Quickly pull it out and feel the paper towel. Is it wet? Why not? Repeat, but this time tilt the glass slightly. What happened? Why do you think the towel got wet?
- Thank God for the things He created on the fifth day.

Friday

- Plan a quiz for family worship tonight. Ask your family to describe the plan God followed in creating our world.
- Ask each person in the family to describe what they like best in Creation.
- Sing "Every Flower That Grows" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 55) or another song about Creation.
- Read Genesis 1 through 2:3 together. Then thank God for all He made.