

LESSON 1 | God's Good Creation

Bible Basis: Genesis 1 – 3

Bible Verse: Genesis 1:31: “God saw everything he had made. And it was very good.”

Bible Point: Everything God made is good. I am one of God's creations, and I am good too.

Resource: *The Beginner's Bible*

- “The Beginning” (pages 7 – 13)
- “Adam and Eve” (pages 14 – 17)
- “The Sneaky Snake” (pages 18 – 25)

Master Supplies List

- The Beginner's Bible*
- Lesson Materials DVD (optional)
- DVD player (optional)
- 7 sheets of card stock or paper
- Marker (any color)
- Family Page (one per child; see end of this lesson)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More**. All craft templates are located at the end of this lesson.

- Option 1:** Quart-size plastic zip-top bags, lima bean seeds, permanent marker, cotton balls (or paper towels), bowls for water (or a spray bottle filled with water)
 - Option 2:** Magazine or newspaper photographs of the following: a light source other than the sun (for example, a lamp or a candle); the sky; plants or mountains; the sun, moon, or stars; animals or fish; people
 - Option 4:** Crayons or markers, coloring page (one per child)
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STEP 1 | COME TOGETHER

INSTRUCT the children to gather on the floor.

ASK, What is your favorite animal? (*Take responses.*)

HAVE each child tell you their favorite animal and where it lives. (*In a tree, underground, in the jungle, etc.*)

SAY, Today we're going to talk about how everything you see — the sun, sky, flowers, and your favorite animals — became a part of the world.

STEP 2 | HEAR THE STORY

Supplies: *The Beginner's Bible*, Lesson Materials DVD (optional), DVD player (optional).

Teacher Prep: With a marker, write the numbers 1 – 7 on 8' x 11" card stock or paper (one number per paper).

PASS out the seven numbered pieces of paper to seven different children.

ASK the children holding the numbers to stand when you read that day's story of creation.

PRACTICE this before you begin reading.

READ aloud “The Beginning,” “Adam and Eve,” and

“The Sneaky Snake” from *The Beginner’s Bible*. Or, if you prefer, SHOW these stories from the lesson on the enclosed DVD.

ASK, What did God make on the first day? (*Light*)

ASK, What did God do on the seventh day? (*He rested.*)

ASK, What was Adam’s job? (*He named the animals and took care of the garden.*) Do you think he liked his job? (*Yes.*)

ASK, What did God tell Adam and Eve they should not do? (*Never eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*)

ASK, What did the snake tell Eve to do? (*He told Eve to try some of the fruit.*)

ASK, What did Eve do? (*She ate from the tree; she disobeyed God.*)

PRAY with the children. Praise God for his creation and ask for his help to do what is right.

STEP 3 | EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help the children explore the lesson further.

Option 1: God’s Garden

Supplies: Quart-size plastic zip-top bags, permanent marker, lima bean seeds, cotton balls (or paper towels), bowls for water (or a spray bottle filled with water).

Teacher Prep: Before class, soak the beans overnight (enough for four seeds per child).

ASK, Where did Adam and Eve live when God first made them? (*In a garden.*)

ASK, Who likes to work in a garden? What are some things you do to take care of a garden? (*Take responses.*)

SAY, God created a beautiful garden for Adam and Eve to live in. Today the world is full of beautiful gardens. Some people have gardens at their homes. In order to remember God’s garden and that God wants us to take care of the earth, we are going to plant some seeds today. Then each of you will get to take your seeds home and watch your “garden” grow.

GIVE each child a plastic bag and write the child’s name on it with the marker. Give out enough cotton

balls (or two paper towels) to line the bottom of the bag. Have a bowl of water.

HELP each child dip the cotton balls or paper towels in the water (or spray the paper towels with water) and then place them in the bottom of the bag.

GIVE four seeds to each child and have them put the seeds in their bag. Make sure the seeds are spread out.

INSTRUCT the children to tape the bag to a sunny window when they get home. The seeds should begin to sprout in a few days. After a week, the seeds will need to be transplanted to a container with dirt. Pass this information along to family members who pick up the children.

Option 2: God Made the World

Supplies: 8' x 11" cards numbered 1–7 (used earlier in **STEP 2 | Hear the Story**) or whiteboard and markers; magazine or newspaper photographs of the following: a light source other than the sun, such as a lamp or a candle (Day 1); the sky (Day 2); plants or mountains (Day 3); the sun, moon, or stars (Day 4); birds or fish (Day 5); animals or people (Day 6).

Teacher Prep: Before class, gather the photographs, enough for at least one or two per child, and mix them up so they are not in the order of the creation story. Lay them on a table or on the floor.

TAPE the numbered cards used earlier to a wall, or write the numbers 1–7 spaced apart on the whiteboard.

SAY, Let’s see if we can remember what God made on the six days when he created the world. Who thinks they can remember?

ASK, What did God make on the first day? (*Light.*) (*Continue asking the children to remember what God created on each day.*)

HAVE each child choose a photograph and stand by the day on which God created that item.

ASK, Who wants to act out what God did on day seven? (*Pick a child to demonstrate.*)

INSTRUCT the children to rest, play, and walk by each of the days and say, “It is good.”

SAY, On day seven, God rested from his work. This means that he took time to enjoy what he had made,

and that includes you. Did you know that God enjoys you more than he enjoys the mountains or the stars or the coolest animal on earth?

Option 3: Let's Sing

SAY, We are going to remember that God wants us to obey him by singing a song.

SING this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

*Adam and Eve did what's wrong
Did what's wrong
Did what's wrong
Adam and Eve did what's wrong
And so that made God sad.*

*God helps us to do what's right
Do what's right
Do what's right
God helps us to do what's right
He helps us every day!*

SING the song through a few times until the children get the tune.

Option 4: Let's Color

Supplies: Crayons or markers, coloring page (one per child).

STEP 4 | GOING HOME

Supplies: Family Page (one per child).

GIVE each child a copy of this week's Family Page.

SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about how God created the world in seven days and how everything God made is good, including you.

LESSON 1 | **Let's Color**



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How to use This Page

This week, you can read the stories listed above in *The Beginner’s Bible* several times to help your child remember them. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed as a drama to help your child remember the Bible lesson. The Extra Mile provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

TABLE TALK

1. Can you name some of the things God made? (*Light, sky, sun, moon, stars, fish, plants, animals, people.*)
2. What job did God give Adam? (*Name the animals, take care of the garden.*)
3. What rule did God want Adam and Eve to obey? (*Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*)
4. How can you take care of God’s creation? (*Plant gardens, pick up trash, keep the ocean clean, etc.*)

LIVING FAITH

Have your child select one of the Bible stories from this week and act it out for you as you read the story aloud from *The Beginner’s Bible*. Provide your child with props, such as a toy snake (or even a garden hose), to act out the story. Better yet, go outside in your own yard or garden to act out the story surrounded by God’s creation!

When you come to the place(s) in the story where a Bible character speaks, instruct your child

what to say. If possible, have your child perform the Bible drama for other family members in person, via Skype, or using a video camera.

EXTRA MILE

- Talk about ways your family can care for God’s creation. If you have pets, this is a good way to reinforce the caretaker role. Feeding them, giving them water, walking them—these are all ways we care for pets. If you don’t have pets, your family might help clean up a neighborhood park, donate a tree, contribute to a group that helps endangered animals, or plant flowers in your yard.
- You might take your child on a nature walk to observe God’s wonderful creation. Head to a nearby park or arboretum. Point out birds you hear, the different types of trees you see, and the different shapes of leaves you find. If you can’t go for a walk, you might watch an age-appropriate nature show or documentary. Then have a time of prayer and praise God for his wonderful creation.
- To remind your child to obey God, you can sing the following song your child learned in class. Sing it to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

*Adam and Eve did what’s wrong
 Did what’s wrong
 Did what’s wrong
 Adam and Eve did what’s wrong
 And so that made God sad.*

*God helps us to do what’s right
 Do what’s right
 Do what’s right
 God helps us to do what’s right
 He helps us every day!*