
BIG IDEA: GOD IS OUR CREATOR

DATE: AUGUST 28-29, 2021 — **STORY:** CREATION

BIBLE BASIS: GENESIS 1-2

SERIES: UNFAILING LOVE

Join us throughout the month of September as we learn about God's great UNFAILING LOVE! We will be going through stories in Genesis.

MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —JOHN 3:16

SCHEDULE

0:00–0:10	Welcome Activities/Check-In
0:10–0:15	Transition to Large Group (B100)
0:15–0:30	Large Group (Worship, Memory Verse, Global Partner Spotlight)
0:30–0:35	Transition to Small Group (Back to Classrooms)
0:35–1:05	Small Group (Storytelling, Questions, Big Idea Connection, Respond Activity)
1:05–1:15	Dismiss/Additional Activities (During Check-Out)

SERIES OVERVIEW

Date	Story	Big Idea	Bible Basis
August 21-22	ZONK		Review Weekend
August 28-29	Creation	God is Creator	Genesis 1-2
September 4-5	The Fall	God's Love Never Ends	Genesis 3
September 11-12	Cain & Abel	Turn to God, Not to Sin	Genesis 4
September 18-19	Noah & The Flood	God Helps Us To Obey Him	Genesis 6-9
September 25-26	Abraham	God Is A Promise Keeper	Genesis 15, 17, 18, 21
October 2-3	Isaac	I Can Always Trust God	Genesis 22
October 9-10	Jacob & Esau	God Has A Plan For Me	Genesis 25, 27

AUGUST 28-29

STORY: CREATION

GENESIS 1-2

DEVOTIONAL

I love reading! And for me, the best books are the ones that grab me from the first page. Throughout literary history though, there are a handful of books that have a reputation for not only grabbing the reader from the first page, but from the very first line. “Call me Ishmael” is Herman Melville’s celebrated first line in *Moby Dick*. In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens jumps out of the gates with his now famous first line, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Great opening lines not only stick in the mind of the readers well after the book has been read, but they spark a fire of imagination that invites the reader deeper into the story. There are a lot of great opening lines to a lot of great books, but none are quite as iconic as this one: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” In its first line, the Bible jumps straight into the thick of it and answers one of the most basic human questions ever—where did all of this “stuff” come from?

The Bible does one other important thing in its opening. In the first two verses of the Bible, we’re introduced to all three main characters. (More specifically, we’re introduced to all three parts of the One main character.) In verse one, we’re introduced to God the Father, who (as we learn in John 1:1–2) is accompanied by the Son. Then, in verse 2, we get our first glimpse of the Holy Spirit. In essence, this is God’s grand introduction to the people He created.

In my most recent reading of the creation story, I was struck by the parallel between God’s first creation and His ultimate rescue plan that would one day restore all of creation to its original, intended glory. On day one, God said, “Let there be light,” and for the first time light pushed back on a physical existence that was completely dark and lifeless. Many years later, God did it again, but this time the Light would push back on a spiritual darkness rather than a physical darkness. It was ultimately Jesus, the Light of the world, who brought life back to our otherwise dark and lifeless existence.

As you get ready to explore this story with the kids in your ministry, consider how incredible it is that you have access to the Light of the World. More than that, think about how amazing it is that the Creator of the universe wants to have a living and personal relationship with you. In Psalm 139:14, David says, “How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” (NIRV) In the same spirit of praise that the psalmist had, spend some time thanking God for how wonderfully He made you and praise Him for sending the Light into your life.

David Rausch

Go Tell It Founder and President

PROVIDED RESOURCES

Welcome Activities: Coloring/Activity pages; blank paper, coloring supplies

Storytelling: None

Big Idea Connection: None

Respond Activity: Creation Cards, clay

Additional Activities: Word Cards; "Bible Bit" Cards

***If you need any additional resources, please let us know so that we can provide that for you!*

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

OPTION 1: COLORING PAGE/ ACTIVITY PAGE

Allow students to color or do the activity page on the back.

OPTION 2: CREATE YOUR OWN ANIMAL

An activity to connect to today's story

Give each kid in your group a piece of paper and some markers, crayons, colored pencils, or other artistic tools. Ask them to create a picture of a totally unique animal. Challenge them to make it unlike anything they've ever seen before. When your group is finished with their creations, ask them to show it to the rest of the group one at a time. Feel free to ask them questions about their animal like: What is your animal called? Is it a carnivore or an herbivore? Would it make a good pet?

OPTION 3: STUDENT CHOICE

Allow students to choose which option they would like to do.

**Students can also choose to do the coloring/activity page while they wait their turn to participate in Option 2.*

STORYTELLING

Hello everyone and welcome to the beginning of an incredible journey! Let me tell you about what we're going to be doing. For the next year, we're going to be diving into the world's most incredible book, the Bible (*hold up Bible for kids to see*), to learn about the greatest story ever told.

Now, some of you might be thinking, "Wait...which story are you talking about? There are tons of great stories in the Bible!" Well, you're right—sort of. The Bible is filled with a lot of great stories, but if you put all of those smaller stories together it forms one Big Bible Story, and all of it shows us who God is, His great love for us, and His great plan to rescue us by sending His Son, Jesus to be our Savior so that we can know Him forever.

We're going to start our story where most stories start—the very beginning. In the Bible, Genesis chapter 1, verse 1 says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (*Genesis 1:1*). On day one, God spoke and just by speaking He created things in the world. (*Have a volunteer read Genesis 1:3-5*). Imagine what that bright light looked like in the middle of all the darkness. How does it feel to your eyes? God looked at the light He had created and called it "good." You'll see that everything God created was good.

On day two, God spoke and separated the waters of the Earth into the clouds and moisture of the sky above and into the waves of the ocean below. Can you see the waters separating for the first time? Picture the sky above and the ocean waters below.

(*Have a volunteer read Genesis 1:9-10*) God spoke and made the land appear from out of the ocean. He spoke again and created grass and flowers and trees on the land. Imagine what the land must have looked like. Picture yourself stepping on the ground for the first time with your bare feet. What do you think it would have felt like? God looked at what He had created and said it was good.

On day four, God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night," (*Genesis 1:14*). (*Have a volunteer read Genesis 1:16-18*) And so God created the sun to shine during the day and He created the moon and stars to shine during the night. Picture yourself standing on the ground and looking up at the sky. What is it like seeing these lights in the sky for the first time? Imagine what the warm sun feels like on your skin. God looked at what He had created and what did He say about it? (*Allow responses*) He said it was good.

On day five, God spoke and said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds

STORYTELLING (CONT.)

fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” (*Genesis 1:20*). On the count of three, take a deep breath and hold it—1...2...3. Picture yourself diving deep beneath the waters. What kind of fish do you see? Look around quickly before you run out of air. Now come back up and take a breath. God looked at what He had created and said it was, what again? (*Allow responses*) That’s right, He said it was good.

On day six, God spoke again. (*Have a volunteer read Genesis 1:24*). All kinds of wild animals filled the earth—mammals, insects, reptiles. Imagine one of those animals walks up to you and lets you touch it. What does it feel like? God wasn’t finished, though. He had saved the best for last. On that same day, God formed the first man out of the dust. (*Have a volunteer read Genesis 1:27*) He formed mankind in His own image—God made humans different from any other creation because He made us in His image, to reflect who He is. (*Have a volunteer read Genesis 2:7*) When God was finished shaping the man, He breathed the breath of life into him and the man became a living person. His name was Adam. (*Have a volunteer read Genesis 1:36*) God also created Adam’s wife, and her name was Eve.

By day seven, God had finished all of the work He had been doing, so He rested. Try to feel what it must have been like to rest from all that hard work. Take three deep breaths and let them out slowly. With every breath, try to relax your muscles so that it feels like you’re melting into the floor.

Isn’t it cool to think that God was able to create all of those things with only His voice? But the coolest part is that God made us different than everything else. He knows us and He wants us to know Him. He actually wants to have a relationship with us. And that is the most amazing part of the story!

QUESTIONS

This can be done as a large group or in table groups

For Younger Kids:

1. Of all the things you imagined, what was your favorite? Describe it.
2. In what ways did you notice Adam was created different or special from everything else?

For Older Kids:

1. Of all the things you imagined, what was your favorite? Describe it.
2. What do you think this story teaches us about God?

BIG IDEA CONNECTION

When God created everything, it was good. Did you notice though, that God created mankind in a special way? Did you know that no other creation is made in the image of God except for humans? He made us special—in His own image—to reflect who He is. God created us in an amazing way, didn't he? Think about this:

Take a close look at your fingerprints. Did you know there are no two people in the world with the same fingerprints? Now stick your tongue out and try to look at it. You probably can't see it, but your tongue has a print too. And just like your fingerprints, no two tongues are the same. Touch the skin on your arm. I hope you're not too attached to it, because in less than a month it will all be gone. Don't worry, though! New skin will grow in to replace it. And how about your heartbeat? Can you feel it beating with your hand? Did you know that your heart beats over 100,000 times every day? And how about this—feel your face. You have 60 muscles just in your face. Let me see you smile. It takes 17 muscles to smile. Now let me see you frown. You're using 43 muscles right now just to frown.

The Creation story shows us that not only did God make us wonderfully complex, but He made us in a special way to have a special relationship with Him. God formed us with His own hands. He breathed life into us with His own breath. The Bible says that God walked and talked with Adam. God has a special relationship with people.

Next week, we'll learn what happened in the beginning that caused God's perfect creation to become broken. Brokenness came because of sin—that's when people don't listen to God and make bad choices or mistakes. Because of sin, our relationship with God became broken too. Sin separates us from God. But remember our memory verse? (*Recite John 3:16 with the kids*). God doesn't want to have a broken relationship with us. He loves us. He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay for and forgive all of our sins. And Jesus rose again from the dead, beating it! Our relationship with God can be healed through Jesus, because His sacrifice covers over all of our sins. We simply have to believe and ask Jesus to be our Lord, Savior, and Friend.

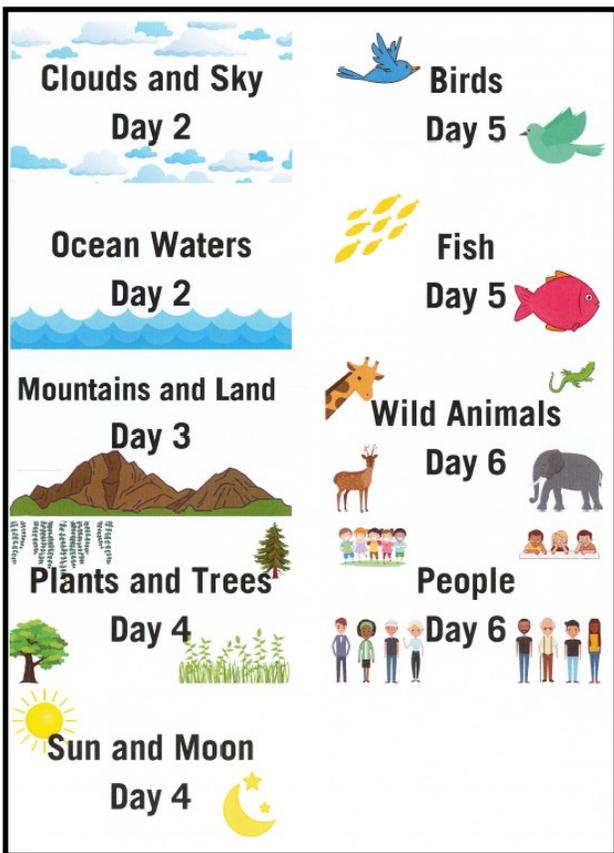
How amazing is that? **God is our creator.** He knows us, loves us, and wants to have a relationship with us even though our sin broke that relationship. The Creator of the entire universe loves us and wants to spend time with us. I think we should pray and thank Him for that. (*Pray with the kids as you feel led by the Holy Spirit*).

RESPOND ACTIVITY

In today's story, kids learned about how God created everything. God is good and all He made was good and perfect. God made humans special by making them in His image to have a relationship with Him.

WHAT DAY IS IT?:

Hand out one "Creation Card" to each child in your small group. Ask them not to show their card to anyone. For younger kids who are still learning to read, whisper to them what their card says. Next, give each child a small piece of play dough. Explain to your group that they will all have to use the play dough to form the creation on their card. When finished, go around the circle and have each kid show their creation. The rest of the group will have to identify which of God's creations they made. Once they have identified the creation, ask the group if they remember what day that creation was made. (If there are more kids in your group than there are creations, it's okay if more than one kid has the same creation.) The following is an image of included Creation Cards:



Say: During the game, you each formed and molded your creation with your own hands, but in the Bible, God did that with only one of His creations—people.

Questions:

1. What does that tell you about God? Why do you think He made us that way?
2. Why do you think God chose to make people more special than any other creation?
3. What do you think it means that God wants to have a relationship with us? How can you have a relationship with God if you can't see Him or hear Him talking out loud?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

These additional activities are completely optional. These activities are meant to fill any time that you may have left. Students can participate or finish their respond activity. Have your adult helper check-out students while you do one or more of the options with the students who are waiting to be picked up by their parents.

TELL THE STORY:

Bible Story Review Game

Tape up the word cards facedown to the board or a wall. Have kids come up one at a time and choose a card. They have to tell part of the story that includes their word. Keep going until every kid has had a chance to come up to play. Words can be reused.

BIBLE BITS:

Bible Memorization Activity

Directions: Give each kid in your group a “Bible Bit” card. Each “Bible Bit” card has just one bit of the following Bible verse on it:

For round 1: Have the children arrange the “Bible Bits” in the correct order on the floor. Children can only touch their own card. If someone touches a card other than their own, all the cards must be picked up and the round begins again. When they have completed each round successfully, gather the cards up and have the group recite the verse from memory.

For round 2: Redistribute the cards to the children making sure they have different cards this time. Children must repeat the instructions for round 1, but without talking this time.

For round 3: Repeat the above instructions, but children may neither talk, nor use their hands.

For round 4: Repeat the above instructions, but children may not talk, use their hands, nor smile. (*You'd be surprised how hard it is not to smile when you're trying not to smile.*) If anyone smiles, the cards are picked back up and the round begins again.

Questions:

1. Now that you have that verse memorized, can you tell me what it means to you?
2. The Bible tells us that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus as our Savior. What does that tell you about how God sees you and thinks of you?