

In the Beginning

Creation of the world

Genesis 1:1-2:4

Character Trait: Positive Self-Image

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that God is the Creator of everything.
- Children will recognize that people are God's most special creation.
- Children will list or draw a specific way they can use the skills and talents God gave them.

Supplies:

- *In the Beginning* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Coloring supplies
- Paper
- A ball *(suitable for throwing)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Share your name and one special thing about yourself.

SAY: Each one of us is so much more than just our outward appearance. We have talents, interests and skills that make each of us unique.

Invite the children to turn and introduce themselves to someone near them. Have them share something special about themselves, too.

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *In the Beginning* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- We live in a beautiful world!
- Just look at the amazing things around you.
- Let's go back to the beginning and see what the Bible tells us about how it all began.
- In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth.
- God moved over the darkness and said, "Light!"
- He called the light "Day" and He called the darkness "Night."
- Day One! Done!
- Then God made a space to separate the waters above from the waters below.
- He called the space "Sky."
- Day Two! Done!
- God gathered the waters together, and dry ground appeared.
- He called the ground "Land" and the waters "Seas."
- Then He made plants like grass, grain and trees.
- Day Three! Done!
- Then God made lights in the sky.
- He made the sun for the day, the moon for the night, and all the stars.

- Day Four! Done!
- God made fish to swim in the waters and birds to fly in the sky.
- "Have babies!" He told them. "Fill the world with splashing and singing."
- Day Five! Done!
- Next, God made animals.
- He made farm animals, wild animals, and animals that crawl on the ground.
- "Just one more thing to make," God said, "the most special thing of all."
- So, in His image, God made man and woman.
- "Have babies," He said. "Take charge of the world. Care for the fish, the birds and the animals."
- Day Six! Done!
- Then God looked at everything He had made.
- "It's very good!" He said.
- So on the seventh day He rested and made that day special.
- Day Seven! Done!

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **Who created the world?** *(God)*
- **Can you remember what God did during each of the 7 days of creation?** *(1. He created day and night. 2. He separated the water from the sky. 3. He created land and sea. 4. He made the sun and the moon. 5. He made fish and birds. 6. He made animals for the ground and people. 7. He rested.)*
- **What is the most special thing that God created?** *(Man and woman)*
- **What are some ways that God made us special and unique?** *(Answers might include: We are made to love and have relationships with others, including with God. We are creative. We can think and make choices. We can learn.)*
- **What does this tell you about God?** *(Answers will vary but should include that He is creative and powerful.)*

Ask the children to recall the welcome activity. Ask them to raise their hand if they shared something special about themselves. Next, ask them to raise their hand if they learned something special about someone else.

SAY: God created everything and everyone carefully and uniquely, including everyone here. In fact, people have been created in His image. What tremendous value, potential and purpose you have! God, who created everything carefully, created you. He loves you and wants you to learn more about Him and love Him, too.

God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: God knows and loves each one of us, and He wants us to know Him, too. In fact, God created people to have a relationship with Him from the very beginning. So, He has created a way for us to learn more about Him. The Bible is God's message to us. It is made up of many different stories that all work together to tell one big story, God's Big Story.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

Then God *(point both hands up)*
looked over *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
all He had made *(pretend to form a ball with your hands)*,
and He saw that it was very good *(draw a smile across your face)*!

Genesis 1:31a (NLT)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

SAY: Take turns tossing a ball to one another. Whoever catches the ball must call out one thing God created in the very beginning and then toss the ball to someone else.

Continue as time permits or until every child has had the opportunity to play.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

Have children list (or draw a picture of) their different skills and talents. Next, invite them to list (or draw a picture of) how they might use these abilities to do good in the world.

For younger children...
Make this activity more accessible for younger children by asking them to draw one example of how they can use their skills to help out at home.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by encouraging them to take steps to put their idea into action. Provide an opportunity for older children to pair up with another child to talk about their action steps.

Character Trait: Self-Image
(10 minutes)

SAY: We can look around and admire the beauty and complexity of God's creation today, including inside ourselves.

Encourage the children to think more about their own self-image by asking the following:

- **What kinds of skills and abilities has God given you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Skills, talents and abilities are precious gifts from God. What do these gifts say about how God feels about you?** *(God cared so much about me that He planned and created me carefully and uniquely.)*

Connect with Others:
(5 minutes)

SAY: We can help others appreciate their value by pointing out the special talents and abilities God gave them, too.

Challenge the children to think about their friends and family.

- **What kinds of special skills do they have?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How do the special skills of others help you, too?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to take the time to point out these special talents in others and express their thankfulness for them.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: God created everything, including each of you. Each person is created in God's image with tremendous value and purpose. God loves and wants a relationship with His most treasured creation: you!

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank you for creating everything and each of us carefully and with purpose. Help us to grow in our purpose to know and love you.
Amen.

Notes