

LIFE POINT

God created the world
from nothing.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Creation can be credited only to God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Genesis 1:1–2:3

UNIT VERSE

I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.
Psalm 139:14 (CSB)

WEEKLY VERSE

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Genesis 1:31 (CSB)

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

August 2



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

When you read Genesis 1, do you ever wonder, *Is there any evidence to support the Bible's claim that God created everything, or must I accept this on blind faith?* That is a great question to ask! Whenever the Bible makes bold claims, never hesitate to ask questions. That is the best way to discover the truth.

Think about gravity as it points to the reality that there is a Creator. Imagine there is a tape measure stretched across the universe. If the gravity setting were adjusted by just one inch on that cosmic tape measure, then all life would be destroyed. Amazingly, gravity is set at just the right level so life can exist. Next, consider the cosmological constant, which is the energy density of empty space. If the cosmological constant were just a little different, our entire universe could not exist! The odds are extremely slim that both are set just right for life to exist without a purposeful Creator.

God's creation of the universe is not just an Old Testament topic. In the New Testament, God reveals through His Word that He created everything through Christ. John 1:3 states, "All things were created through him." Colossians 1:16 claims, "For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible."

Would anyone look at a chair, car, or smartphone and believe that all the needed components to create those items just came together perfectly? No. The human brain, trees, and solar systems are tremendously more complex than anything man has made. They point to an eternal Creator—the God of the universe.

As you pray this week, take time to walk outside in God's creation and thank Him for all that He has perfectly made. Ask Him to show you how best to use the creation story as you witness to others.



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PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Ask preteens if they know the names of the first man and the first woman created. (*Adam and Eve*)
- Inform preteens they will learn more details about each person as they hunt for information today.
- Form a group of boys for Team Adam and a group of girls for Team Eve.
- Invite the boys to open their Bibles to Genesis 1 for information on Adam and write all they find on their “Adam Poster.”
- Invite the girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 2 for information on Eve and write all they find on their “Eve Poster.”

› Pack Item:
26: “Adam and Eve
Posters”

› scissors

› markers



MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Video*

- Show preteens the “Partner with Send Salt Lake City” video or tell the missions story.
- Say: “Salt Lake City has 11 world-class ski resorts giving it the nickname ‘Ski City,’ but there is only one Southern Baptist church to every 40,460 people. The number of Christians in the metro area is only 2.2 percent of the population. That means many people in this city need to hear about the good news of Jesus.”
- Distribute the “Send City Prayer Reminders” and set out supplies.
- Guide preteens to make prayer reminders
- Suggest preteens take them home as a reminder to pray for missionaries in Salt Lake City.
- Pray, thanking God for missionaries who teach people about Jesus.

› Videos

› Printables:
“Unit 3 Missions:
Mountain West: Salt
Lake City”
“Send City Prayer
Reminder”—Print
copies (1 per preteen).

› scissors

› glue sticks

› markers



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- Form a circle and remind preteens that in the summer, many people like to go swimming to cool off.
- Instruct a volunteer to do her best to create a water hose.
- Switch the question when she looks confused.
- Ask another volunteer to create a blanket to sit on since people often have picnics this time of year.
- Continue asking questions until preteens wonder aloud about the odd questions. Ask preteens what is preventing them from creating.
- Point out that no one could create something out of nothing, except God. Today preteens will learn that, amazingly, God created the world from nothing.

› No advance preparation
or supplies needed.



STUDY THE BIBLE

- › Pack Items:
 - 23: “Unit 3 Banner”
 - 24: “Unit 3 Verse”
 - 25: “Unit 3 Banner Add-ons”—The blue card will be used today.
 - 27: “Waterfall”—Display the poster on a focal wall.
 - 28: “Waterfall Splashes”—Hide the cards around the room.
- › Teaching Picture 9
- › Music
- › Videos
- › Printables:
 - “Unit 3 Verse Ants”—Hide the cards around the room.
- › scissors
- › clear tape
- › masking tape
- › picnic blankets—Spread the blankets close together on the floor. Save the blankets for use during the unit.
- › paper
- › markers

Teaching Tip: Save the remaining “Unit 3 Banner Add-ons” for use throughout the unit.

1. GETTING TO THE POINT

Slide*

- Direct attention to the “Unit 3 Banner.”
- Enlist a preteen to add the blue “Unit 3 Banner Add-on” to the banner.
- Ask: “Do you ever wonder where everything you see came from?”
- Explain that it might be difficult to understand because the world seems so big, but today preteens will learn how God created the world from nothing!
- Challenge preteens to note that *ex nihilo* means “out of nothing.”
- Show the “Scripture Sketches” video.

***Video**

2. LOOK IN THE BOOK

- Invite the preteens to find a spot to sit on the picnic blankets as you show the teaching picture.
- Encourage preteens to open their Bibles to Genesis.
- Point out that in many places, swimming is a favorite pastime to cool off.
- Direct preteens’ attention to the “Waterfall” on the wall.
- Ask volunteers to find the “Waterfall Splashes” hidden in the room.
- Instruct preteens to read the references listed on their splashes.
- Invite preteens to close their eyes and remind preteens that before creation came to be, there was nothing.
- Ask the reader with a splash to read Genesis 1:3-5 (Day 1).
- Ask the reader with a splash to read Genesis 1:6-8 (Day 2).
- Ask the reader with a splash to read Genesis 1:9-13 (Day 3).
- Ask the reader with a splash to read Genesis 1:14-19 (Day 4).
- Ask the reader with a splash to read Genesis 1:20-23 (Day 5).
- Ask the reader with a splash to read Genesis 1:24-27,31 (Day 6).
- Emphasize that creation can only be credited to God.
- Teach that God does everything in an orderly way, and He created everything thoughtfully and with purpose.
- Ask preteens how others think the world came to exist.
- Remind preteens that God created the world from nothing. There will be many different views on who created the world and how it was created, but we can trust that God’s Word is true.
- Emphasize that the Bible says Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus has always existed, even at the creation of the universe, and He holds everything together.
- Lead preteens to sing “Remarkably Made (Psalm 139:14).”



STUDY THE BIBLE

3. REVIEW CHALLENGE

- Explain that everyone hears so many different views on the creation of the world, and sometimes it is hard to know what is true.
- Reiterate that creation can only be credited to God.
- Form groups of 2–3 preteens.
- Give each group six sheets of paper and set out markers.
- Challenge each group to look in Genesis 1 and draw the creation for Days 1–6 on their papers as quickly as possible.
- Inform preteens they are to see which group can finish the fastest.
- When complete, check the days with the Bible for accuracy.

4. UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE

*Slide

- Display the “Unit 3 Verse” and invite preteens to read through the verse to become familiar with it.
- Explain that in the summer, many people enjoy eating outside and often sit on picnic blankets.
- Point out to preteens that some of God’s creatures would like to join in the picnic party.
- Guide preteens to look for “Unit 3 Verse Ants” hidden around the room.
- Invite preteens to stand in order of the verse with their ants at the front of the room.
- Allow preteens who are not holding an ant to help arrange the words.
- Read through the verse together.

5. APPLY THE BIBLE AND PRAY

*Video

- Show “The Adventures of Dab and Derek” video.
- Reinforce that God created the world from nothing.
- Guide preteens to think through all the many details of creation that God chose to include.
- Ask: “What specific parts of creation do you love?”
- Ask: “How do others say the world was created and who created it?”
- Remind preteens that God is trustworthy, and we can believe that His Word is true.
- Ask a volunteer to pray that God will help everyone recognize opportunities to share that creation can be credited only to God.
- Dismiss preteens to Live It Out groups.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What was created on Day 1? (*light*)
- › What was created on Day 2? (*sky*)
- › What was created on Day 3? (*dry ground, plants*)
- › What was created on Day 4? (*sun, moon, stars*)
- › What was created on Day 5? (*birds, sea creatures*)
- › What was created on Day 6? (*land animals, humans*)
- › What do you find interesting about the order in which God created the world? (*Answers will vary.*)
- › What are some of your favorite parts of creation? (*Answers will vary.*)

Option: Memorize the Weekly Bible Verse: Genesis 1:31.



LIVE IT OUT

Choose one activity

CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages: “Keep It Real”
- › pencils
- › dried black or dark colors of beans, cotton balls, toy flowers or trees, toy moon/stars, toy sea animals, toy land animals, people figures—Place the items on a table.
- › large clear container

Teaching Tip: Any toys that relate to a day of creation can be used, not just what is listed. Think building brick sets, plastic dollhouse accessories, figurines, and more. For any items you are not able to collect, use a picture to represent the item.

CHOICE 2

- › Kids Activity Pages: “Discover the Message”
- › pencils
- › rigid foam balls (1 per preteen and large enough to create a small replica of the world on it)
- › green and blue tissue paper
- › scissors
- › white glue on paper plates
- › paintbrushes
- › plastic tablecloth
- › optional: small eyelet screws, string

CHOICE 1

CRAFT A CREATION VISUAL AID

- Reiterate: “God created the world from nothing. We can trust that God had a plan, and His plans are always good.”
- Point out that even when it is hard to imagine, we can believe that God created all we see today. There may be times when others may question your beliefs about creation, but creation can be credited only to God.
- Ask preteens how they can share that God created everything with their family and friends. Invite preteens to create a bin to help them remember each day of creation.
- Invite a volunteer to pour the dried black beans into a clear container. Ask preteens what day and creation that represents. (*Day 1/darkness from light*)
- Invite a volunteer to pour in cotton balls. Ask preteens what day and creation that represents. (*Day 2/sky*)
- Invite a volunteer to pour in plastic toy flowers or trees. Ask preteens what day and creation that represents. (*Day 3/dry ground and plants*)
- Invite a volunteer to pour in a toy moon or plastic stars. Ask preteens what day and creation that represents. (*Day 4/sun, moon, stars*)
- Invite a volunteer to pour in plastic toy sea animals. Ask preteens what day and creation that represents. (*Day 5/sea animals, birds*)
- Invite a preteen to pour in plastic toy land animals and toy people. Ask what day and creation that represents. (*Day 6/land animals and man*)
- Challenge preteens to answer what God did on Day 7. (*He rested.*)
- Encourage preteens to dig their hands in the bin and touch everything that represents creation.
- Ask preteens how knowing God created all of this helps them know that God loves them. (*He cares about details. He created all of it for people to enjoy.*)
- Ask: “What do your friends believe about creation? How can you share that God created the world from nothing?”
- Encourage preteens to complete “Keep It Real” on their Kids Activity Pages. When finished, allow volunteers to share what they wrote.

CHOICE 2

CREATE THE WORLD CRAFT

- Reiterate that creation can be credited only to God.
- Remind preteens that before God created everything, it was dark and there was nothing.
- Acknowledge that it is difficult to imagine what it would have been like and felt like where nothing existed. God created the world from nothing.
- Give each preteen a rigid foam ball and set out supplies.
- Instruct preteens to cut out abstract shapes from blue and green tissue



LIVE IT OUT

paper, then attach the tissue paper representing water with glue onto their globes (foam ball).

- Direct preteens to smooth out the tissue paper then lay smaller green tissue paper shapes on top of the blue to represent land on the earth.
- Preteens will cover the globe ball with a layer of white glue.
- Help attach an eyelet screw and hang with string if desired.
- Guide discussion on how people believe the earth was created. Ask preteens if they have ever met someone who believed the earth was created in a way other than by God.
- Encourage preteens to go share with others this week that God created the world from nothing. Challenge them to get up each day to take notice of the many aspects of creation they enjoy this week.
- Lead preteens to complete “Discover the Message” on their Kids Activity Pages. When finished, allow volunteers to share the answer.

CHOICE 3

PLAY CREATION CHARADES

- Form two teams. State that God created the world from nothing and invite them to play a game about creation involving charades.
- Explain that each team will send a volunteer to act out a charade.
- Invite the rest of the preteens to turn away from their volunteers while they see the die rolled and what number/day of creation it lands on.
- Instruct the volunteers to act out something created on that day.
- State: “When the volunteer players begin acting, preteens on their teams must guess what they are acting out and which day is represented. The team that guesses first what its player is acting out receives a point for its team.”
- Ask volunteers how it felt to act out something without any tools or help.
- Guide discussion on how creation can only be credited to God.
- Ask: “What is the most challenging thing about sharing that God created everything? Why do you think it might be difficult for some people to believe God created it all?”
- Encourage preteens to complete “Keep It Real” on their Kids Activity Pages. When finished, allow volunteers to share what they wrote.

CHOICE 3

- › Kids Activity Pages: “Keep It Real”
- › pencils
- › die

WRAP UP

- Reiterate that God created the world from nothing.
- Ask preteens what makes it difficult to believe God created everything.
- Challenge preteens to ask God to help them believe when it is difficult and to see His detail and care with all of creation around them.
- Remind preteens to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.