

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

THE STORY: CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

Isaiah 45:18; John 1:3; Acts 3:15; Hebrews 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:1-3

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

BIG IDEAS

- God was before creation.
- He transforms chaos into created order.
- Everything was made through Him and exists for Him.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 1:1-25

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth from nothing. He spoke creation into being by His powerful Word. All that is in the earth and the heavens was made by God. God created everything for Himself, to bring glory to His name.

THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



Every child should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



Every child should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



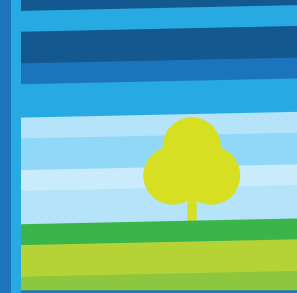
Every child should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

FAMILY DEVOTION: ALL FOR GOD

God is the only Creator. All things begin with Him and come from Him. God is the Creator and creation exists for Him. Everything is for God's glory.

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BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:1-3

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”

In The Beginning, God Existed.

“In the beginning, God created...”

- God is all-powerful and sovereign. He has no beginning and no end because He has always existed. God is not a created being like man, but instead He is the powerful Creator of all things. God has always existed just as He is. He has not changed and will never change.
- God did not evolve or just begin existing one day. He has always been. He has always existed in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In The Beginning, There Was Only God.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

- We know that only God existed in the beginning, because His Word says He created everything else. God made the heavens and the earth. He spoke them into existence, creating them out of nothing. God’s power as Creator was on display in the beginning.
- The heavens and the earth did not exist before God spoke them into existence. He did not use already existing substances to form the heavens and the earth. He created them from absolutely nothing.

In The Beginning, God Created Everything.

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”

- God’s creation of light was just the beginning of His creation process. From nothing, He made the heavens and earth and they had nothing on them. No living or non-living thing existed before God made it.
- From the nothing, God created everything. He spoke light into being and then He began to create all that exists on the earth and in the heavens. He is the beginning of all things.

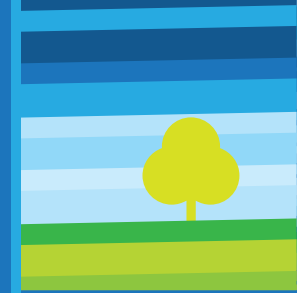
BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 1:1-25

God Creates The World

Opening Illustration:

Place a long piece of blank paper on the floor or table. Give the children markers or crayons and help them create a creation timeline. Write each day of creation on the board and help the children draw pictures of what God created on each of the six days. As they are working, remind them that God is the Creator. He made everything.

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BIG IDEA: GOD WAS BEFORE CREATION.¹

God has no beginning and no end.

- God has always existed. He is the beginning of all things because all things come from Him.²
- All things begin with God because He is the beginning and in the beginning He existed before anything else.
- God also has no end. He is eternal. He has always existed exactly as He is now and He will always exist this way. He cannot be overcome or destroyed.
- He will never stop being God.



Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Assign each pair verses to look up and share with the class. Use the following verses or others that you find yourself: Genesis 1:1-3, 1:27, Romans 1:8, Nehemiah 9:6, Isaiah 45:7, and Revelation 4:11. Remind the children that God is the Creator of everything.

The heavens and earth did not exist before God created them.

- Everything that exists comes after God.
- He is the before all things and all things come through Him.
- The heavens and earth did not exist in some other form. Instead, they didn't exist at all and God made them.
- Creation was not present in a different form or variation before God made them what they are today.
- They didn't exist at all when God spoke them into being.

God exists perfectly.

- God is perfect and has always been perfect. Because He does not change, He will always remain as He is now.
- Because God is perfect, He is the perfect Creator. He made the heavens and earth just as they should be and placed all that needed to be in them, in them.
- God will never change which means He will always be perfect and rule over His creation perfectly.

Does God have a beginning or end? (No, God is eternal and has always existed as He is.)

1. Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning, God existed and has always existed.*

2. Revelation 1:8: *God is the beginning of all things and the end of all things. Nothing is before God.*

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION

BIG IDEA: HE TRANSFORMS CHAOS INTO CREATED ORDER.³

Before God created the heavens and the earth, there was darkness and chaos.

- Before God spoke into existence the world as we know it, there was formless chaos. There was darkness and with darkness comes disorder.
- The darkness that covered the formless and empty space was without any purpose. This same type of chaos is present in our lives before we have saving faith. Yet, God spoke this chaos into order when He began creating by His Word.
- He didn't need other materials to create. He spoke everything into existence through the power of His Word. Only God has the power to take chaos, or confusion and nothingness and turn it into a reflection of His glory.

God's power controls all things and turns nothing into something.

- God is all-powerful and mightier than any other thing. He took nothing and made the heavens and earth. They were a mass of nothing when He spoke light into existence and then He began to create the ordered natural world that exists today.
- It is through His power that He created the world to exist and function the way that it does. He determined that the sun would shine and be positioned far enough, yet close enough to the earth for life to continue on it.
- He determined that the moon would reflect the sun and that the food the animals and plants would exist in harmony the way that they do. He controls all things, especially chaos.

Nothing exists apart from God.

- Everything that exists comes through God. He made all things and is the beginning of everything. He even created the chaos that was the heavens and the earth before He gave them form and substance.

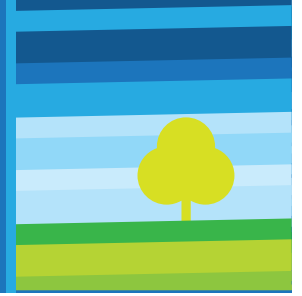
From what did God create the heavens and the earth? (He created them from nothing and then turned their chaos into form and substance.)



Ask the children to name things that God created. Write their responses on the board. Next, ask the children to name things that people make or create. Write those responses next to the list of things God created. Talk with the children about how all the things that humans create or make are possible because God exists and He created in the beginning. Remind them that nothing exists apart from God.

3. Genesis 1:1-3: God's Spirit hovered over the deep and God created all things. He took nothing and made it something.

GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND SUBJECT OF CREATION



BIG IDEA: EVERYTHING WAS MADE THROUGH HIM AND EXISTS FOR HIM.⁴

God is the author of creation.

- The heavens and the earth exist the way that they do because God designed them to do so. He did not just speak things into existence and then leave them to figure out how to function on their own. He gave them purpose and His design reflects His creative power and His glory.
- He made the heavens and the earth to be a part of His plan and purpose. They are a part of God's story because God is the subject of all things.



Write the word "glory" on the board. Ask the children to share their thoughts and ideas about what "glory" means. Next, talk with them about God's glory and how everything exists for His glory. Ask the children to name some ways that their lives give God glory.

Nothing exists or has purpose apart from God.

- Everything exists because of and for God. Without God, nothing would exist and it would have no purpose. All things have a God-given purpose even if they are not fulfilling it.
- God made creation to reflect His glory. It cannot exist even now apart from God because He is the sustainer of all things.
- The world continues because God allows it to continue. Life is possible everyday on earth because of God's desire for it to continue.

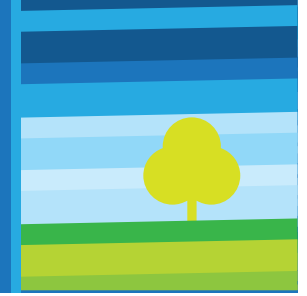
Creation exists for God's glory.

- Creation was made for the glory of God and it reflects His glory. The natural world reveals certain attributes about God to the world. Because creation exists to bring God glory, it is for God. Everything in creation is made to show the world, or mankind that God exists and rules over everything.
- Every part of creation has the purpose of bringing God glory. All that God created is made to honor and glorify Him and not itself.

Can life exist apart from God? (No, God is the source of all life.)

4. Genesis 1:25: God made everything for Himself and His purposes. He saw that what He made was good.

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HOOKS



KNOW

Chaos To Order

Write the words “formless” and “void” on the board. Help the children define what these words mean and help them connect them to the creation narrative when the world was without form and void. Help the children think through how something having no form and being void of anything leads to chaos. Remind them that God spoke into the chaos and turned it into order when He created light and life on the earth.



DO

Nothing Apart From God

Use a long piece of paper and have the children create a comic strip detailing the six days of creation. Ask the children to draw pictures of God’s creation. Next, talk with the children about how nothing exists apart from God. Ask the children to name some things that exist in their own power without the help of God. Show them how everything exists because of God and through God.



FEEL

From Nothing To Something

Bring in a flashlight. Have the children sit in a circle and turn off the lights in the room. Have the children become very quiet and then ask them what existed before God. Remind them that nothing existed before God. Turn the flashlight on and talk with them about the different things that God made, like light and darkness, night and day, the sun and the moon.



WANT