

God Made a World for People

Lesson 1



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25

Bible Memory: Psalm 139:14

“I praise you [God] because you made me.” (*ICB*)

“I will praise thee [God]; for I am . . . wonderfully made.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ God made the world.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

If you have ever climbed the mountains of Montana or watched the ocean beat against the rocky beaches of Maine, you have felt awe and wonder for God’s creation. Children, however, feel wonder and awe for God’s smallest creative gifts. They marvel at a dandelion, are thrilled by a pretty rock, and find glee in a puddle. What a joy it is to share their delight and to teach them that God made the world!

Bible Background for the Teacher

Genesis begins the account of God’s relationship with humankind. The creation story tells us what God did, how He did it, and even hints at why—God liked to walk in His garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). The Hebrew word for *create* in Genesis 1:1 is used to describe an activity of God. God created an orderly world, using definite plans and unchangeable natural laws.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

1 GETTING STARTED
Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore the world God made*.

-  **Quick Step**
Animal Sounds
-  God Made Me (unit center)
-  Water Works

- HeartShaper Materials**
- *Resources* audio track 10
 - *Resources* God Made Me Figures printable file
 - none

- Other Materials**
- media player
 - roll paper, crayons, reusable adhesive
 - plastic dishpans, water, towels, waterproof smocks, waterproof dolls, washcloths

2 BIBLE DISCOVERY
Use all of these activities to help children *tell what God made for people*.

-  **Sing and Pray**
-  **Bible Time**
God Made a World for People
-  **Bible Review**
-  **Bible Memory**

- *Resources* audio tracks, Scamper puppet, *Resources* sheet 1 creation story strip and movable frame 1a-1e

- media player, leaf, Bible, highlighter

3 GROW AND GO
Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *thank God for the world He made*.

-  **Quick Step**
Creation Book
-  Nature Scavenger Hunt
-  Colorful Thanks
-  **Closing the Hour**

- *Make-n-Share* for lesson 1
- *Teaching Picture* 1
- none
- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- scissors, crayons, hole punch, yarn
- none
- construction paper
- none

Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore the world God made.**

Focus

♥ God made the world.

Welcome

- Use Scamper to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child, and guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step Animal Sounds

SAY: **Today we will learn that ♥ God made the world. God spent five days making a world for people, and on the sixth day God made all the animals.**

Ask each child to name his favorite animal and make the animal's sound. **Let's listen to some more sounds. We will try to name the animals and tell where the animals might live.** Play the audio track, pausing after each group of sounds so children can identify the animal and their habitats. (Animal habitats: jungle, farm, forest, ocean, backyard or field)

ASK: **What is your favorite animal?**

What sounds does a lion make? a snake? a dog? (*roar, sssss, woof*)

God Made Me (unit center)

Before class, enlarge and trace boy and girl figures onto a length of roll paper. Attach the paper to a wall.

SAY: **Today we will learn that ♥ God made the world. Let's draw pictures of things we enjoy in God's wonderful world.**

Talk to the children about the things God made for us to enjoy. (Examples: grass, trees, flowers, ocean/beach, animals) Show the children how to draw grass, trees, and pets around the figures of the boys and girls. Children should not add features and clothing to the traced figures at this time. Leave the paper hanging for next week.

ASK: **What is your favorite thing God made?**

If you could touch anything in nature that is beyond your reach, what would it be? (cloud, star, sky)

Especially for 2s!



Show children how to draw straight lines for grass. They will enjoy adding stickers of flowers, birds, and butterflies.

Water Works

Before class, fill dishpans with small amounts of water. Set each dishpan on a towel. Make sure dishpans are on a table where children can reach them.

Help children put on smocks. Ask the children how they use water in their homes. SAY: **Today we will learn that ♥ God made the world. Water is just one of the great things about the world God made. One way we use water is to keep ourselves and our homes clean.**

Give each child a doll to wash. Use extra towels for drying hands.

ASK: **What do you do with the water inside your home?** (wash dishes, take a bath)

What can you do with water outside? (water the yard, play, clean)

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Resources audio track 10, media player



See the Resources lesson 1 printable files for another way you can offer this activity.

Materials

Resources God Made Me Figures printable file, roll paper, crayons, reusable adhesive (optional: flowers, birds, and butterfly stickers)



Teaching Tip

See the unit 1 pages for more information on this unit center.

Materials

plastic dishpans (or containers), water, towels, waterproof smocks, waterproof dolls, washcloths



Cleanup

Have children pretend to be animals God made. Form a line and "swim" or "fly" around the room, stopping at each area that needs to be cleaned.



Focus

♥ God made the world.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what God made for people.**

Materials

Resources audio tracks 1 and 4, media player, Bible, Scamper puppet, leaf



Materials

Resources sheet 1 creation story strip and movable frame 1a–1e



Teaching Tips

You may want to cut the picture strip into four sections (cutting after each ID). Add one section at a time to a display board (or use magnets to attach to a whiteboard), building the picture as the story is being told.

Retell the story, focusing on one activity each time—fingers, colors, shapes.

Materials

Creation story strip and movable frame used in Bible Time



Materials

Bible, highlighter



Sing and Pray

Sing “I Can Praise the Lord, Too!” and “Because You Made Me.”

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for making the world. We love the sun, water, grass, trees, and animals that You made. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Bring out Scamper holding a leaf. SAY: **Scamper, did this leaf come from your tree home? Scamper nods. I’m so glad God made trees and leaves. Children, can you think of other things God made?** Allow responses. **The book of Genesis in the Bible (show Genesis) tells us that ♥ God made the world.** Place the Bible in your lap.

Bible Time

Before class, slide the story strip into the frame.

Show scene 1a. SAY: **The world was dark. There was nothing in it—except God. And then God began to make the world. Hold up one finger. Do so. On day one God made light. Next, God made the sky. Show me two fingers. Sky blue, day two.**

On day three God saw lots of water. “Let there be dry ground,” God said. Show scene 1b. God planted tall trees, lots of flowers, and plants everywhere. Point to plants and trees. Hold up three fingers. On day three, God made lots of green.

God knew the plants needed sunshine. Show me four fingers. So on day four God made the orange-bright sun to light the daytime. Point to sun. He made the white moon and stars to shine at night. Show scene 1c. God’s colors were beginning to appear everywhere.

Show me five fingers. On day five God filled the waters with fish in all kinds of colors and shapes. Show scene 1d. He made seashells and starfish. Point to starfish. He made all the creatures that live in the seas.

Show me six fingers. On day six, God created animals. Big ones (point to elephant) and small ones. Brown ones. Black ones. Animals with stripes and animals with dots. Point to giraffe. Monkeys and white mice. Camels (point to camel) and puppy dogs.

God looked at all He made. “It is good,” God said. ♥ God made the world.

Bible Review

Have children hold up one finger as you show scene 1a. Ask children to identify what God made on each day as you show the correlating story strip scenes. Continue with days two through six. (Scene 1b shows days 2–4. Scene 1c continues day 4. Scene 1d shows days 5 and 6.)

ASK: **What did God make on day one?** (light)

Who do you think God made all these wonderful things for?
(people)

Bible Memory Psalm 139:14

Before class, highlight Psalm 139:14 in your Bible.

Show the verse. Read the verse. Then have the children repeat the verse after you. SAY: **Our Bible Memory tells us that God made us.**

Grow and Go (15-20 minutes)

3 Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **thank God for the world He made.**

Focus

♥ God made the world.

Quick Step Creation Book

SAY: **Today we learned that ♥ God made the world. We can thank God for all the wonderful things He made for us. Let's make books that remind us of all the things God made that we can thank Him for!**

Assist children in assembling their books. Tie the books together, using yarn. When finished, look through the books together, thanking God for the parts of creation shown on each page.

ASK: **Can you thank God for the sun?**

Can you say thank You to God for your favorite animal? Lead children in a simple prayer, thanking God for the world He made.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Gather children in a circle and show the teaching picture. SAY: **Today we learned that ♥ God made the world. Raise your hand if you can name one thing God made that you see in this picture.** Allow responses. **Let's search for some things God made!**

Take children outside to search for nature items that you choose. Make sure items are nearby and children are never out of your sight. Some things, such as the sky, sun, clouds, and grass, can be pointed to. When finished, invite children to thank God for the items. Lead in a simple prayer, thanking God for the world He made.

ASK: **What did you find that God made?**

Epecially for 2s!



Place some nature items in a bag and encourage children to pull them out, one at a time, and explore them. Thank God for each item.

Colorful Thanks

Have children sit in a circle. SAY: **Today we learned that ♥ God made the world. Let's thank God for the world He made!**

Show a piece of construction paper (any color). Ask children to name something God made that is the same color as the paper. Then lead in a simple prayer, thanking God for the things children name. Continue with other colors.

ASK: **Can you name one thing God made that you are thankful for? What will you say to God for something He made?**

Closing the Hour

- Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and *Heart Tugs*.
- Give parents the Seasonal Project Letter from the *Resources* printable files. Encourage parents to take a nature walk with their children and thank God for the world He made. Note: *A Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 1, scissors, crayons (or washable markers), hole punch, yarn



Materials

Teaching Picture 1



Teaching Tip

If you cannot take children outside for this activity, bring nature items to class and hide them in the room. Or take children to a large window to look for nature items rather than hunting for them.

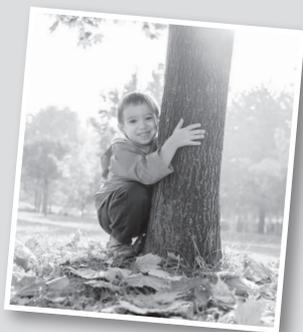
Materials

construction paper (various colors, including flesh tones)



God Made a World for People

Lesson 1 Extra Hour



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25

Bible Memory: Psalm 139:14

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“I will praise thee [God]; for I am . . . wonderfully made.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ God made the world.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

If you have ever climbed the mountains of Montana or watched the ocean beat against the rocky beaches of Maine, you have felt awe and wonder for God’s creation. Children, however, feel wonder and awe for God’s smallest creative gifts. They marvel at a dandelion, are thrilled by a pretty rock, and find glee in a puddle. What a joy it is to share their delight and to teach them that God made the world!

Bible Background for the Teacher

Genesis begins the account of God’s relationship with humankind. The creation story tells us what God did, how He did it, and even hints at why—God liked to walk in His garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). The Hebrew word for *create* in Genesis 1:1 is used to describe an activity of God. God created an orderly world, using definite plans and unchangeable natural laws.

Lesson 1 at a Glance—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore the world God made*.



Quick Step
Search and Find Puzzle



Good Eats



Sand and Seashells

HeartShaper Materials

• *Heart Tugs* issue 1,
Resources audio track 1

• none

• none

Other Materials

• crayons, media player

• wet wipes, knife, raw fruits and vegetables, paper plates, napkins
• large plastic container, seashells, sand, spoons, small plastic shovels, plastic buckets

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all of these activities to help children *tell what God made for people*.



More! Sing and Pray



Bible Time—Another Way!
God Made a World for People



More! Bible Review



More! Bible Memory

• *Resources* audio tracks,
Teaching Picture 1,
Resources Unit 1 Bible
Memory Motions printable
file

• media player, Bible, construction paper (see activity for colors), scissors, glue, various instruments

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *thank God for the world He made*.



Quick Step
Scamper Puppet Story



Praise Shakers

Saying Good-bye

• Scamper puppet

• *Resources* audio tracks

• *Heart Tugs* issue 1

• paper lunch bag, leaf, twig, flower, rock

• media player, small disposable plastic containers with lids, beans, spoon, fall stickers, black permanent marker, masking tape
• paper, crayons

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

Focus

♥ God made the world.

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore the world God made.**

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a name tag.
- Gather children to listen to and imitate the animal sounds on the *Resources* audio track 10.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation's policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step Search and Find Puzzle

SAY: **Today we are learning that ♥ God made the world. Let's see if we can find some animals God made!**

Help children complete today's *Heart Tugs* activity. When children are finished, sing "I Can Praise the Lord, Too!" As the children sing, let them act like the animals mentioned in the song.

- ASK: **What animals did you find in the puzzle?
What was your favorite animal to imitate?**

Especially for 2s!

Allow 2s to scribble-color their puzzles as you point out the animals in the picture. Play the song while they color.

Good Eats

Before class, cut fruits and vegetables into bite-size pieces—even the grapes.

SAY: **Today we are learning that ♥ God made the world. God made all kinds of good food for us to eat.**

Have children wash their hands. Show children the food and ask them to name the foods they see. Give each child a small portion of each food. As the children enjoy their healthy snacks, talk about their favorite foods and where the foods come from.

- ASK: **What is your favorite food?
Do you know where your favorite food comes from?**

Sand and Seashells



Before class, place seashells in a container and cover with sand.

SAY: **Today we are learning that God made everything we see. Have you ever been to the beach? Allow responses. God made the ocean, fish, sand, and seashells. ♥ God made the world.**

Invite children to dig in the sand, find the shells, and place them in the buckets. Offer the choice to dig with their hands or use spoons or shovels. Before children start to dig, explain any rules about keeping the sand in the large container and not throwing sand. As they play, talk with children about how wonderful and exciting God's creation is.

- ASK: **Have you ever been to the beach?
Can you name something God made?**

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Heart Tugs issue 1,
Resources audio track 1,
crayons, media player



Materials

wet wipes, raw fruits and vegetables, knife, paper plates, napkins



Teaching Tip

Check all food allergies and have alternative food available.

Something More!

Children may enjoy dipping their fruits and vegetables in a dip.

Materials

large plastic container,
seashells, sand, spoons,
small plastic shovels, plastic buckets (optional: plastic tablecloth)



Teaching Tip

For easy cleanup, spread out a plastic tablecloth and place the container with sand on top of it.

Focus

♥ God made the world.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what God made for people.**

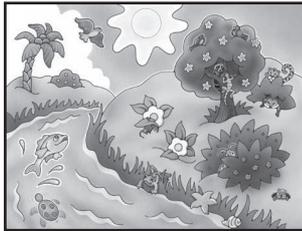
Materials

Resources audio track 1, media player, *Teaching Picture* 1, Bible



Materials

Teaching Picture 1; construction paper in the following colors: black, blue, green, and orange (2 sheets of each color), yellow and red (1 sheet of each color); scissors; glue



Materials

sheets of construction paper used in Bible Time



Materials

Resources Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file and audio track 4, media player, Bible, various instruments (or noisemakers)



More! Sing and Pray

Sing “I Can Praise the Lord, Too!”

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for making our beautiful world. And thank YOU for making all the special children here today. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the teaching picture. SAY: **Our world is filled with so many wonderful things! Can you see something in this picture that God made?** Allow responses. **The book of Genesis in the Bible tells us that ♥ God made the world.** Show Genesis and place the Bible in your lap. **Let’s find out more about the world God made.**

Bible Time—Another Way!

Before class, create a rainbow rectangle by gluing a 2¼" strip of blue, green, and orange construction paper to the red paper, leaving a strip of red at the bottom. Create an orange and black striped rectangle by gluing orange strips of construction paper to the black paper.

Ask up to six children to help you hold the sheets of paper. Give each child one sheet of construction paper—black, blue, green, yellow, rainbow, or striped. You can hold any remaining sheets. Show the teaching picture to the class and read the story on the back. As you read about each day of creation, you or the child holding the appropriate color of paper can hold it up. See the list below to know what colors go with what days.

Day 1—black

Day 2—blue

Day 3—green

Day 4—yellow

Day 5—rainbow rectangle

Day 6—orange and black striped rectangle

SAY: **♥ God made the world.** As time permits, repeat the story, choosing new volunteers.

More! Bible Review

SAY: **♥ God made the world for people. Let’s remember what God made for us.** Show the papers to the children in the order listed in Bible Time. Ask the children what God made on each day, using the construction paper as clues. Remind children that God made everything for people.

ASK: **See this black rectangle? What did God make on day one?** (light for people)

More! Bible Memory Psalm 139:14

Before class, print the motions from the printable files.

Show the Bible to each individual child; then ask him to point to the word *Bible* on the front cover. SAY: **The Bible is God’s special book.** Play “Because You Made Me” and encourage the children to sing along as they play their instruments. Begin teaching the motions as you sing through the song a second time.

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

3 Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **thank God for the world He made.**

Focus

♥ God made the world.

Quick Step “Scamper’s Bag of Treasures” Story

Bring out Scamper holding the lunch bag containing a leaf, twig, flower, and rock. SAY: **Scamper, can I show the children what you have?** Have Scamper nod. Show the items one at a time to the children. **Scamper, where did you find these?** Scamper whispers to you. **That’s great! Can I tell the children?** Scamper nods.

Scamper took a bag to gather nuts for the winter. But when he climbed down his tree, he saw a beautiful leaf on the grass. He wanted to keep it, so he put it in his bag. Scamper puts leaf in the bag. **Then he saw an interesting twig. Scamper put that in his bag too.** Scamper observes the twig and then puts it in the bag. **Scamper walked a little farther and saw a pretty flower lying on the ground. He picked it up. It smelled good! Scamper placed it in the bag.** Scamper smells the flower and then puts it in the bag. **Scamper’s bag was getting full, and he hadn’t picked up a single nut! He saw a beautiful rock to add to his collection. He put the rock in the bag too.** Scamper puts rock in the bag. **Tomorrow he will gather nuts. Today he is going to enjoy his treasures.**

ASK: ♥ **God made the world. What did Scamper find that God made?**
(leaf, twig, flower, rock)

Lead children in a simple prayer, thanking God for all He made.

Praise Shakers

Write each child’s name on the bottom of a container. SAY: **Today we learned that ♥ God made the world. Let’s make praise shakers to use as we thank God for the world He made.**

Let the children decorate their containers with stickers. Help them spoon a small amount of beans into the containers and seal lids with tape. Sing “I Can Praise the Lord, Too!” as children shake containers. When the song is over, have the children shout “Thank You, God!”

We praised God for making the world. Let’s thank Him for making our favorite things. Have each child think of something God made that he is thankful for. Then lead children in a simple prayer, thanking God for the things mentioned.

ASK: ♥ **God made the world. What is your favorite thing God made?**

Especially for 2s!

Before children arrive, fill containers with beans and seal the lids. Then let the children decorate the containers with stickers.

Saying Good-bye

• As children wait for parents, provide paper and crayons and encourage each child to draw something that God made.

• Be sure children have projects made in class and *Heart Tugs*. Give parents the Seasonal Project Letter from the *Resources* printable files. Encourage them to take a nature walk with their children and thank God for the world He made. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Scamper puppet, paper lunch bag, leaf, twig, flower, rock



Materials

Resources audio track 1, media player, small disposable plastic containers with lids, beans (or unpopped popcorn), spoon, fall stickers, black permanent marker, masking tape



Teaching Tip

When you are finished, gather the praise shakers for use throughout this unit. Do not send them home. Make a few extras for children who are absent.

Cleanup

Name a color and ask children to think of something God made that is that color. Then guide children to put something away that is the same color. Name other colors as time allows.

