

God Made a World for People

Lesson 1



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25

Bible Memory: Psalm 139:14

“I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.” (ICB)

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (KJV)

Focus: ♥ God made the world.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Telling who created what and when in 25 fact-filled verses, today’s Scripture text provides image after image of our God’s creativity and shows the power of His words as He speaks creation into being. What a photo album! Ask God’s Spirit to guide you as you use the power of words to fill your children with wonder and awe regarding the scenes of creation.

Bible Background for the Teacher

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

Lesson 1 at a Glance

		HeartShaper Materials	Other Materials
<p>1 GETTING STARTED Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore the world God made.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step What’s in the World?</p> <p> It’s a Big, Long List of Animals</p> <p> Touch and Guess Time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teaching Picture 1</i> • Scout puppet • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • whiteboard, dry-erase marker • paper lunch bags, objects from nature
<p>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY Use all of these activities to help children <i>tell what God made for people.</i></p>	<p> Sing and Pray</p> <p> Bible Time God Made a World for People</p> <p> Bible Review</p> <p> Bible Memory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> audio tracks, <i>Teaching Picture 1</i>, <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 creation color cards 1a-1g and sight word cards 1h-1j, <i>Resources</i> God Made the World printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • media player, Bible
<p>3 GROW AND GO Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>thank God for the world He made.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Praise Rings</p> <p> Bible Memory in Motion (unit center)</p> <p> Colorful Thank-You</p> <p>Closing the Hour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make-n-Share</i> for lesson 1 and stickers • <i>Resources</i> Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file • none • <i>Heart Tugs</i> issue 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hole punch, D-rings, blunt-tip scissors • none • various colors of construction paper cut to 2" x 4" • 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 Scout to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child, then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step What's in the World?

SAY: ♥ God made the world. This picture shows some of the creations God made. Look at the picture carefully. Then I'm going to hide it and describe something in the picture. You can guess what I'm talking about.

Let children look at the teaching picture. Turn it around. Describe a pictured object. Let the children guess what you're describing. Repeat several times.

- ASK: **Who made the world and the things in it?** (God)
What is something God made that is not shown in this picture?
Encourage children to answer.

Especially for 4s!



Show children the picture while describing the item they are to guess. Have them point out the item after they name it.

It's a Big, Long List of Animals

Scout whispers to you. **Scout says hello to you. He wants to know if you know ♥ God made the world.** Allow responses. **Let's make a big, long list of animals in the world. God made all of them. Let's start with . . . dogs!** Have Scout bark.

Write "dogs" on the board, then let children move and sound like dogs. Write other animals as children name them. Allow children to move and sound like the animals they name.

- ASK: **Who made all the animals in the world?** (God)
What is your favorite animal?

Touch and Guess Time

Before class, put each object inside a separate bag.

SAY: ♥ God made the world for people. He put lots of interesting things in it. Each of these bags has something inside it that God made. Let's take turns reaching into each bag and trying to guess what's inside. We won't use our eyes to guess, but we'll use our eyes to check and see whether our guesses are right.

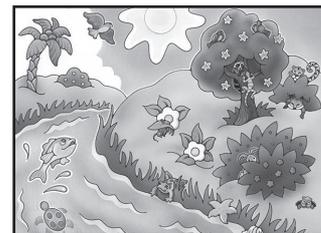
Have the children take turns reaching inside the bags, then feeling and guessing the objects.

- ASK: **Who made the world?** (God)
Who made (name a specific object used in the activity)? Repeat the question, using other specific objects.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Teaching Picture 1



Materials

Scout puppet,
whiteboard, dry-erase
marker



Special Needs Tip

Draw simple pictures for children who can't read.

Materials

paper lunch bags, objects
from nature (examples:
rock, leaf, feather, apple,
stick, grass)



Cleanup

Guide children to pretend to be their favorite animals as they move around and straighten the room.



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, *Teaching Picture* 1, media player, Bible



Teaching Tip

Watch for and acknowledge children who raise their hands as you mention favorite colors.

Materials

Resources sheet 1 creation color cards 1a–1g



Materials

Resources sheet 1 creation color cards 1a–1g, Resources God Made the World printable file



Materials

Resources sheet 1 sight word cards 1h–1j, Bible



Sing and Pray

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

PRAY: **God, we are so happy You made the world for us. Help us to make You happy too. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the teaching picture. ASK: **What is your favorite color?** Allow responses. SAY: **Today’s Bible story includes a lot of colors. If I say your favorite color, raise your hand and say “I like that color!” Let’s practice.** Do so. **Our story is from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.** Show Genesis 1 as you begin the story.

Bible Time

Show card 1a. SAY: **Before this story from the Bible began, here’s what everything was—black!** After each color word, let the children say if it is their favorite color. **There was nothing in the world except God. Then God began to make things.** Show card 1b. **On day 1** (have each child show one finger), **God made light. White!** Show card 1c. **On day 2** (hold up two fingers), **God made the sky. Blue!** Show card 1d. **On day 3** (hold up three fingers), **God made land and plants. Browns and greens! Trees, flowers, grass!** Show card 1e. **On day 4** (hold up four fingers), **God made the sun, moon, and stars. Orange, yellow, white!** Show card 1f. **On day 5** (hold up five fingers), **God made all the things that live in water and fly in the air. Combinations of greens and blues, yellows and reds, pinks and purples. All colors! Fish and parrots, whales and eagles!** Show card 1g. **To start off day 6** (hold up six fingers), **God made animals. All kinds, all sizes, and all shapes. All colors and patterns of skins and furs! What are some of the animals God made?** Allow responses. **When God looked at all He made, do you know what He said? God said, “It is good.” ♥ God made the world for people, and then He said, . . .** (prompt children to finish the sentence with you) **“It is good.” Yes. Let’s say those words one more time.** Have children repeat: “It is good.”

Bible Review

Before class, print a copy of the God Made the World printable file.

Show card 1a. SAY: **Remember, before this Bible story began, everything was black.** Starting with card 1a, show the cards in order and have children tell what was created on each day. Do the action rhyme.

ASK: **Who made the world?** (God)

Who did God make the world for? (people)

Bible Memory Psalm 139:14

Show word card 1h. SAY: **We know who God is. ♥ God made the world.** Show card 1i. **The story of God making the world is found in the Bible.** Show card 1j. **Now let’s talk about praise. When you say that someone is great and wonderful, you are praising the person. We praise God when we thank Him and tell Him how wonderful He is. Our Bible Memory talks about praise.** Read Psalm 139:14. Have children repeat the verse.

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 Praise Rings

SAY: **Because ♥ God made the world, we want to thank Him every day. Let's make praise rings to use as we thank God for the world He made.**

Guide children as they add stickers. Offer assistance as needed in cutting apart the cards. Hole-punch the cards and string them on a D-ring. When the children have completed their praise rings, have each child choose one card and pray, thanking God for what is pictured on that card.

ASK: **Who made the world?** (God)

What did God make on day 1? Go through each day, letting children have the opportunity to name something.

Bible Memory in Motion (unit center)

Before class, print and practice the Bible Memory motions.

SAY: **♥ God made the world for people. Let's learn our Bible Memory with motions. I'll say the words and show you some motions. Then we'll say the words and do the motions together.**

Teach children the motions for Psalm 139:14. Remind them that when they say this verse they are talking to God and thanking Him for making them as a part of the world.

ASK: **Who did God make in an amazing and wonderful way?** (You!)

What can we say to God because He made the world?

Colorful Thank-You

SAY: **♥ God made a very colorful world. I'll hold up a sheet of paper and ask you to tell me what color it is. Then I'll choose someone to name something God made which is that color.**

Hold up a sheet of paper and ask children to name its color. Choose one child to name something God made that color. Lead the group in saying, **Thank You, God, for making** (color and item named). Continue with other colors.

ASK: **Who made the world and everything in it?** (God)

What kind of food did God make green? Do with each color.

Especially for 4s!

Ask children specific questions to help them name things God made. (Example: What kind of food did God make green? What animal did God make brown?)

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to help their children learn the Bible Memory motions. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 1 and stickers, blunt-tip scissors, hole punch, D-rings (or 6" of yarn)



Something More!

If you want to use the cards for another lesson, a day 7 card can be found in the *Resources* lesson 1 printable files.

Give each child colored paper to add to his ring. Encourage children to thank God for things He made in the different colors.

Materials

Resources Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file



Materials

various colors of construction paper cut to 2" x 4"



Something More!

Use various colors of crepe streamers instead of construction paper. Allow children to move and wave the streamers.

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; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (*KJV*)

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Bible Background for the Teacher

Genesis 1 begins the account of God’s relationship with man. The creation story tells us what God did, how He did it, and even hints at why—God liked to walk in the garden and have fellowship with those He had created (Genesis 3:8). The Hebrew word for *create* in Genesis 1:1 is used elsewhere only 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
Places God Made



Ocean Cups



Where in the World?

HeartShaper Materials

• *Resources* audio track 10

• *Make-n-Share* sea-life stickers

• Scout puppet

Other Materials

• media player

• clear plastic cups (2 per student), sand, clear packing tape, blue cellophane

• resealable plastic bags, each containing something from nature (see activity)

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 track 1, *Resources* sheet 1 creation color cards 1a-1g and sight word cards 1h-1j

• media player, Bible

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
Scout Puppet Story



Special “Thank You” Words

Saying Good-bye

• Scout puppet

• *Heart Tugs* issue 1

• *Heart Tugs* issue 1

• filled plastic bags used in Where in the World? activity

• none

• small beanbag

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 take turns finding nature objects (examples: a rock, a feather, an apple) or pictures of nature objects you have hidden in the room. After each item is found, ask, **Did God make that?**
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation’s policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step Places God Made

SAY: **When ♥ God made the world, He made different kinds of places where animals and people could live. Let’s listen to some animal sounds. We’ll try to name the places God made where we might hear those sounds.**

Stop and start the animal sounds, allowing children to guess various places where they might hear the animals sounds. Places might include a jungle, farm, forest, beach, backyard, or park.

ASK: **Who made the world?** (God)

What is your favorite place that God made?

Ocean Cups

SAY: **♥ God made the world, including the parts that are under water. We’re going to make ocean cups that will show some things God made that are under water.**

Guide each child to add stickers to one plastic cup. Have each child add a small amount of sand to another cup. Sandwich the cup with stickers inside the cup with sand. Help children seal the two cups together by taping around the rims. Add crumpled cellophane inside the cup with stickers. Tell children to pretend they are holding pieces of the ocean.

ASK: **Who made the fish and creatures that live in water?** (God)

What is your favorite sea creation that God made?

Especially for 4s!

Before class, tape together the rims of empty cups sandwiched inside cups filled with small amounts of sand. Children can adhere stickers to the outside of their sand cups.

Where in the World?

Scout whispers to you. SAY: **Today we are learning that ♥ God made the world. Scout wants to play a learning game. It’s called Where in the World? Scout will hold up a bag, and you say what’s inside the bag. Then Scout will choose someone to tell us where in the world you would find what’s in that bag.**

Have Scout hold up one bag. Children can name the object. Then have Scout pretend to whisper to you someone’s name. Ask that child to tell where the item in the bag might be found.

ASK: **Who made all the things in these bags?** (God)

Who made the world? (God)

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Resources audio track 10, media player



 Make this game more visual for children who need an extra cue. Find and post around the room pictures of places where children might hear the various sounds. When children hear a sound, they can move to the appropriate picture.

Materials

clear plastic cups (2 per student), *Make-n-Share* sea-life stickers, sand, clear packing tape, blue cellophane



Option

Use just one cup and tape the cellophane over the top.

Materials

Scout puppet, resealable plastic bags, each containing something from nature (examples: water, rock, dirt, feather, seashell)



Something More!

Print “Where in the World?” on sheets of card stock. Let children tape (or glue) nature items onto the posters. Encourage children to use their posters to tell others about the things God made.

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, Bible



More! Sing and Pray

Sing “I Can Praise the Lord, Too!”

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for making the world for people! Thank You for telling us about what You did when You made the world. We love You, and we love Your Book, the Bible. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

ASK: **What do you say when someone gives you something?** Allow responses. SAY: **The Bible is a gift God gave us, and today’s story is found in the first book of the Bible.** Open the Bible and show where Genesis 1 is. **Our Bible story today is about something God gave us.**

Materials

Resources sheet 1
creation color cards
1a–1g



Bible Time—Another Way!

Before class, display color cards 1a–1g in various locations.

Begin at card 1a. SAY: **Before God made the world, everything was black. Let’s go on a creation hunt and find what God made on day 1.** Lead children to card 1b. **What color is it?** Allow responses. **On day 1 God created light. White light! Let’s go to the picture of day 2.** Lead children to card 1c. **What color is it?** Allow responses. **On day 2 God created the sky. Sky blue, day 2! Let’s go to day 3.** Move to card 1d. **What color is it?** Allow responses. **On day 3 God created brown land and green plants. What kind of plants do you know about?** Allow responses. **Let’s go to day 4.** Move to card 1e. **What color is it? Yes, orange, yellow, and white. On day 4 God made the orange-yellow sun and the white moon and stars—things in the sky. Let’s go to day 5.** Move to card 1f. **What color is it?** Allow responses. **Yes, all colors! On day 5 God created all the creatures that live in the seas and sky. These creatures are every color you can think of! Let’s go to day 6.** Lead children to card 1g. **What do you see?** Allow responses. **At the beginning of day 6 God created animals. Animals of different colors and patterns of skins and furs. ♥ God made the world—a wonderful, colorful world!**

Something More!

Go on a creation walk, starting in a room with the lights dimmed.

Let children make sounds and motions of the different days.

Materials

Resources sheet 1
creation color cards
1a–1g



More! Bible Review

SAY: ♥ **God made the world. Let’s see if you can remember what God made on the different days.** Go through cards in order, asking children to tell you what God made on each day. Repeat, showing the cards in random order.

ASK: **What did God make for people?** (the world)

What is your favorite color? What did God make that color?

Materials

Bible, Resources sheet 1
sight word cards 1h–1j



More! Bible Memory Psalm 139:14

Show card 1i—Bible. SAY: **Listen as I read the Bible Memory from the book of Psalms in the Bible.** Read the verse. Show card 1j—praise. **Does anyone know what *praise* means?** Allow for answers. **When you say someone is great and wonderful and good, you are praising that person.** Show card 1h—God. **We praise God when we give thanks to Him and tell Him how wonderful He is. Our Bible Memory has words of praise for God, because ♥ God made the world for people.** Ask children to say the verse with you.

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 “Oh Yes, God Did!”

Scout whispers to you. SAY: **Earlier Scout played a game he liked very much. Show the bags. Maybe some of you played it too. Scout wants to invite you to play the game with him again. Who would like to play the game with Scout?** Allow responses. **Let’s play.** Have Scout hold the first bag. **What’s in this bag?** Allow responses. **Yes, God made** (name object in bag). Repeat with other bags.

One day Scout heard some children playing a game. They were taking turns, naming things they could see in God’s creation. Then the little boy in Scout’s family spoke up. The boy said, “God made everything. God made the world.” All the children agreed and decided to thank God for the world He made. The little boy was happy he could tell his friends about God. Scout was happy too. Have Scout nod and bark. Then Scout whispers to you. **Scout wants to thank you for playing the game with him. He wants you to tell your friends that ♥ God made the world.**

ASK: **What can you tell your friends God made?** (the world)

What can you say to thank God because He made the world?

Allow responses. Lead in a thank-You prayer to God.

Special “Thank You” Words

SAY: ♥ **God made the world, and we want to thank Him for that. One way to thank God is to learn words from His special book, the Bible.** Show the Bible Memory motions in *Heart Tugs*. **Let’s learn some special words and thank God for the world He made.**

Teach the Bible Memory motions. Tell children that when they say these words they are talking to God and thanking Him for making them a part of the world. Pray, thanking God for making the world—and you!

ASK: **Who made the world and everything and everyone in it?** (God)

What can we say to God because He made the world?

Epecially for 4s!

Choose two or three children to come to the front of the room and help you do the motions, while other children watch and listen. Continue, choosing different children.

Saying Good-bye

• As children wait on parents, play a God Made game. SAY: **Thank You, God, for what You made,** and toss a beanbag or a ball to a child. Have the child name something God made and toss the beanbag back.

• Be sure children have projects made in class and this week’s *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to help their children learn the Bible Memory motions. Note: *A Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Materials

Scout puppet, filled plastic bags used in the Where in the World? activity (see More! Getting Started)



Teaching Tip

If some children choose not to play, encourage them to be the “audience,” watching and cheering on other children.

Materials

Heart Tugs issue 1



Teaching Tip

If you want your children to learn more motions, use the Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions from the *Resources* printable file.

Something More!

After children learn the Bible Memory, play God Made found in Saying Good-bye.

Cleanup

Assign small groups of children to various areas of the room to straighten up and clean.

