

Creation

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God made everything by His word, it was all good, and He made every person in His image, so we can trust Him, thank Him and treat others with kindness.

Bible passage: Genesis 1:1–2:3. Read it before class.

Memory verse: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." *Genesis 1:1 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Draw a chart with 7 boxes on the board, labeled Day 1 to Day 7, and leave the boxes empty.

1. Opening game: Make It From Nothing (5–10 minutes)

Give each pair of kids an empty paper cup. Say: "You have one minute. Make me a cookie, using only what is in your cup." When they protest that the cup is empty, ask: *Why is that impossible? What do people need before they can make anything?* (Stuff to make it from, tools, time.) Say: "Every builder starts with something. Today we will read how God made everything just by speaking His word."

2. Bible story: God Made It All (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 1. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words. After each day, a child writes or draws what God made in that day's box on the board.

In the beginning. Look up Genesis 1:1. Before anything else existed, God was there, and He created everything. The earth was **without form, and void**, which means it had no shape and nothing on it. It was dark over the deep waters, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (1:2).

Day 1. Look up Genesis 1:3. God spoke, and light came. God saw that the light was good, and He divided the light from the darkness. He called the light Day and the darkness Night. "And the evening and the morning were the first day" (1:4–5).

Day 2. God made the **firmament**, the wide open space of the sky. It divided the waters under it from the waters above it, and God called the firmament Heaven (1:6–8).

Day 3. God gathered the waters into one place, and the dry land appeared. He called the dry land Earth and the waters Seas (1:9–10). Then the earth brought forth grass, the **herb yielding seed** (plants that make seeds) and fruit trees with the seed inside the fruit, each **after his kind**, which means each one makes more of its own kind (1:11–12).



Day 4. God put lights in the sky to divide the day from the night and to mark **signs, seasons, days and years** (1:14). **Look up Genesis 1:16.** God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day (the sun) and the lesser light to rule the night (the moon). He made the stars also (1:16–19).

Day 5. The waters filled with living creatures, and birds (the Bible says **fowl**) flew in the open sky (1:20). God created **great whales**, which means big sea creatures, and every winged bird (1:21). God blessed them: "Be fruitful, and multiply," which means have babies and fill the seas and the earth (1:22).

Day 6. God made the land animals: **cattle, creeping things** (animals that creep along the ground) and the **beast of the earth** (wild animals), each after his kind (1:24–25). **Look up Genesis 1:27.** God created man in His own image, male and female. God blessed them and gave them **dominion**, which means the job of ruling over and caring for the fish, the birds and every living thing (1:28). He gave plants and fruit for food (1:29–30). **Look up Genesis 1:31.** God saw everything He had made, and it was very good.

Day 7. **Look up Genesis 2:2.** The heavens and the earth were finished (2:1). On the seventh day God ended His work and rested. God blessed the seventh day and **sanctified** it, which means He set it apart as holy (2:3).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Over and over, Genesis 1 says "And God said," and it happened (1:3, 1:6, 1:9). What does that tell you about how powerful God's word is?
2. Six times God saw that what He made was good (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25), and at the end it was "very good" (1:31). What is something God made that you think is really good?
3. God made every person in His image (1:27). If that is true of every kid at your school, how should we treat them, even the ones who are hard to like?
4. God gave people the job of caring for His creatures and His earth (1:28). What is one way you can do that job this week?
5. God rested when His work was finished and made the seventh day holy (2:2–3). Why is it good for us to stop, rest and remember God?

Recall questions

1. What did God call the dry land? (*Earth, Genesis 1:10*)
2. On which day did God make the fish and the birds? (*The fifth day, 1:20–23*)
3. What did God do to the seventh day? (*He blessed it and sanctified it, 2:3*)

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **created** means made something new, and **the heaven** means the sky and everything above us. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Repeat until the board is empty and the class can say it alone, then kids say it to a partner.



5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God made everything, and He made you in His image. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: each day, thank God for one thing He made, and treat one person kindly because God made them in His image.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Genesis 1:2: What moved upon the face of the waters? (*The Spirit of God*)
2. Genesis 1:5: What did God call the darkness? (*Night*)
3. Genesis 1:8: What did God call the firmament? (*Heaven*)
4. Genesis 1:10: What did God call the gathering together of the waters? (*Seas*)
5. Genesis 1:14: Name two things the lights in the sky are for. (*Signs, seasons, days and years*)
6. Genesis 1:21: What great creatures did God make in the sea? (*Great whales*)
7. Genesis 1:29: What did God give people for food? (*Every herb bearing seed and every tree with fruit*)
8. Genesis 2:1: What was finished? (*The heavens and the earth, and all the host of them*)

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You made everything by Your word, and everything You made is good. Thank You for making us in Your image. Help us care for Your world, and help us be kind to everyone, because You made them too. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks "Who made God?": answer simply. Nobody made God. He was already there "in the beginning" (Genesis 1:1), and He never had a start. He is "the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28, KJV).

