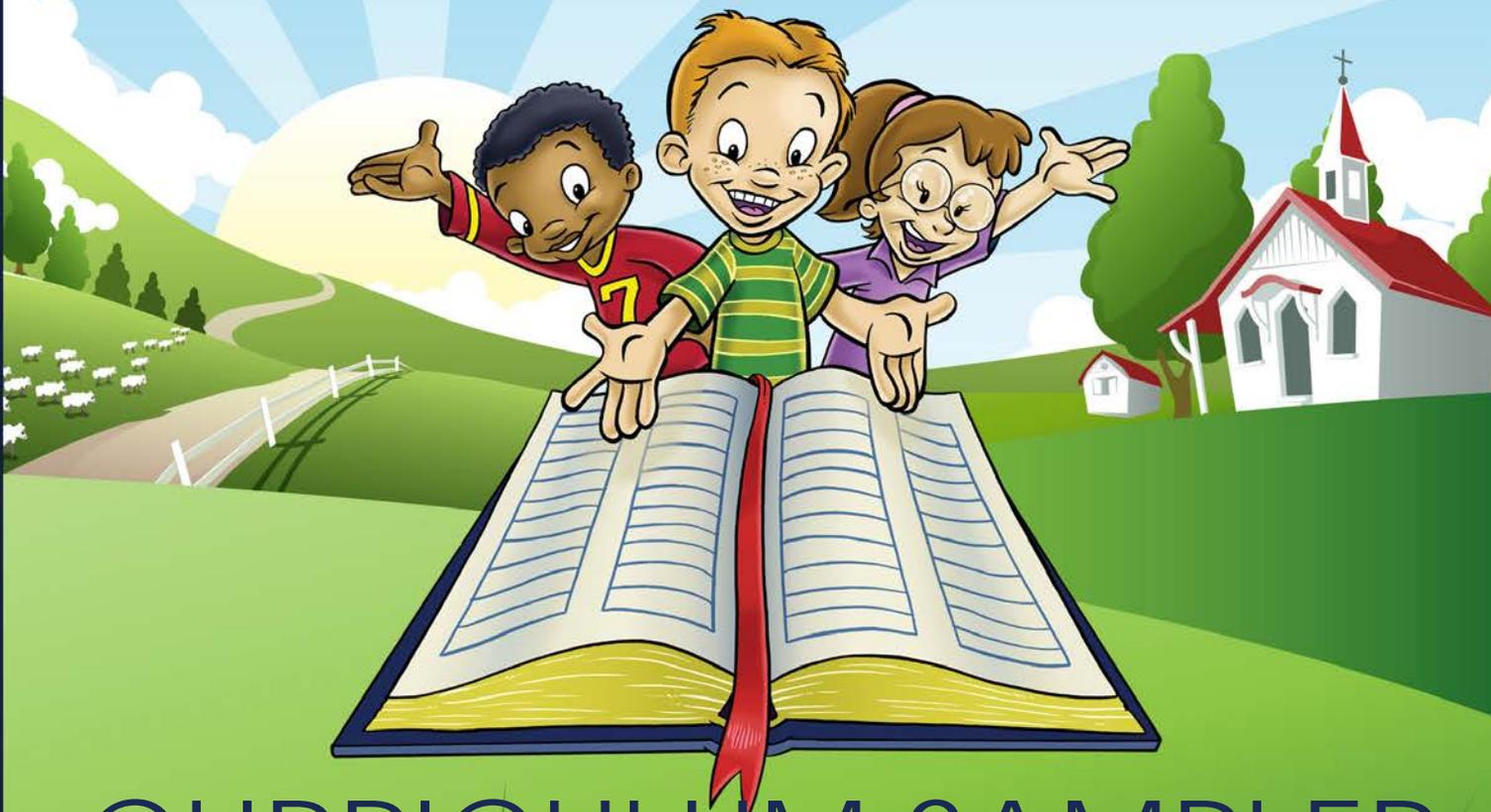


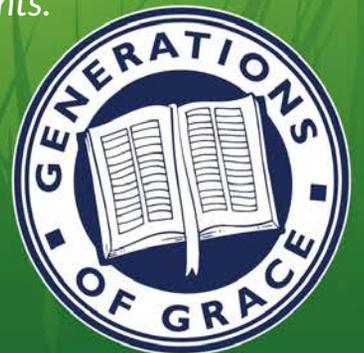
GENERATIONS OF GRACE

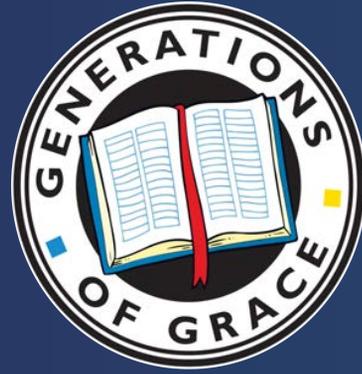
TEACHING GOD'S WORD TO THE NEXT GENERATION



CURRICULUM SAMPLER

An introduction to our goal of glorifying God through evangelizing children, encouraging parents, and edifying servants.





WHY DOES
GENERATIONS OF GRACE
EXIST?



Generations of Grace exists because we must commit again to spread God's grace from one generation to the next (Deut 6:4–7). We have to admit that we can be very much like the disciples, who rebuked the people when they brought their children to Jesus (Matt 19:13). Like them, we can be sincere and well-meaning as we seek to minister to the church, the community, and the world. But like them, we easily forget the children in the process. We even act as if the children in our churches are an inconvenience. Is this not true? How often do we scramble to find enough nursery workers? How often are the most effective and godly teachers transferred into adult ministry?

Yet experience readily confirms that the best time to teach a person is during childhood (Prov 22:6). While neglecting children sets a tragic direction for their lives, investing in children pays dividends many times over as God's grace captures their hearts and spreads through them to many others. You could even measure the vitality of a church by the godliness of its young people.

The wonders of the LORD are designed to be passed from one generation to the next (Ps 78:4). So if the younger generation is to stand in awe of God, the older generation must stand in awe of God first. To have godly children, we need godly parents and teachers. Therefore, *Generations of Grace* is uniquely designed with three objectives: to evangelize children, to encourage parents, and to edify servants.

In order to declare God's mighty acts from one generation to the next (Ps 145:4), *Generations of Grace* is:

- **Biblically Driven** – covering the whole story-line of the Bible
- **God Centered** – magnifying God's character and works recorded throughout Scripture
- **Christ Exalting** – glorifying Christ as the pinnacle of God's redemptive plan
- **Gospel Saturated** – showing how every passage fits into God's plan of salvation
- **Family Focused** – uniting the whole family around the same passage of Scripture each week



GENERATIONS OF GRACE

EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD BY:

1. EVANGELIZING CHILDREN



The Bible is not just a collection of stories teaching moral lessons, nor is a child's greatest need behavior modification. A child's greatest need is to be born again, because from birth they are dead in their sins (Ps 51:5; Eph 2:1). So the greatest gift we can give the next generation is the gospel. Only the gospel is able to rescue their soul from sin and death and secure for them an inheritance in heaven forever.

But what is the gospel? While the core of the gospel is forgiveness of sin through the death of Christ (Matt 1:21; John 1:29), this is only the center of a much bigger story. After all, why do we need forgiveness? What is God's plan for those who are forgiven? *Generations of Grace* leads children through the whole story of God's great rescue mission. It does so in the hope that children would come to a comprehensive understanding of the gospel message and that by the grace of God they would look to Christ in saving faith. All the books in the curriculum are designed to reach children with this goal in mind.



2. ENCOURAGING PARENTS

The most important job of parents is to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4; Col 3:21). Parents are to be the primary evangelists and spiritual trainers of their children. Parents must work very hard at this, teaching their children every day by their regular example and specific instruction (Deut 6:7). So an effective children's ministry will do all it can to encourage parents in their mission, and one way to do this is by providing helpful tools to parents. This is what *Generations of Grace* strives to do.

Generations of Grace provides the *Family Devotional*, a valuable tool designed with both parents and children in mind. The *Family Devotional* aims to aid the parents in their own knowledge, love, and holiness. Then as the parents grow in godliness, the *Family Devotional* also helps parents teach their children throughout the week the same stories and principles that are taught each Sunday.

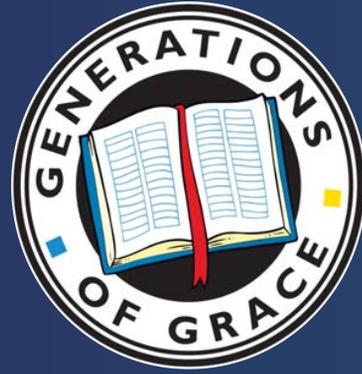
3. EDIFYING SERVANTS



The church is commanded to edify and equip its people to serve (Eph 4:11–16). This happens as the elders of the church preach and teach, but it also happens when the elders provide resources to help the members grow in Christlikeness. *Generations of Grace* is designed to be just such a resource.

Unlike many Sunday school curricula, *The Teacher Book* does not script out lessons that a teacher can read without much thought. Instead, the lesson commentary in particular is designed to go beyond what the teacher will actually be able to teach in one lesson. It is designed to edify the teacher, filling his mind with truth and his heart with passion. The *Family Devotional* is also a great tool for the teacher, allowing him to approach the lesson in a devotional way throughout the week before he teaches it on Sunday. Then the teacher will have a deep well to draw from as he crafts a lesson specifically for his own Sunday school class.

While emphasizing the teacher's own edification, *The Teacher Book* also gives practical help by clearly and simply laying out main points, objectives, outlines, questions, introductions, illustrations, and applications. Also, additional questions in the *Family Devotional* can add to a lesson or provide discussion questions for small groups following the main teaching time.



HOW DOES *GENERATIONS OF GRACE* WORK?



1. TEACHING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

Generations of Grace focuses on the narrative portions of the Bible for two reasons. First, it focuses on the stories in order to show God's glory from one generation to another. We see God's glory as we grow to understand His master plan of redemption, and each story in the Bible is a part of this great story.

Another reason *Generations of Grace* focuses on the narratives of Scripture is because children learn best through stories. On the one hand, children are usually weak in their ability to think abstractly or reason logically (as is required in the New Testament epistles, for example). On the other hand, children are strong in their ability to notice and remember tangible aspects of the world around them. By communicating in a tangible, real-life way, the stories of the Bible have a profound influence on the way a child perceives reality. In this way, the Bible becomes a part of their own life-story.

YEAR 1

16 Lessons from Genesis
11 Lessons from Exodus
4 Lessons from Leviticus
5 Lessons from Numbers
5 Lessons for Christmas
4 Lessons for Easter

YEAR 2

3 Lessons from
Deuteronomy
6 Lessons from Joshua
3 Lessons from Judges
1 Lesson from Ruth
10 Lessons from Samuel
7 Lessons from Kings
1 Lesson from Jonah
1 Lesson from Esther
5 Lessons from Daniel
2 Lessons from Ezra
2 Lessons from
Nehemiah
3 Lessons for Christmas
3 Lessons for Easter

YEAR 3

24 Lessons from the Life
of Christ
15 Lessons from the
Book of Acts
4 Lessons from
Revelation
2 Lessons for Christmas
2 Lessons for Easter



2. A UNIFIED CURRICULUM

Generations of Grace is set up as a unified curriculum, meaning that all the children in a family will be learning from the same passage of Scripture each week. This streamlines the parents' task, allowing them to interact with all of their children on the same truths.



3. REPEATING A THREE YEAR CYCLE

Generations of Grace is a three-year cycle aimed at children from three to twelve years old. So a child being taught through *Generations of Grace* will go through the curriculum three times. This repetition solidifies truth in their memories, but even more than that, it allows the teacher to start simple and then go deeper and deeper. For this reason, the objectives, outlines, questions, illustrations, and activities are designed according to three levels with the following suggestions:

- **AGES 3-5:** A 5-10 minute lesson telling the story and teaching one simple truth.
- **AGES 6-8:** A 15-20 minute lesson telling the story and developing the main truth more.
- **AGES 9-11:** A 25-30 minute lesson leading the children through the text and adding increasing depth to the main point.

However, since all these levels are included in each lesson, a teacher can creatively pick and choose ideas from each level to most effectively reach his own particular Sunday school class.



AGES 3-5



AGES 6-8



AGES 9-11

GENERATIONS OF GRACE

IS MADE UP OF FIVE BOOKS:

TEACHER BOOK

Each Year of *Generations of Grace* is divided into three *Teacher Books*. The *Teacher Books* equip teachers to teach each passage of scripture clearly and effectively. It presents the passage to the teacher's own mind and heart, and it provides teaching tools to enable the teacher to impress the same powerful message upon the children's minds. It is enriching but also simple and quickly accessible to the layperson.

CRAFT BOOK

Each Year of *Generations of Grace* is divided into two *Craft Books*. Good crafts reinforce lessons and cause them to be remembered. The *Craft Book* contains pages that are needed to do the crafts explained in the teacher book. The pages can be torn out, photocopied, or printed directly from the digital version.

COLORING BOOK

Each Year of *Generations of Grace* has one *Coloring Book*. The *Coloring Book* includes two pictures for each lesson. The pictures accurately depict the Bible stories but are also creative and fun. Each picture has a key truth from the lesson on it, making it a practical teaching tool as it hangs on the fridge during the week!

ACTIVITY BOOK

Each Year of *Generations of Grace* has one *Activity Book*. The *Activity Book* provides age-appropriate activities corresponding to the lesson. Preschoolers will enjoy dot-to-dot, tracing, mazes, comparisons, etc. Older children will enjoy crossword puzzles, word searches, decoding, find the difference, word scrambles, review sheets, etc. Each activity includes key truths from the lesson.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Each Year of *Generations of Grace* has one *Family Devotional*. The *Family Devotional* unites the classroom and the home. It equips parents to teach their children during the week. It enables teachers to meditate all week on the truth they will be teaching on Sunday, and it also provides extra questions that are helpful for small group discussions after the teaching time. Five daily devotionals go with each lesson in the teacher book.



HOW DO I USE
GENERATIONS OF GRACE
IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?





Study the Lesson

This section of the *Teacher Book* is designed to edify and equip teachers and to guide them through the preparation of an age appropriate Bible lesson.



Teach the Lesson

This section of the *Teacher Book* is designed to provide the teacher with resources to engage children from the moment they walk into the classroom until pick-up time.



Apply the Lesson

The *Craft Book* provides the resources that are designed to engage children after you have taught the lesson. The craft is meant to not only reinforce what is taught in Sunday school but is to be a visual reminder of the lesson in the home.



Illustrate the Lesson

The *Coloring Book* provides two coloring pictures which creatively and accurately portray the Bible. Each picture communicates the truth of each lesson.



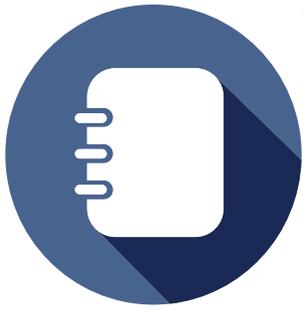
Review the Lesson

The *Activity Book* provides age-appropriate activities corresponding to the lesson. Each activity includes key truths from the lesson.



Share the Lesson

The *Family Devotional* guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.



TEACHER BOOK

Central Truth

God is the main character of the Bible and every story teaches us who He is or how man relates to Him.

Each lesson of *Generations of Grace* has a *Central Truth* which forms the core of the entire lesson.



TEACHING HINTS

Make sure to stick with **one big idea** and repeat it often as you teach, especially with younger children. It is helpful to have the class repeat it after you.

Supporting Truths

The *Supporting Truths* further develop elements of the central truth.



TEACHING HINTS

The *Supporting Truths* go from easy/primary to harder/secondary. For preschool, it is often best to pick just one. These truths allow the same lesson to be taught multiple times to the same children. Just pick a different supporting truth to emphasize.

The *Objectives* are for the children. By the time you finish teaching, ask yourself, "Can the children do your chosen objective(s)?"

LESSON 1



God created a perfect world and ruled over it.



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).

Supporting Truths

1. God created everything.
2. God created everything with the power of His words.
3. God's creation was very good.
4. God existed before anything was created.
5. God rules over His creation.

Objectives

1. List several things God created.
2. Tell someone in your family about the power of God.
3. Find three times Gen 1 calls creation good.
4. Discuss how God is different from everything else in creation.
5. Explain why God has the right to rule over His creation.

Objectives

The five *Objectives* correspond to the five *Supporting Truths*. These objective are specific ways to see if your children have learned.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3



Lesson Summary

In the beginning God created everything. From the tiniest ant to the largest elephant, God spoke everything into existence. But nobody created God. He was alive before anything was created because He has always existed. When God finished creating He said that His creation was very good. God created everything exactly as He wanted and ruled over His perfect creation.

Spotlight on the Gospel

God created a perfect world and ruled over it as King. Yet even in this perfect world man did not obey God. Man sinned against God by disobeying His command (Gen 2:17). Man has been in rebellion against the rule of God ever since. Only the salvation provided through Jesus Christ, the only one to perfectly obey God's commands, can restore man to God.

Lesson Summary

The *Lesson Summary* provides a brief overview of the entire story.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The Bible is God's story of redemption. The story of salvation is the story about God restoring man to the purpose God gave him. Although God's story culminates in Christ, not every story is directly about Christ. So the *Spotlight on the Gospel* shows how each story fits into the story of salvation, either by connecting the chronology or by identifying key gospel doctrines like, holiness, sin, grace, or faith.

THIS WEEK



God creates the heavens and the earth
Genesis 1-2

NEXT WEEK



God creates man and woman
Genesis 1-2

IN TWO WEEKS



Man rebels against God
Genesis 3

CREATION

FALL

TEACHING HINTS

The *Spotlight on the Gospel* is very helpful to avoid teaching the stories as merely moral lessons. While stories do teach us what to do and what not to do, there is always a larger context of redemption.



Redemptive Timeline

The story of God's salvation of man has five major parts or developments:

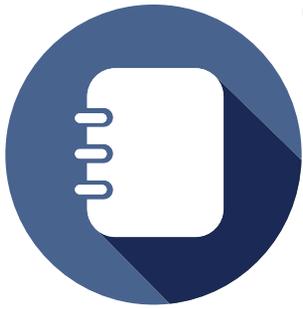
1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Promise
4. Redemption
5. Restoration

This timeline helps the teacher to remember the context of each week's lesson in God's story of redemption.

TEACHING HINTS

Review is key to understanding. Use the questions from last week to review before beginning the current lesson





TEACHER BOOK

Lesson Commentary

The *Lesson Commentary* on the passage serves to stretch and strengthen the knowledge of Sunday school teachers.

The deeper and clearer the teacher's knowledge is, the more confidently and clearly he can teach children.

As teachers grow in grace, the outpouring of their own godliness will flow into the lives of the children.



TEACHING HINTS

The *Lesson Commentary* is not meant to be read as the lesson.

THINK ABOUT IT

These boxes highlight key doctrines, applications or clarifications.



TEACHING HINTS

Do not try to teach everything in the commentary. Choose what will most help your children get the main point.

LESSON 1

Lesson Commentary

God created a perfect world and ruled over it.

Everything that exists, in both the spiritual and physical worlds, owes its existence to God (Gen 1:1). Nothing has been created apart from Him. Therefore, all things can be properly understood through the knowledge of, and a relationship with, the One who created all things.

God existed before creation (1:1-2)

In the beginning, before the creation of the heavens and the earth, there was God. This is because God always exists. Nobody created God. He is eternal, without a beginning or an end. He existed before creation and everything in creation owes its existence to Him (Col 1:16).

Genesis 1:2 indicates that the earth was empty before God created everything. This was the situation on earth before it was touched by the creative hand of God. Everything that we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch has been created by God. Even things we can't identify with our senses—things we can't see or touch like angels—all these have been created by God too!



THINK ABOUT IT
We can make things with our hands, but only God can create with His words.

God created everything (1:3-30)

The Heavens and Earth and all things in them were created or made through the power of God's spoken word. Creation was not the result of physical processes

or universal laws. Rather the existence of all things came as the result of God's divine command.

DAY ONE (1:3-5)

God called for light and separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. By giving names to the light and the darkness, God was declaring His right to rule over them. God is sovereign or in control of everything.

everywhere, all the time. He is king. To name something or someone in ancient times implied dominion or ownership (2 Kgs 23:34; 24:17). Day and night belong to the Lord (Ps 74:16).

DAY TWO (1:6-8)

God created the sky. God made the sky, or visible atmosphere, with the power of His words. God spoke and the sky appeared!

Consider the great expanse of the sky. Now consider the God who spoke it into existence. What a powerful God!

DAY THREE (1:9-13)

The water below the sky (Gen 1:9) was gathered together, and God created dry land, seas, and plants. The plants were to reproduce within categories ("kinds") that were carefully distinguished from one another. The creativity of God is also seen in the variety of His creation. Even today we are still discovering and identifying new kinds of plants and animals.

DAY FOUR (1:14-19)

God created the sun and the moon. Why are the sun and the moon called the "two great lights" in Genesis 1:16? Perhaps the words sun and moon are deliberately avoided here since in ancient times pagan nations deified them and worshiped them under those names. Moses, the author of Genesis, may have wanted his readers to understand that the lights are light-bearers to be appreciated, not gods to be worshiped. It is the one true God who made both the sun and the moon.

Verse 16 also mentions the fact that God created the stars. In reading the verse, the mention of the stars seems almost an afterthought, probably because of the emphasis on the specific functions of the sun and moon. Can you number the stars? God can. He has even given names to all of them (Ps 147:4).

THINK ABOUT IT
Naming something shows personal ownership.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON



God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

DAY FIVE (1:20-23)

God created sea creatures and flying things (birds and flying insects). God showed gracious, loving concern to the animals by blessing them and telling them to fill the waters and the sky (Gen 1:22).

DAY SIX (1:24-30)

God created land animals and man. Verses 24 and 25 describe God's creation of animals that filled the land. Large and small animals, cattle, and creeping things (worms, creeping insects, and reptiles) were brought forth from the earth. From the enormous elephant to the crawling caterpillar we see God's power and wisdom on display in creation.

Included in the sixth day of creation is God's special creation—man and woman. Verse 26 reveals that man was created in the "image of God". Being created in the **image of God** means that God made man to be like Him. Think of a picture

or copy of something. Though man is not exactly like God, he is unlike the rest of creation as God created man with the ability to know Him and to have a relationship with Him.

God exalted man above the rest of creation and has "crowned man with glory and honor" and "made him to have dominion" or rule over the rest of His creation (Gen 1:26; Ps 8:5-8). Man was created by God (Gen 2:7) and is not a product of natural evolution.

Genesis 1:28 depicts God as man's provider. It is in this role that we first see His love. God provided for man's physical needs. He brought food (1:29; 2:9) and shelter (2:15) to man. (Note: 1:29-30 indicates that both people and animals were vegetarian before the flood.

See also 9:3.) God is also the provider of work (2:15, 19-20), giving man the job of cultivating the garden and naming and classifying the animals.

God also provided man with standards of right and wrong, telling man which trees in the garden he could eat from (2:16-17). God even provided relationships for man. Man was not left alone (2:21-23). The joys of friendship, the blessings of teamwork, marriage, and the family are all products of God's love. Finally, God provided mankind with purpose and hope. Ultimately, man's purpose is to glorify God by acting, thinking, and speaking in a way that praises God, pleases God, and accurately portrays God (2 Cor 5:9).

THINK ABOUT IT
God gave us life so that we would glorify Him with our lives.



Everything God created was very good (1:31-2:3)

DAY SEVEN (1:31-2:3)

God saw everything He created and said that it was "very good". God made everything exactly the way He wanted it. There were no mistakes and nothing was missing. His creation was perfect. The entire universe is a testimony to the power of God. He is **omnipotent** or **all powerful**. God is able to do anything He desires because His power is unlimited.

Then on the seventh day, God rested. God did not need to rest (He never gets tired), but stopped creating on the seventh day to set a pattern of work and rest for man to follow. The world God made was perfect. There was nothing missing or broken. Everything was just as God wanted it to be and everything obeyed God's rule.

Lesson Outline

The main lesson outline has been embedded into the *Lesson Commentary* so that from the beginning of their own study, teachers can already begin to think about how to structure their own individual lesson.



THINK ABOUT IT
Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we were made to reflect God's glory as His image bearers.

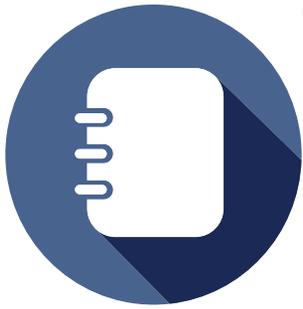
Key Words

Key Words are defined to help teachers explain deep theological truths in simple, child friendly phrases.

TEACHING HINTS

Have the children repeat back to you key words and definitions. Young children love to say interesting sounding words.





TEACHER BOOK

Lesson Outline

Children need structure when they learn. We provide lesson outlines which teachers can use while teaching. Often the *Ages 3-5 Lesson Outline* develops the doctrine while the *Ages 6-11 Lesson Outline* develops the narrative.



TEACHING HINTS

Use the outlines as they are, or modify them to make them most useful in communicating the lesson's truth.



Lesson Activities

From the time a student enters the class until the time he leaves, it is the teacher's duty to impart the truths of God's Word to him. Teaching does not occur during the Bible lesson only; it occurs throughout the entire class period.

First, there are activities to *Introduce* the lesson. Hook your students' interest and point them to the coming Bible lesson.

Second, there are activities to *Illustrate* the lesson, clarify the truth, and reawaken the children's attention.



TEACHING HINTS

Physical props are especially effective. Every prop or vivid illustration expands your children's attention span.

Third, there are activities to *Apply* the lesson. Help the children interact with the truth of the lesson.

LESSON 1

Lesson Outline

God created a perfect world and ruled over it.

AGES 3-5 LESSON OUTLINE

- God created everything (1:1-13).
- God created everything by speaking (1:14-30).
- Everything God created was very good (1:31-2:3).

AGES 6-11 LESSON OUTLINE

- God existed before creation (1:1-2).
 - In the beginning of time God spoke and created everything out of nothing (1:1).
 - The earth was formless and empty (1:2).
- God created everything (1:3-30)
 - Day 1: God created light. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night" (1:3-5).
 - Day 2: God made an expanse in the midst of the waters. The atmosphere was created (1:6-8).
 - Day 3: God gathered the waters to let dry land appear. God caused the earth to yield plants (1:9-13).
 - Day 4: God created the sun, moon, and stars (1:14-19).
 - Day 5: God created the sea creatures and birds (1:20-23).
 - Day 6: God created land animals and man (1:24-30).
- Everything God created was very good (1:31-2:3).
 - God saw all that He had created and said it was very good (1:31).
 - God rested on the seventh day and blessed it (2:1-3).

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LESSON 1

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3-5

INTRODUCE

CIRCLE TIME
Ask children the following questions about God's creation. Using their answers, explain how all of creation shows the greatness of God.

- What is your favorite kind of animal?
- What is the biggest animal you can think of?
- What is the smallest animal you can think of?
- What is the fastest animal you think of?
- If you could have any pet in the world what would it be?

SHOW AND TELL
Bring in various stuffed animals from home. Show each stuffed animal one at a time and tell the children how each different animal shows the greatness of God.

ILLUSTRATE

PICTURE CARDS
Use the following poster size picture cards produced by A Beka Book to create interest and improve retention (see www.abeka.com for more information).

LET THERE BE LIGHT
Turn the light off when you talk about the darkness of the earth. Turn the light on when you talk about God saying, "Let there be light." Let the children say, "Let there be light" as the lights are turned on. You may also turn the lights off during the "evening" and on during the "morning." Instead of using lights, you may ask children to open or close their eyes whenever "morning" or "evening" is mentioned.

APPLY

CREATION DIAL
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1. **Materials:** White cardstock, crayons or markers, scissors, and metal fasteners (brads).
Directions: Use the "Creation Dial" craft pages in craft book as a tool to help children see the days of creation. Copy the two circles onto cardstock and cut out the circles, and give a set to each child. Tell the children to color the pictures. Help children assemble the dial by placing a metal fastener (brad) in the center of the two circles. The children can rotate the bottom circle to see what God created on each day of creation.

Creation Dial
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.

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TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1-2:3

Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3-5 Lesson Questions

1. Who created the heavens and the earth?
God created the heavens and the earth.
2. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
God created with His words.
3. Was God's creation good or bad?
God's creation was very good.
4. How do we know that God is a powerful God?
We see God's power in His creation.



Ages 6-11 Lesson Questions

1. What existed "in the beginning"?
The Bible says, "In the beginning, God." Before all creation, God existed.
2. If God existed before the creation, where did He come from? When was God created?
No one created God, nor did He just appear. God is eternal, without a beginning or an end.
3. What does Genesis 1:1 say that God created?
"God created the heavens and the earth." This means God created everything.
4. How long did God take to complete the creation?
He took six, 24 hour days of actual creation and one day in which He rested.
5. Do you think that God needed six days to complete the creation?
Why or why not? No. God is all powerful and could have created the world instantly.
6. What did God create on each day of creation?
Day one: light; day two: sky; day three: land, plants, and trees; day four: sun, moon and stars; day five: birds and fish; day six: animals and people.
7. What was special about day seven?
On day seven, God completed His creation and rested. He set it apart (made it special) and blessed it.
8. What did God think of the work that He saw on each of the days of creation?
On days one, three, four, and five, the Bible says that God saw that it was "good." But on day six, God saw that it was "very good."

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1-2:3

AGES 6-8



INTRODUCE

THE DAYS OF CREATION

Bring in various objects that represent each day of creation. Reveal the objects one at a time to children in random order, and ask children if they know on which day of the week God created each object. Explain that in today's lesson they will learn what God created on each day of creation and how each object shows God's greatness. For example, for day one bring in a flashlight, light bulb, or laser pointer.

VERY GOOD

Using Play-Doh, ask children to create various objects (a tree, a dog, a person, etc.). After the completion of each object, ask children how their work turned out. Did their objects turn out exactly how they wanted? Explain that when God was done creating He said that His creation was "very good." Tell the children that in today's lesson they will see the greatness of God through His ability to create exactly what He wanted exactly how He wanted to create it.



ILLUSTRATE

CLOCKS

Use the hour hand on an analog clock to demonstrate that our great God created everything in six 24-hour days. Have the children watch as you rotate the hour hand once for the evening and once for the morning. Explain that this is the amount of time it took for God to create the heavens and the earth. Rotate the hour hand twice for each of the remaining days of creation.

REVEALING GOD'S CREATION

Number six paper bags 1 through 6. These bags will correspond to the days of creation. Place an item for each day of creation into the corresponding bag. As you work through the Bible lesson, choose different children to pull items out of the bags. Be ready to explain how each item represents what God made on each day of creation.



APPLY

CREATION CUBE

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1. **Materials:** White copy paper, 3x5 inch index cards, scissors, crayons, glue.

Directions: Pass out a craft page to each child. Tell the children to color each picture of the days of creation. After coloring, tell the children to cut around the outside of the cube pattern on the solid lines. Model how to fold the cube on the dotted lines and then help children make the correct folds and glue the tabs to assemble the cube.

Creation Cube
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.



Lesson Questions

We often lament about our students' apparent lack of thinking. But what are we doing in our Sunday school classrooms to help them develop that ability? Do not lecture children but ask them questions. Make them do the discovering, thinking, and speaking. Asking questions throughout your lesson helps to ensure that students participate in and understand each lesson.



TEACHING HINTS

Plan at least 1 question per minute of teaching. These questions will get you started, but think of more.



If you have a shy, quiet class, awarding points or small treats even for wrong answers can get them to answer questions until they grow more confident.

Use basic factual questions, (who, what, when where), mid-level process questions (how), and harder purpose/cause questions (why, what was the reason/purpose). If kids can't answer, simplify or even suggest the correct answer. For example, if they cannot answer, "Where did God come from?" Ask, "Was God created or did He always exist?"

To encourage clear thinking and articulate speaking, teach the children to answer in complete sentences.



Lesson Activities

Always be mindful of the age group you are teaching. These Lesson Activities are age approximate.

TEACHING HINTS

Check out ideas for all the ages to find the best one for your children. Or let these ideas spark your own creativity.





CRAFT BOOK

Good crafts reinforce lessons and cause them to be remembered. The *Craft Book* contains pages that are needed to do the crafts explained in the *Teacher Book*. The pages can be torn out, photocopied, or printed directly from the digital version.

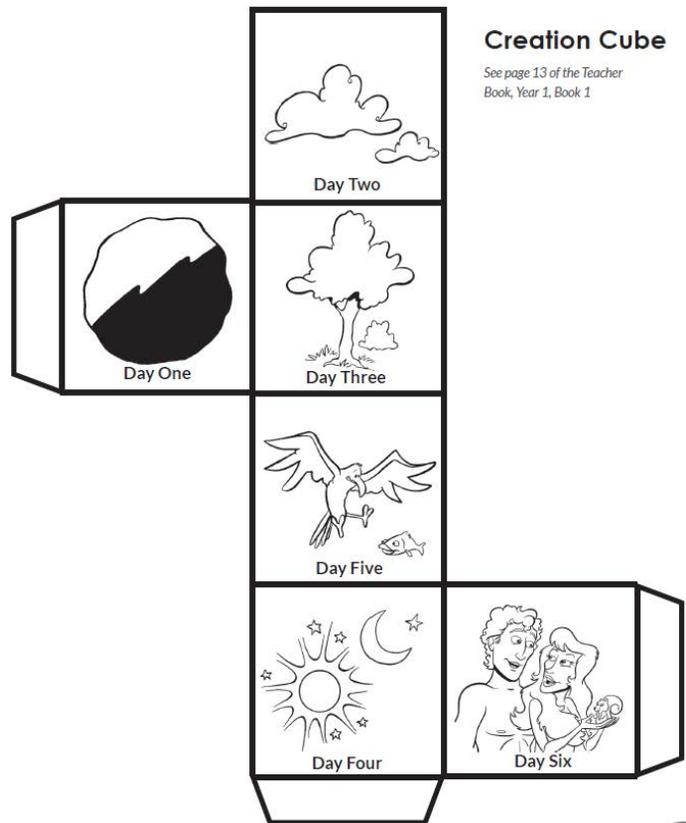
LESSON 1



God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

Creation Cube

See page 13 of the *Teacher Book*, Year 1, Book 1

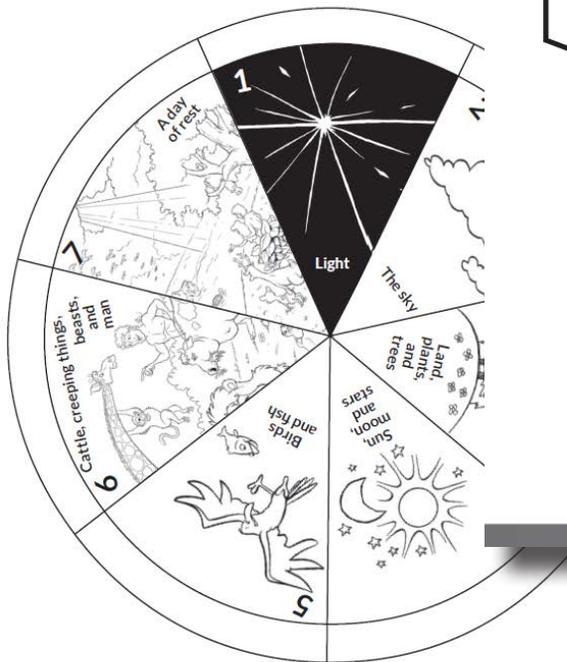


LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis :

Creation Dial Bottom Circle

See page 12 of the *Teacher Book*, Year 1, Book 1



See the corresponding *Teacher Book* for a picture of the completed craft.

COLORING BOOK

The *Coloring Book* includes **two** pictures for each lesson.



The pictures accurately depict the Bible stories but are also creative and fun.



Each picture has a key truth from the lesson on it.

We want to give special acknowledgment to Chad Frye for his wonderful biblical illustrations. Visit www.chadfrye.com for more information or to contact him.



ACTIVITY BOOK

The *Activity Book* provides *four* age-appropriate activities corresponding to each lesson.



AGES 3-5

The *first* activity is primarily for those who are 3-5 years old.

Preschoolers will enjoy dot-to-dot, tracing, mazes, comparisons, and more.

TEACHING HINTS

Activities are useful when waiting for parents to pick up children, or for between hours if you have multiple Sunday School hours.



AGES 9-11

The *third* activity is primarily for those who are 9-11 years old.

Elementary students will enjoy crossword puzzles, word searches, decoding, review sheets, and other engaging activities.



LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

Matching

Match each number to the picture which shows what was created on that day.



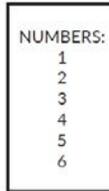
Day ____



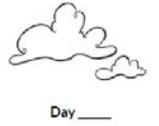
Day ____



Day ____



NUMBERS:
1
2
3
4
5
6



Day ____



Day ____



Day ____

The heavens and the earth and all things in them were created through the power of God's spoken Word in six days.

6



LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

Word Search

Find the words in the list below. The words may appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards. When you find the word, circle it in the puzzle, then cross it off of the list.

J	T	U	E	L	U	R	H	N	X	N	D	N	D	E
L	L	N	D	M	G	B	O	H	H	Z	A	G	K	S
M	P	M	E	F	P	I	C	E	R	Y	A	I	H	N
E	N	I	M	T	T	T	A	O	I	A	F	E	H	S
I	S	M	G	A	O	V	Y	B	A	W	I	R	M	A
M	I	N	E	Y	E	P	F	O	R	M	L	E	S	S
A	Y	R	A	N	G	N	I	H	T	O	N	V	D	V
G	C	J	S	P	L	I	R	N	H	V	C	O	A	P
E	V	R	I	D	X	F	E	E	M	T	U	S	W	E
K	A	J	R	B	G	E	W	M	X	O	H	I	J	R
S	I	O	P	U	C	J	O	D	L	I	N	E	S	F
W	W	E	A	R	T	H	P	G	X	H	S	N	G	E
G	A	O	S	T	C	U	O	U	I	C	Y	T	G	C
H	I	A	N	I	D	O	N	R	Q	F	F	M	E	T
L	C	S	T	S	D	I	D	L	B	J	B	O	Y	D

CREATION	GOOD	EARTH	EMPTY
EXISTED	PERFECT	FORMLESS	SOVEREIGN
POWER	RULE	NOTHING	IMAGE
WORD	HEAVENS	EXPANSE	OMNIPOTENT

Define the word sovereign. _____

What does it mean that God is omnipotent? _____

8

LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

What's the Difference?

Find and circle 8 differences between the two pictures below.



What did God think about His creation after He had finished? _____

LESSON 1

God creates the heavens and the earth • Genesis 1:1-2:3

See What You Know!

NAME _____

God created a perfect world and ruled over it.

- Who created the heavens and the earth? _____
- How long has God existed? (Circle one)
Since creation Forever 550 years
- Did anyone create God? (Circle "yes" or "no")
Yes No
- How many days did God take to create the heavens and the earth? _____
- On which day of the week did God rest from all His creation? (Draw an "X" on the correct day of the week)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7

- Genesis 2:3 tells us what God did on the seventh day.
God b _____ His creation.
God r _____ (stopped creating).
- How did and how does God rule over His creation? _____

- Since God is the ruler over creation, how should we respond to His commands? _____



AGES 6-8

The **second** activity is primarily for those who are 6-8 years old.

Early elementary students will enjoy find the difference, word searches, word scrambles, and other engaging activities.

TEACHING HINTS

Activities make *Generations of Grace* useful as a homeschool curriculum! Or encourage families to use them as they go through the *Family Devotional*.



AGES 6-11

The **fourth** activity covers a broader range, 6-11 years old. It starts easy then gets harder at the end.

The final activity for each lesson is a worksheet designed to increase students' understanding and to help them remember the lesson.



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Five-Daily Devotionals – Guides the family through the *Generations of Grace* lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.

Generations of Grace Passages – Reinforce the lesson that the child learned in Sunday School.

Cross-Reference Passage – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson

Christ-Centered Passage – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.



READ

Read the Bible passage. The more you understand the passage and apply its truths to your life, the more effective your family devotions will be.



TEACHING HINTS

To help your children listen carefully, ask a question or a few before you read. Then they have something specific to listen for in the passage.

WEEK 1 SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON **WEEK 1** God creates the heavens and the earth
Genesis 1:1-2:3

DAY 1 God existed before creation • Genesis 1:1-2

READ 📖
Genesis 1:1-2

EXPLAIN 🔍
The truth of Gen 1:1-2
In the beginning, before the creation of the heavens and the earth, there was God. This is because God has always existed. Nobody created God. He is eternal, without a beginning or an end. He existed before creation and everything in creation owes its existence to Him (Col 1:16).

Genesis 1:2 indicates that the earth was empty before God created everything. This was the situation on earth before it was touched by the creative hand of God. Everything that we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch has been created by God. Even things we can't identify with our senses—things we can't see or touch like angels—all these have been created by God too!

ASK ❓

1. What does Genesis 1:1 say that God created?
2. What existed "in the beginning"?
3. If God existed before the creation, where did He come from? When was God created? No one created God, nor did He just appear. God is eternal, without a beginning or an end.
4. How do we know that God is a powerful God? His creation.

DISCUSS 🗣️

1. How is God different from everything else in creation (Job 38:4-39:30)?
2. Discuss that God has existed even before the mountains were formed (Ps 90:2).

WEEK 1

ASK ❓

1. Who created the heavens and the earth? God.
2. Who created man? God.
3. What was special about day seven? On day seven, God completed His creation and rested. He set it apart (made it special) and blessed it.
4. What did God think of the work that He saw on each of the days of creation? On days one, three, four, and five, the Bible says that God saw that it was "good." But on day six, God saw that it was "very good."

DISCUSS 🗣️

1. Since God created all things does that mean that God is able to do all that He pleases (Pss 135:5-7; 136:1-9)?
2. Discuss how God's rest points forward to the rest that is promised to believers (Heb 4:1-13).

DAY 4 Creation declares God's glory • Psalm 19:1-6

READ 📖
Psalm 19:1-6

EXPLAIN 🔍
The truth of Ps 19:1-6
The heavens, that is the sun, moon, clouds, stars and planets, and the "sky above" (cf Gen 1:8) declare God's glory. They are continually declaring God's glory as if they are glorifying God in His heavenly sanctuary. God's glory refers to all the evidence of God's greatness. It refers to His what gives him importance. Anyone who sees creation can only conclude one thing, that God is the most important person in the universe. God's glory is continually on display, day to day and night to night. Creation gives testimony to God's majesty and His power. Whenever and wherever people are on this planet creation communicates the amazing truth that there is a Creator and He is the most important person ever. The psalm refers specially to the sun and it's testimony to the glory of God. The sun is powerful and nothing is hidden from its light or heat. But it is just a part of God's creation. Creation is a witness to the power and the importance of the Creator who is to be worshiped.

ASK ❓

1. What is God's glory? All the evidence of God's greatness and all that makes Him important.
2. When is God's glory on display? It is continuously on display and is communicated consistently and clearly.
3. Do the heavens use literal words? No but the heavens speak continually communicating God's glory (19:2-4b).
4. Can the testimony of creation convert sinners? No but it does make them highly accountable (Rom 1:18). Salvation comes only through the word of God as it is effectually applied by the Spirit of God.

DISCUSS 🗣️

1. How does the creation declare God's glory (Rom 1:19-20)?
2. What are ways you can praise God for being the Creator (Pss 29:1-11; 97:1-7; 100:1-5)?



EXPLAIN

Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.



ASK

Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.

TEACHING HINTS

Ask the easy questions first for your younger children. Then have a longer discussion with your older ones.



DISCUSS

Enables the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

TEACHING HINTS

If you use the *Family Devotional* as a Sunday School teacher, discussion questions are also useful for small group discussions during Sunday School.



DAY 2 God created everything • Genesis 1:3-30

READ

Genesis 1:3-30

EXPLAIN

The truth of Gen 1:3-30

The Heavens and Earth and all things in them were created or made through the power of God's spoken Word in six literal days. Man was created in the "image of God." Being created in the image of God means that God made man to be like Him. Though man is not exactly like God, he is unlike the rest of creation as God created man with the ability to know Him and to have a relationship with Him. God exalted man above the rest of creation to rule over the rest of His creation (1:26).

God provided man with standards of right and wrong, telling man which trees in the garden he could eat from (2:16-17). God even provided relationships for man. The joys of friendship, the blessings of teamwork, marriages, and the family are all products of God's love. God provided mankind with purpose and hope. Man's purpose is to glorify God by living in a way that praises, pleases, and accurately portrays God (2 Cor 5:9).

ASK

1. How did God create the heavens and the earth? His words.
2. How long did God take to complete the creation? He took six, 24-hour days of actual creation and one day in which He rested.
3. What did God create on each day of creation? Day one: light; day two: sky; day three: land, plants, and trees; day four: sun, moon and stars; day five: birds and fish; day six: animals and people.
4. Do you think that God needed six days to complete the creation? Why or why not? No. God is all powerful and could have created the world instantly.

DISCUSS

1. If God created everything does that mean that He is the only God (Isa 45:5-8, 11-12, 18-25)?
2. Discuss how the Bible reaffirms that God created everything in six literal days (Exod 20:11, 31:17)

DAY 3 Everything God created was very good • Genesis 1:31-2:3

READ

Genesis 1:31-2:3

EXPLAIN

The truth of Gen 1:31-2:3

On the seventh day, God saw everything He created and said that it was "very good." God made everything exactly the way He wanted it. There were no mistakes and nothing was missing. His creation was perfect. The entire universe is a testimony to the power of God.

He is omnipotent or all powerful. God is able to do anything He desires because His power is unlimited.

Then on the seventh day, God rested. God did not need to rest (He never gets tired), but stopped creating on the seventh day to set a pattern of work and rest for man to follow. The world God made was perfect. There was nothing missing or broken. Everything was just as God wanted it to be and everything obeyed God's rule.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

DAY 5 Jesus is superior to everything • Hebrews 1:1-4

READ

Hebrews 1:1-4

EXPLAIN

The truth of Heb 1:1-4

The author of Hebrews states three reasons why Jesus is superior to all things. First, God has appointed Jesus as the heir of all things. As the Son of God, Jesus is the heir of all of God's possessions. Everything that exists exists for Jesus. Jesus will one day judge all of His creation as its King. Secondly, God made the universe through Jesus. Jesus is the agent through whom God created the universe. All things were created by and for Jesus (Col 1:16). The word universe or world in verse 2 means "the ages." Jesus is responsible not only for the physical earth but for creating time, space, energy, and matter. Thirdly, Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Jesus is fully and absolutely God, yet in a distinct Person. He maintains all of His creation. After Jesus made a single sacrifice for sins in order to provide salvation (Heb 10:11-14) He sat down. Jesus sat down as a sign of honor and of authority.

ASK

1. How is Jesus an heir of all things? Everything will ultimately come under Jesus control (Ps 2:8-9; 89:27; Rom 11:36).
2. What did God create through Jesus? Everything even time, space, energy, and matter. He directs all things toward the consummation of all things according to God's sovereign purpose.
3. How does Jesus uphold all things? He is in a position of power, authority, and honor. He sat down because He is the ruler of all things (1 Pet 3:22). He sat down because His atoning work was finished (Heb 10:12). He said down to intercede for His people (Rom 8:34).
4. What does it imply that Jesus sat down? Jesus is in a position of power, authority, and honor. He sat down because He is the ruler of all things (1 Pet 3:22). He sat down because His atoning work was finished (Heb 10:12). He said down to intercede for His people (Rom 8:34).

DISCUSS

1. What was Jesus' role in creation (John 1:1-3; Col 1:16)?
2. Discuss further how Jesus is superior because He is the Son (Heb 1:5-14; 2:5-18).

NEXT WEEK

God creates man and woman
Genesis 1-2



TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate author of the Bible. Thus, it is critical to enlist His help throughout your preparations. Practically, this means that you must pray throughout the planning process. Familiarize yourself with the Bible passage by reading and rereading it. Excellent teaching requires passion and preparation.



Study the Lesson (BLUE PAGES OF THE TEACHER BOOK)

Start by reading the Scripture passage, then read the corresponding *Study the Lesson* section of the Teacher Book. Below, write the main point this text is teaching.

Second, write some secondary points that reinforce or flesh out the main point of this passage.

Before you think about how to teach this lesson, make sure you take time to reflect, pray, and apply these truths to your own life.

According to this passage, God wants me to...

Three ways the children need to (or fail to) apply this passage are...



Teach the Lesson (GREEN PAGES OF THE TEACHER BOOK)

Now, write out a thoughtful outline that communicates, reinforces, and repeats the one main point of the lesson.

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