

Creation

Lesson At-a-Glance

Scripture Reference
Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Lesson Focus
God created a good world and expects us to take good care of it.

Bible Memory Verse
"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." Genesis 1:31a

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids will use play dough to make a part of creation.	Spark Activity Pages, Spark Coloring Pages	Play dough
Circle Time Kids will get to know each other by sharing their names and favorite color.	Spark Song CD, Spark Songbook	Music source
Opening Prayer Kids will pray an echo prayer with their leader.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Creation Story Kids will act out each day of the story with their buddies.	Spark Story Bibles Spark NRSV Bible	None
Creature Creation Kids will draw new creatures, name them, and describe their interesting features.	Leaflets	Markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Creation Quest Kids will go on a quest to find a piece of creation to attach to their leaflets.</p>	Leaflets, Spark Bible Stickers	Clear tape
<p>Hot Beanbag Creation Care Kids will play "hot potato" and share ways to care for their favorite parts of creation.</p>	None	Beanbag, music source

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Closing Conversation Kids will name ways to care for creation at home.</p>	None	None
<p>Closing Prayer Kids will give thanks for each day of creation.</p>	Family Pages	None

Bible Background

Genesis means “beginning,” and the book of *Genesis* tells about the beginning of the world and God’s relationship with it and us. This creation story asserts God’s absolute authority and control over the natural world and is a statement of faith in God’s goodness and power. God creates humans to care for and watch over creation. Because of God’s grace, love, and trust, the whole world has been placed into the hands of humankind. People of faith are called to be caretakers of the world God created and loves.

Why This Story Matters

A meaningful way to use the creation story in Sunday school is to raise awareness about creation care (recycling, reusing materials, using less water, turning off lights, and composting). We can help kids develop a deeper respect for God’s created earth by connecting them to the many ways it provides sustenance for us. The story of creation prompts us to give kids ideas for concrete ways to care for it where they live. We are all caretakers of the earth.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the Activity Page and Coloring Page, and set them out for kids to try.

Set play dough out on the table, and invite kids to use it to make part of a creation scene. As kids arrive, the creation scene will evolve and grow into something beautiful!

Spark Resources

Spark Activity Pages
Spark Coloring Pages

Supplies

Play dough

Circle Time

After everyone has arrived, gather in a circle. Welcome everyone and invite them to introduce themselves by sharing their names and favorite color. **I’m so glad you’re all here today! And you have so many different favorite colors. We see all of them in God’s beautiful world! In the birds, flowers, fish, rocks, trees, people—everywhere! Today we will hear the creation story and figure out how we can help care for this beautiful world.**

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD
Spark Songbook

Supplies

Music source

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Song 1: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (tracks 7 and 24 on Spark Song CD, page 39 in Spark Songbook)

Sing this high-energy song to celebrate God's amazing creation.

Song 2: "God Is So Good"

God made all of creation "good." Sing this familiar song with new words to celebrate God's goodness, and to calm down and get everyone ready for the story.

God is so good; God is so good.

God is so good; God is good to me.

God made me good; God made me good.

God made me good; God is good to me.

God made us good; God made us good.

God made us good; God is good to me.

Thanks be to God; thanks be to God!

Thanks be to God; God is good to me.

Opening Prayer

Stand in a circle, arm in arm, and pray this echo prayer.

God, you are good! (God, you are good!)

Thank you for our world. (Thank you for our world.)

Help us care for it. (Help us care for it.)

Amen. (Amen.)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Creation Story

Invite kids with Spark NRSV Bibles to each find and sit with a buddy with a Spark Story Bible.

We are going to have buddies in Sunday school! You might have the same buddy each week, or you might have a different one. Take a minute to tell your buddy your name and how old you are. Once kids have done that, you are ready to read the story.

We are going to act out each of the days of creation today. Divide the group into seven smaller groups or individuals, and work with each of the groups to come

Spark Resources

Spark NRSV Bibles

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

up with sounds and actions for their day. If you have fewer than seven kids, invite some kids to make sounds for more than one day. Use the descriptive words in the Spark Story Bible to help you. When all sound effects and actions have been determined, read the story from the Spark Story Bible, beginning on page 2, as kids act it out.

Next, have buddies show each other the Creation story from their own Bibles. Younger kids can work with their buddy to find Squiggles on page 6 of the Spark Story Bible, and older kids can show their younger buddies where the creation story starts in Genesis 1:1 on page 2 of the Spark NRSV Bible.

Bible Memory Verse

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31a

Invite buddies to create a pantomime version of this verse and then, together, mark it with a sticker in the Spark NRSV Bible.

Creature Creation

God made everything in the world, including some pretty amazing creatures. If you could make new creatures, what would you make? Take a few minutes to draw some new creatures on your leaflets. Consider creating one that moves on the ground and one that flies in the air. When you are finished, share your creatures with your buddy. What are their names? What do they sound like? How do they move? What are some cool things about them?

When kids have finished creating and answering the questions, invite them to read and discuss the Bible Bits together.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Creation Quest

Let's go outside to find pieces of creation! Bring one or two things back and tape them to your leaflets. Then, with your buddy, use markers to make something new out of what you found. If you bring in a leaf, maybe you will make a tree or a giant leaf pile. If you bring in a feather, maybe you will make a bird or a comfy feather pillow. Invite the buddies to share their new creations with each other.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Clear tape
Markers

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know? items aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special mark next to the item they found the most interesting.

Hot Beanbag Creation Care

Invite all buddies to come together in one big circle. **We have learned a lot about God's beautiful creation. And God asks all of us to help take care of it. Let's brainstorm a list of ways we can take care of our world.** Once the brainstorming is done, play a game! Pass a beanbag around the circle as music is playing. Turn the music off, and the person holding the beanbag says his or her name and one way he or she plans to care for God's beautiful creation in the days ahead.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD

Supplies

Music source
Beanbag

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

God made our world. God made our world good. God made you. God made you good. God needs our help caring for the beautiful, good world. Review the Fun Facts on the Leaflet, then ask kids to share any fun facts they know. To wrap up, reinforce ways all of us can care for the world. Read through the suggestions in Faith on the Go, and invite kids to do them throughout the week.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Closing Prayer

Distribute Family Page to kids and encourage them to read the Bible story together once this week. Pray this movement prayer together.

Spark Resources

Spark Family Pages

Thank you, God, for

Water (kids move like water),

Mountains (kids stand like mountains),

Birds (kids move and sound like birds),

Animals and fish (kids move and sound like their favorite animal or fish),

Plants (kids move like a tree or plant),

Sun, moon, and stars (kids make their bodies into a sun, moon, or star shape),

People (kids give each other high fives).

Help us care for every single bit of this awesome, amazing, fantastic creation!

Amen.

Supplies

None

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home their leaflets and Family Pages.