



Lesson: Summer Review: Creation

In today's lesson, we go back to the beginning to when nothing existed but God. We begin in the book of Genesis to see that nothing and no one else is more powerful, eternal, or creative than our God. God creates everything out of nothing, He holds it together, and everything is exactly how He meant it to be! And that includes every person in the room! "All of creation reflects God's glory in its beauty, but human beings are actually created in God's image" (The Gospel Story Bible, Page 4). Also, we discover the crown of God's creation – humanity – and how Adam, Eve and every person born is a little mirror to reflect God's glory and who He is. There is no talk of sin yet; that is for next week. The hope is to tell children who they are: God's image bearers. This is an incredible honor God gives us; we are the only part of His creation like Him. A helpful note on what it means to be like God is that we are faithful and adequate representations of God, but we are not Him, hence the word "likeness" in verse 26.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-31; 2:7-8, 15-25 (Psalms 33:6; 147:15; 148:5)

Story: *Vos Child's Story Bible*, Pages 1-6
The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 2-5
Jesus Storybook Bible, Pages 10-27
The Beginners Bible, Pages 9-19
The Beginners Gospel Story Bible, Pages 2-6

Teaching Points:

- God is eternal.
- God is all powerful and created all things.
- God is good. Because He is good, everything God creates is good.
- God not only created all things, but controls all of Creation.
- Creation is not God "doodling" and mistakenly creating stuff.
- All Creation reflects God's greatness, His unsurpassed creativity, and His glory.
- God did all of this because He could, and He did not have any help!
- God created Adam, Eve and every person alive!
- Every person reflects God – we are like little mirrors of His glory (we are His image bearers).
- Every person God creates is unique, special and He loves greatly.
- God gave Adam and Eve a home in Eden.
- God appointed Adam and Eve to care for His creation (God gave them a job).

Scripture Memory and Hand Motions for Summer:

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

- **The Lord** (point upwards)
- **Will fight** (punch the air or shadow box)
- **For you; you** (point towards audience)
- **Need only to be still.** (stand completely still or frozen)

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, today we start at the very beginning of the Bible. The Bible is God's Story to us. He tells us what we need to know about Him in the Bible. At the very beginning God does a miracle. When He speaks, something is created out of thin air! Could you do that? Try! (Have kids say something like, "I want a chocolate waffle!" and see if one shows up.) No one can create anything out of nothing, only God can. Let's read our story and find out all the things God created!

In the Beginning

In the beginning, before anything was ever made there was nothing at all except God. But God had a plan, a design. God spoke words and what God said happened. "Whoosh!" Right out of nothing God created the sky and the earth. The Bible tells us that the earth had nothing on it. No trees, no flowers, no insects, animals, or fish. It had nothing. God then said, "Let there be light!" "Whoosh!" There was light. God said that the light was good. God divided the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." When evening came and then the morning came, this was the first day.

Day 2

God said, "Let there be something to divide the water in two!" So, God made the air to divide the water in two. Some of the water was above the air, and some of the water was below it. The water above the air is what we know as rain or snow, but the water below the air is what we call the seas and oceans, lakes and ponds, rivers and streams. God named the air "sky." Nighttime passed, and morning came. This was the second day.

Day 3

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky – the ocean and seas – be gathered together so the dry land will appear." "Whoosh!" And it happened just as God said. God named the dry land "earth." He named the water that was gathered "seas." God saw that this was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant." "Whoosh!" And it happened just as God said. The earth produced plants. Some plants had grain for seeds like wheat and corn. The trees made fruit with seeds in it like apples and oranges. There were so many kinds of plants! And just as God instructed, each seed grew its own kind of plant. Apple seeds made apple trees. Tomato seeds made tomato vines. Watermelon seeds made watermelon vines. Lemon seeds made lemon trees. God saw that all this was good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the third day.

Day 4

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days, and years. They will be in the sky to give light to the earth." "Whoosh!" And it happened just as God said. God made two large lights. He made the brighter light to come out during the day. We call it the Sun. God made a smaller light to come out at night. We call it the Moon. God also made the millions and millions of stars, comets, and other planets in the sky. The Sun and the Moon were there to separate light from darkness, daytime from nighttime. God saw that all these things were good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day.

Day 5

Then God said, "Let the water on earth be filled with living things. And let birds fly in the air above the earth." The Bible tells us God created large and tiny sea animals. Sharks, whales, swordfish, octopi, seahorses. Every living

thing in the sea God created. God created all the things that fly in the air too. Eagles, storks, ducks, and seagulls. God created all the birds in the sky. God saw all of this and said it was good. God blessed them and said, "Have many young ones and grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth." All creatures made more creatures like them. Sharks had baby sharks. Blue birds had baby blue birds.

Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fifth day.

Day 6

Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals." What kind of animals? Raccoons. Zebras. Lions. Sloths. White tigers. Dogs. God created all sorts of animals. And those animals would have babies just like them. Lions gave birth to cubs. Dogs gave birth to puppies. And when God said it, "Whoosh!" it happened!

God saw all the animals He made and saw that this was good.

God made lots and lots of things in the first six days. Can you think about all the insects, bird, things in the sea, and animals on land that you know of? God created all of them. God is so creative! Everything God created He called "good." Why was it good? Because God is good, and God creates good things. And God did not create anything by accident. He created each insect, fish, bird, and animal exactly how He meant it to be. It was created to glorify God. That means everything created is supposed to praise God! And guess what? God did not have any help when He created everything! In our story, did you hear about anyone helping God with His creation? Nope. God is all-powerful and didn't need any help at all!

Then God created His most special creation.

Adam and Eve

On the sixth day of creation God said, "Let us make human beings in our image." This meant humans would be like God, but not God. There is only one God, but to be like God meant for people to be tiny reflections of God. Kind of like a mirror, we would reflect how wonderful and awesome God is, but we are only the reflection.

God decided, the Bible tells us, that humans would "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky." "Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth", God said. God wanted humans to look after and care for all that He created.

So, God created man and woman. But the way God created humans was special and amazing! The Lord God took dirt from the ground and formed man from it. That's right! God took dirt and made a man out of it! Then the Lord breathed the breath of life into the man's nose. Only God can give life, and He did a special thing by giving life to man. And the man became a living person. The Bible tells us his name was Adam. The Lord God had planted a wonderful garden in the East, in a place called Eden. It was a beautiful garden. He put Adam in the garden.

God created every living creature and bird on land. God brought each one of them to Adam so he could name them. Could you imagine naming all the animals in the world? "Zebra!" Or, "Anteater!" Or maybe, "Ostrich!" Whatever Adam called each living thing, that became its name. Adam gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds in the sky and to all the wild animals.

But then God said, "It is not good for Adam to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him."

So, the Lord God caused Adam to go into a very deep sleep. While he was asleep, God took one of the ribs from Adam's body. Then God closed up his skin at the place where he took the rib. Then God used the rib from the man to make a woman. Yes, God made a woman from Adam's rib. Once God was finished creating the woman, He brought her to Adam.

Adam said, "Now, this is someone whose bones came from my bones. Her body came from my body. I will call her 'woman,' because she was taken out of man." The woman's name was Eve.

God blessed Adam and Eve and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth." God wanted humans to fill the Earth! Lots of humans on Earth reflecting glory to God. God wanted His most special creation to care for everything He had created. The Lord God had put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.

As you might imagine, working in the Garden and naming all those creatures can create quite an appetite. Eventually Adam and Eve started to get hungry. So, God told them, "Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you." Not only did God provide food for Adam and Eve, He provided food for every living creature. The Bible tells us God created plants for all the animals, for every bird, and small crawling creature to eat. But (and this was a very important rule Adam and Eve needed to follow) God commanded Adam, "You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil. If you ever eat fruit from that tree, you will die!"

The Bible tells us, "God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day."

Questions for Review

Have children answer "yes" if the sentence is true, or "no" if the sentence is false along with the right answer.

- God made everything out of nothing. (Yes)
- God had help when He created everything. (No! God had no help.)
- God made everything so He would have something to do. (No, God created for His glory).
- God spoke everything into existence. (Yes)
- God created everything exactly how He wanted. (Yes)
- God is all-powerful and in control of all created things. (Yes)
- God created Adam and Eve out of playdough. (No! God created Adam out of dirt; and Eve out of Adam's rib.)
- God told Adam and Eve to care for Creation, and to rule over it. (Yes)
- God wanted Adam to have someone to help him care for the Garden, so God created Eve. (Yes)
- All humans – all people – reflect God's image. (Yes! We are all image bearers.)