


the  
Jesus   
Storybook  
Bible  
Curriculum

# The beginning: a perfect home

The Song of Creation, from Genesis 1–2

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*  
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

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## Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

- ☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- ☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we learned that the Bible is a true story and the story of the Bible is all about Jesus. We also memorized the very first sentence of that story.”
- ☉ Ask the children to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “Genesis 1:1 — ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’” (Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on Scripture memory.)

☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, say: “Like all good stories, the story of the Bible starts at the very beginning. The name of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, is a Greek word that means ‘beginnings.’ The book of Genesis is about the beginning of everything.”

## Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

**Aim:** To expend energy and introduce the creation story.

**Materials:** None.

1. Say: “Everything had a beginning. Light had a beginning, flowers had a beginning, all the animals had a beginning, and you and I had a beginning.”
2. Announce that you are going to play a game. Say: “Starting with the letter ‘A,’ let’s go through the alphabet naming an animal for each letter. Think of an animal that starts with the letter ‘A,’ like ant or alligator, then stand up. If more than one of you stands up, I will pick one of you. When I pick you, run to the center of the circle, say the name of the animal, and then run back and sit down. Then we will move onto the letter ‘B’ and so on until we have done the whole alphabet.”
3. Say: “Who can think of an animal that starts with the letter ‘A’? Stand up.”

4. Choose a child to run to the center of the circle and call out the name of the animal. Repeat until you have gone through the alphabet. (If you have a limited amount of time, you may want to go through only half the alphabet.)
5. Repeat this exercise, but this time ask for names of people (e.g., Anne, Ben, Caroline, David, etc.).
6. Have prompts ready for (or simply skip) the more “difficult” letters.
7. At the end of the activity, say: “In today’s story we are going to learn about the beginning of all the animals. We are also going to learn about the beginning of all people and also about the beginning of the whole universe. Ready?”

**For larger groups:** You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher, so that the children can take turns more often.

## Story Time

7 min. 

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 18–27 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD1 track 2.

### Notes for Teachers on the Text

It is easy to read the first chapters of Genesis with the questions of our time: “How long ago did this happen?” “Is this history or myth?” “How does this square with modern views of science and evolution?” etc. These are important questions and we can probably learn some things from Genesis that are relevant to them. But we don’t learn much from a text if we ask questions that it was not written to answer.

Genesis is about deeper issues than biological origins. It is answering questions like: “What are human beings?” “What are we here for?” “What is our relationship to nature and to the world?” Essentially, Genesis 1 is not about the “how” of creation but rather about the “why.”

The word “God” appears 30 times in the first chapter of Genesis. God overwhelms the text; he dominates and overshadows everything. Nothing happens unless he makes it happen. Nothing is created except by him. There is nothing in existence that does not owe its existence to him. We see immediately that the extreme repetition is a way of saying, “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3).

And, we see that everything God makes is “good.” Everything he touches is pleasing, joy producing, wholesome. There is a wonder and awe about the richness of the world. It “teems” with life.

Notice that the overall effect of the highly patterned, repetitive text is to demonstrate that the world is made in an extremely orderly, purposeful way. There was “evening and morning” not just once—but regularly, faithfully, continually. What we have here is a cosmos, not a chaos. And because God created everything, nothing is outside of his control, or outside of his rightful authority. The animals, plants, and even the mountains and seas are all part of a choir of praise to the glory of God. This is said explicitly in Psalm 19 and Psalm 150.

Notice too that only we are described as made “in the image” of God. It is clear that we have a closer relationship to God than any other creature. We were made by God to be in relationship with him and to rule the world on his behalf. God gives us the task of subduing the earth and ruling over creation as his representative. Note too that it is only after the creation of human beings that the world is declared for the first time to be “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

# Understanding the Story

15 min. 

**Aim:** To understand that God created everything and it was good.

**Materials:** One large poster-size paper for each group of 5–6 children; child-safe glue; decorating items, e.g., stickers, pieces of colored paper, tin foil, etc.; crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, say: “That is the way it all started. That is the beginning of everything. Remember last time when we said that every story in the Bible whispers Jesus’ name? We didn’t hear Jesus’ name in this story, but he was there when everything was created. God the Father, Jesus—God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit created everything together. We are going to draw a poster of all the things that God created.”
2. Divide the circle into groups of five or six children. Give each group (and their teacher) a large paper, some crayons, and decorating items. The paper should be large enough to allow everyone in the group to draw on it at the same time.
3. On the top of the large paper each teacher should write and announce the words: “GOD CREATED . . .” Then they should divide the paper with crayon-drawn lines into six numbered segments.
4. Each teacher should then assign each child in their group with a number from 1–6. The teacher should assign themselves one of the numbers if the group has only 5 children.
5. Each teacher should then read aloud the appropriate part of the story for each day of creation, pausing in between to assign drawing that segment to the child with the corresponding number. They should also ask questions to help the child know what to draw. They may also want to read aloud all the segments before the children start to draw in their assigned segment.

## SEGMENT 1

STORY	DRAW	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
God said, “Hello light!” and light shone into the darkness. God called the light, “Day” and the darkness, “Night.” “You’re good,” God said. And they were.	Who is number 1? You get to draw day and night.	How can you draw day and night? Good idea. You can use different colors, yellow for the day and black for night.

## SEGMENT 2

STORY	DRAW	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
God said, “Hello sea! Hello sky!” and there was sea and sky. “You’re good,” God said. And they were.	Who is number 2? You get to draw the sea and sky.	What color is the sea? What color is the sky? How are you going to show they are different? Good idea. You can use different colors of blue, you can draw waves, etc.

### SEGMENT 3

STORY	DRAW	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
God said, "Hello land! Hello trees! Hello grass and flowers!" And everything everywhere burst into life. "You're good," God said. And they were.	Who is number 3? You get to draw land with trees, grass, and flowers.	How many kinds of trees and flowers did God create? That's right. God created all the different trees and flowers. So you can draw any of them.

### SEGMENT 4

STORY	DRAW	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
"Hello stars!" God said. "Hello sun! Hello moon!" And whizzing into the darkness came fiery globes and golden planets. "You're good," God said. And they were.	Who is number 4? You get to draw the sun, moon, stars, and planets.	God made the sun and stars, but did anyone make God? "No" is correct. No one made God. God was already there before anything else existed.

### SEGMENT 5

STORY	DRAW	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
"Hello birds!" God said. And birds filled the skies. "Hello fish!" God said. And fish filled the seas! "You're good," God said. And they were.	Who is number 5? You get to draw birds and fish.	God created all the fish and the birds. What is your favorite fish/bird? Good, draw it.

### SEGMENT 6

STORY	DRAW	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
God said, "Hello animals!" And the earth was filled animals. But God saved the best for last. He would make people to share his Forever Happiness. So God breathed life into Adam and Eve. God looked at everything he had made. "Perfect!" he said. And it was.	Who is number 6? You get to draw animals and people.	God created animals and people. How are people different from animals? Exactly, people can talk and draw and do all the things you said. But what makes us really different is that God breathed life into us; he made us in his image. We are unique in that we can know God and love God.

6. Allow a few minutes for the children to draw in and decorate their assigned segment, helping them out where needed.

7. Toward the end of the allocated time ask the groups to stop drawing and to help you put away the decorating items. Ask everyone to sit back down in the circle. Display all the posters in the center for everyone to see.

8. Say: "Looking at all the different things you have drawn helps us see how amazing God's creation is. You have all drawn so many different planets and animals and birds and trees. God created all of that. And he created it all out of nothing. All he did was speak and everything you can see in these posters — and more! — was created."

9. Ask: "What did God say after he created things? That's right, he said it was good. In fact, after he created Adam and Eve, God said the world was perfect. Everything God created at the beginning was perfect."

10. Give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Say: "You can see on your paper that we have another picture of the things God created. God created plants and animals and the moon and he also created you and me. Can you see the rectangle on the left labeled 'me'? Draw a picture of yourself in that space."

11. Give children 2 minutes to do this and then ask everyone to hold up their drawing so others in the circle can see it. Comment appropriately.

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## Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: “God created everything and everyone. He created trees and he created me. He created stars and he created you.”

Say: “In the beginning everything God created was perfect. And he created it all simply by speaking.”

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## Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Say: “Remember that every story in the Bible whispers Jesus’ name. Even though we didn’t hear Jesus’ name in this story, he was there when everything was created. What did we discover about Jesus from today’s story?”

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

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## Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, thanking God for his good creation.

Ask the children to choose one thing in creation to thank God for.

Ask them to pray out loud starting with the words, “Thank you, God, for creating...”

End the time by praying: “Thank you, God, for all the things you have created. Amen.”

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## A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

2 min. 

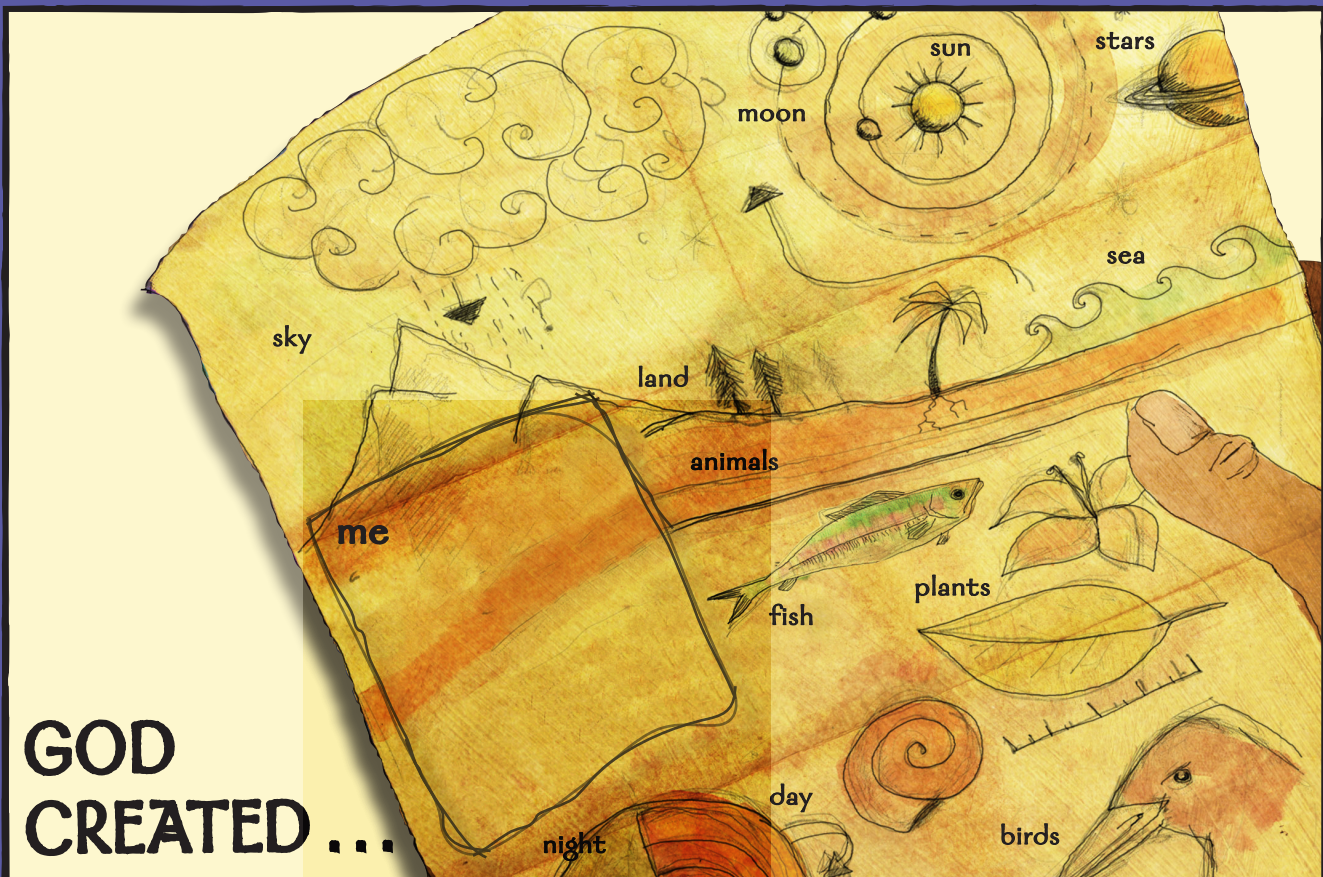
☉ Introduce the verse: “The verse we recited at the start also helps us with our story today, so you get another chance to memorize it. It is the very first verse of the Bible.”

☉ Announce the verse: “So, the verse to practice at home is Genesis 1:1 — ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’”

☉ Read the verse out loud together as a group.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents and to memorize the verse for next time.

☉ You may want to keep the posters to use again in the review lessons.



**GOD  
CREATED ...**

**☉ Jesus in the Story**



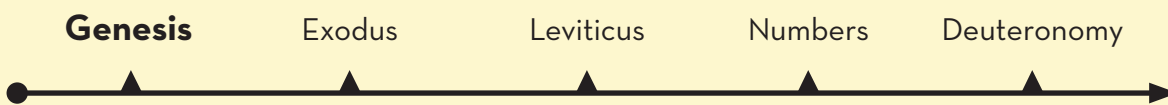
What did you discover about Jesus from this story?



**Jesus**

**☉ A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)



Notes for parents: In today's story we learned that in the beginning God created everything and it was good. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Genesis, using the diagram above. [www.jesusstorybookbible.com](http://www.jesusstorybookbible.com)

