

**BIBLE STORY**

“God Made the World”

Genesis 1:1-19

**BIBLE TRUTH**

God made the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1-19

**LESSON GOAL**

To help the children enjoy God’s creation through nature.

**UNIT BIBLE VERSE**

“God created the heavens and the earth”

(Genesis 1:1).

**DON’T FORGET!**

Remember to distribute *Baby’s First June* to parents of babies. Give *Toddler Time* to parents of toddlers.

# GOD MADE THE WORLD

## Time Out for Teachers

Genesis 1:1-19 outlines God’s creation of the heavens and the earth and the four days preceding the creation of living creatures and mankind. Regardless of one’s opinion about how God carried out the creation of the world, scripture makes this point very clear: “*In the beginning God . . .*” God has always existed, even before time as we know it began. This is a concept difficult for us to comprehend.

It is also difficult to imagine a time when the world we know did not exist. “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” says there was such a time. Scripture is not intended to be a scientific textbook. It does not give specific details about how God carried out His creation. It simply makes it clear that it began with God. At first, there was no form or content, and darkness was everywhere. Then God set about organizing His basic creation to make it habitable for the living creatures and humans He would create on the fifth and sixth days.

A builder works from a blueprint that provides detailed dimensions of what is to be built. In the same way, God did not create the “heavens and earth” haphazardly. God created a world in an organized way with specific natural laws.

However, unlike a human builder who works from a blueprint developed by a professional architect, God is the Master Architect, as well as the Builder of the world. If the world was just a short distance closer to or farther from the sun, the planet could not sustain life. Throughout the creation process, Scripture tells us “*God saw that it was good.*” The world God created is good!

## As We Grow . . .

Children often base future opinions and beliefs upon those formed early in life, whether consciously or unconsciously. By junior high age, most children will encounter ideas about the earth’s creation that do not include God. If you establish in little ones’ minds now that God is indeed Creator of the world, they will have a more complete and accurate set of tools to work with as they deal with questions of what to believe about God and creation. Incorporating the unit Bible verse at every opportunity will be an important step in accomplishing this goal.

## Connect with Me

God has created a wonderful world. Unfortunately, people have been irresponsible in caring for God’s creation. The early years are the time to start children on the road toward becoming responsible stewards of the world they live in. The first step is to appreciate and enjoy God’s creation. This unit provides a wonderful opportunity to help the children appreciate and develop appropriate concern for the well-being of the world God created. Simple things like reminding them to put their trash in the proper receptacle or letting them help you water the classroom plants are important ways for little ones to care for God’s world.

# B A B Y T I M E

## UNIT 1

### ACTIVITY CENTERS



It's a Wonderful World!



Like Day and Night



Wet and Dry



High in the Sky



Growing Things

**NOTE:** Several of the following activities call for pictures. Keep the activities in mind and look for pictures that can be used in more than one way. Nature magazines, calendars, and indoor or outdoor living magazines are good sources for pictures. One or two magazines may provide enough pictures. Attach pictures to construction paper to make them uniform in size. This way they will stand up to much handling. If you have clear Con-Contact paper, use it to make the pictures more durable.

The world is fresh, new, and beautiful to babies. They learn about their surroundings with great interest. From the moment of birth to about age five, children will learn more and develop faster than at any similar time period in life. From the way you talk about God and care for the baby's needs, children begin to form their earliest concept about who God is. It is not too early to introduce the foundational concept of God as Creator of the world.

## ACTIVE LEARNING

Because of the varied activities provided in some centers, you will need to be selective. You cannot do all of them in one session. Please refer to pages 4-5 for instruction on center use.

### Center 1: IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD!

#### What Did God Make? (All)

YOU'LL NEED

- box or cloth bag
- rocks
- grass
- sticks
- leaves
- flowers

Before church time, gather sticks, rocks, leaves, grass, and some flowers. Place these items in a box or cloth bag. During church, invite the children to gather around you on a special rug or on the rocking chair. Say, **We learn from the Bible that "God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). In this box [bag] I have some things God made. Would you like see them?**

Take each item from the box or bag and hold it up. Let the children name the item. Then, let them take turns touching it. After you introduce each item, say, **"God made [name of item]. Thank You, God, for making [name of item]."**

# B A B Y T I M E

As you hold a baby, gently rub the petals of a flower against his or her cheek. Say, **Does that feel soft? God made soft, pretty flowers. God made the whole world and everything in it. Thank You, God, for making flowers!**