



Bible Point ▶

God made us and our world.

Bible Verse

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- discover that God made the heavens and the earth,
 - understand that God’s creation is good,
 - learn about the different things God created, and
 - teach Pockets that only God can create something from nothing.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God creates our world.

Genesis 1:1-25



The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. That’s the implication of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. *Elohim* is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It’s interesting that the name is plural, but the Hebrew word meaning *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was a unified action. One God, three persons, one plan.

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus is not so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read, “God said” and then some variation of “and that is what happened.” God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth “and everything in them,” he rested. Why? God wasn’t tired. God didn’t need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. It became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.





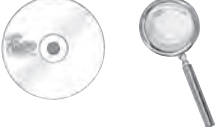




Prayer

- Read Hebrews 1:10-12.
- Take a nature walk, and consider your Creator and his works. What thoughts come to mind?
- Pray: Lord, help me not to take for granted this world you created for us to live in. Help me guide my students to learn about you through nature by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“World Name Tags” handout (p. 27), markers, tape or safety pins	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Blob Globbs —Make a blobby mixture to form their own creations, and talk about how only God can create something from nothing.	Liquid starch, white glue, resealable plastic sandwich bags, measuring spoons	
	Option 2: Through the Looking Glass —Examine nature through magnifying glasses, and discover the complexity of God’s creation.	Leaves, rocks, twigs	
	Option 3: World Favorites —Color and stuff a trash bag to make a pretend world, and then play a fun game.	White plastic trash bag, crayons, newspaper, duct or masking tape	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Use the Blob Globbs from Option 1 to create nature scenes.	Newspapers, white copier paper, Blob Globbs from Option 1	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Use a unique poster to learn the story of Creation from Genesis 1:1-25.	Bible	
	Dress Up and Drama —Be detectives and search for things that God created.	CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Learn a fun finger rhyme describing the days of Creation.		
Closing 	The Real Thing —Explain to Pockets that only God can create something from nothing.	Small stuffed animal	
	God Made the World —Sing a song, affirm each other, and pray.	CD player	

Welcome Time

■ Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “World Name Tags” handout (p. 27), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down to make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God made us and our world.**
- Give each child a photocopy of a world name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags and attach them to their clothing. You may wish to cover the name tags with clear adhesive paper so they’ll last for the entire quarter.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Who created the world?” or “What do you think it was like when God created the world?”

■ Option 1: Blob Globbs

SUPPLIES: liquid starch, white glue, resealable plastic sandwich bags, measuring spoons

Set out resealable plastic sandwich bags, white glue, liquid starch, and measuring spoons. Give each child one sandwich bag. Let children hold the bags open as you measure 2 tablespoons of white glue and 3 tablespoons of liquid starch into each bag. Help children make sure their bags are “zipped” shut. Direct children to use their hands to knead the ingredients in their bags. If the mixture is sticky, add a few drops of starch. If it’s rubbery, add a few drops of glue. The mixture will become smoother as children mix it.

As children work, explain that in the beginning the earth had no form—it was only a blob like their Blob Globbs. Explain that God made our entire world from nothing. Let children remove their blobs from the bags and mold them into shapes of trees or animals. Say that today they’ll hear all about how ► God made us and our world. Collect the Blob Globbs for use later in the lesson. Have the children wash their hands before continuing with the next activity.



◀ BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



◀ BIBLE POINT

■ Option 2: Through the Looking Glass

SUPPLIES: leaves, rocks, twigs



Set up a viewing center to let children get “up close and personal” with God’s creation. Set out both *magnifying glasses* and a variety of rocks, twigs, and leaves. Invite children to closely examine the objects and talk about how awesome our world is. Explain that today children will hear how ► God made us and our world.

■ Option 3: World Favorites

SUPPLIES: white plastic trash bag, crayons, newspaper, duct or masking tape

Set out the trash bag, markers, and old newspapers. Invite children to scribble continents and oceans on the bag and then stuff the bag with crumpled newspapers. Tape the bag shut with duct or masking tape. Then play a fun game of “favorites.”

Have children stand in a circle and bop the “world” as they chant, “Bopping, bopping, now we’re stopping!” The person who’s holding the bag at the end of the rhyme gets to say what he or she likes best about God’s world. Explain that it’s fun to make and play with a pretend world, but in today’s Bible story they’ll hear how ► God made us and our world.



BIBLE POINT ►

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the *CD* to the tune of “Skip to My Lou” as they help clean up the room.

You’ll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up. At first, they may need a little encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will become a familiar routine.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the *CD* and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the *CD*, vary the names you use each week.



SING

**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.**

**There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: newspapers, white copier paper, Blob Globbs from Option 1

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Set out the Blob Globbs from Option 1, newspaper, and white copier paper. Give each child a Blob Glob and a sheet of copier paper. Say: ► **God made us and our world. Let's use our Blob Globbs to make pictures of the world God created.** Encourage children to search the newspapers to find pictures of things God created, such as people, plants, mountains, or animals. Show children how to press their Blob Globbs on a picture in the newspaper, lift the Glob, and transfer the picture to the white paper. The darker the ink on the picture, the clearer the transferred picture will be. Have children create their own scenes on the white paper. Allow children to work for three or four minutes; then clap your hands to call time. Invite children to share their creations. Applaud each child's work. Then ask:

- **What did you need to create these pictures?** (Blob Globbs; newspaper.)
- **What did God need to create the world?** (Nothing; God just spoke and then it happened.)

Say: **That's right. God started with nothing and then created the world. The first book of the Bible tells how ► God made us and our world. In our Bible story today we'll hear how God created the heavens and the earth, with all the stars, people, animals, and plants.**

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *world stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Genesis 1:1-25** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I'll choose someone to be the Bible person. The Bible person will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today's Bible person, let's learn our Bible song. As we sing, I'll pass out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD, to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



SING

**Now it's time to read God's Book,
Read God's Book, read God's Book.
Now it's time to read God's Book.
Let's hear a Bible story.**

(Repeat 3x.)



◀ BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

If you didn't use Option 1, you'll need to make one Blob Glob for each student before class. See the instructions in Option 1.



◀ BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the world stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ►God made us and our world.**

Let's say a special prayer now and thank God for his wonderful creations. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, thank you for making me and my world."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ►you made us and our world.** In Jesus' name, amen.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Before class, remove the *Creation poster* from the Learning Lab. As you open each of the doors on the poster, children will be able to see what God created on each of the six days of Creation.

Have the children sit in a circle. Hold up the Bible. Say: **Our Bible verse is from Psalm 24:1, and it says, ►“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.”** Have kids repeat the verse with you. **God made everything, and everything belongs to him. Our story today is about how God created the world and everything we see. The story comes from Genesis, the very first book in the Bible.**

Ask: • **Does anyone know what the word *creation* means?** (No; to make something.)

• **What kinds of things do you like to create?** (Pictures; cookies; block buildings.)

Say: **We can create lots of cool things, but only God can create something out of nothing. And nothing is just what God started with when ►God made us and our world.**

Hold up the *Creation poster* with all the doors closed.

Say: **In the very beginning, before God created our world, everything was dark, just like this picture. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and light came forth into the darkness. Call on a child to open Door 1. Imagine! All God had to do was speak and light appeared. God looked at the light and knew it was good, so he divided the light from the darkness. He gave the light and dark names.**

Ask: • **What do we call it when it's dark outside?** (Night; nighttime.)

• **And what do we call it when it's light outside?** (Day; daytime.)



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: That's right. God called the light "day" and he called the darkness "night." God looked at the darkness and light and saw that it was good. That's what happened on the first day of Creation.

Then God decided to make something to divide the water in two. Have a child open Door 2. So God made the air and named it "sky." God liked the air and thought that was good, too. That's what happened on the second day of Creation.

On the third day of Creation, God gathered all the water together into seas and oceans so that dry land appeared. Have a child open Door 3. God made hills and valleys; tall, snowy mountains; and wide, grassy fields. Then God made plants of every kind. God made tiny wildflowers and huge trees. God made tall, swaying grasses and cool, green moss. God made some plants that grain would come from and some plants that would have fruit. And God made sure that every plant had its own seeds, so it could make other plants just like it. God looked at the seas, the dry land, and the plants he had made on the third day and decided they were good.

On the fourth day, God put lights in the sky. Have a child open Door 4.

Ask: • What kinds of lights are there in the sky? (The sun; the moon; the stars.)

Say: That's right. God made a very bright light to rule the day—that was the sun. And God made a smaller light to rule the night—that was the moon. Then God filled the whole night sky with millions and millions of twinkling stars. God looked at the lights he had made and saw that they were good. All that happened on the fourth day.

On the fifth day, God did something really cool! Have a child open Door 5. God filled the water with sea creatures—great big whales, tiny snails, and fish with funny, finny tails—swordfish and jellyfish, and every other kind of fish—sea horses, octopi, friendly dolphins, my oh my!

Next, God filled the air with birds—all kinds of flying things, birds with great big flapping wings! Robins red, owls wise, birds that sail across the skies, busy little hummingbirds, and parakeets that speak real words.

But God wasn't finished yet! On the sixth day, God filled the earth with animals. Have a child open Door 6. The Bible says God made wild animals, tame animals, and crawling animals, too. Think of your favorite wild animal. When I count to three, pretend to be that animal. Ready? One, two, three! Pause. Oh, my! I saw some scary lions and bears out there.

This time when I count to three, pretend to be your favorite tame animal. That's a nice animal, not scary, like the kind you might have at home. Ready? One, two, three! Pause. Nice kitty! Nice dog! Did I see a little hamster over there?

On the sixth day, God also created animals that crawl. When I count to three, turn into crawling critters. Crawl all the way around me, and then go back to your place and sit down. One, two, three, crawl!

God made sure all the birds and fish and the wild animals, tame animals, and crawling animals could produce more animals like each other. And God made us, too! What a wonderful God we have! God looked at the animals he had made and knew they were good. Let's clap for all the wonderful things God made.

Return the *Creation poster* to the Learning Lab.

Ask: • **What do you think everything looked like before God began to create our world?** (Dark; boring; empty.)

• **How could God think of all those things to make?** (Because God has a good imagination; because God knows everything; because he's God.)

• **What do you think of the world God made?** (It's pretty; it's great; I love it.)

Say: **Isn't it great that ►God made us and our world? Now let's pretend to be detectives and look for things in our world that God created.**



BIBLE POINT ►

■ Dress Up and Drama

SUPPLIES: CD player



track 4

Hold up one of the *magnifying glasses* and peer into it.

Say: **Magnifying glasses like this make things look bigger. Sometimes detectives use magnifying glasses to look for clues to help them solve mysteries. Let's pretend we're detectives, searching for things that God created when ►God made us and our world.**



Distribute both *magnifying glasses*. Let children tiptoe around the room, taking turns peering through the *magnifying glasses* and searching for things that God created, such as plants, an animal, or a picture of nature. While the “detectives” are searching, lead the rest of the children in patting their legs in time to the following rhyme:

**Look so close and find a clue.
What things did God make for you?**

Then have the “detectives” point to things that God created, like flowers, a person, or something they can see outside the window.

When everyone has had a turn to be a “detective,” collect the *magnifying glasses* and return them to the Learning Lab.

Say: **You were awesome detectives who found so many things that God created! Our room is filled with things to remind us that ►God made us and our world. Now let's listen to a song that tells us why this world is so important to God.**

Play “The Earth Is the Lord’s” (Psalm 24:1) (track 4) with the *CD*. You will find the lyrics at the back of your teacher guide. Play the song a second time, and encourage the children to sing along with the *CD*.

Then say: **God made us and the world we live in. Everything we find in the world belongs to God because he created it all! Now let's learn a fun rhyme about the days of Creation.**



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



Young children often have trouble differentiating things that God made from things that are made by humans. When children find items that are human-made, find ways to help them see that God gave us what we need so we could create useful things. For example, point out that God may not have made the table, but he created the wood so we could make one.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Form a circle and lead children in the following finger rhyme.

One is for the day and night. God knew how to make them right! (*Hold up one finger.*)

Two is for the beautiful sky. God made it blue. Oh me, oh my! (*Hold up two fingers. Lift arms toward the sky.*)

Three is for each flower and tree. God made them all for you and me. (*Hold up three fingers. Point to someone and then to yourself.*)

Four is for the moon and sun. God made them bright for everyone! (*Hold up four fingers. Hold arms above your head like a shining sun.*)

Five is for the birds and fish, with wings that fly and fins that swish! (*Hold up five fingers. Act out birds and fish.*)

Six is for animals; people, too. I'm glad that God made me and you! (*Hold up six fingers. Point thumbs at yourself; point index fingers at two others.*)

Seven is for God's day of rest. I thank you, God, for the world you blessed. (*Hold up seven fingers. Fold hands and look up.*)



Repeat the rhyme if time permits. For extra fun, march around the room as you repeat the rhyme. Then say: **God blessed the whole world and God blessed us, too, by sending us Jesus to be our forever friend. Let's use the *world stamp* to stamp our hands. The stamp on our hands will remind us to thank God for loving us enough to make this wonderful world and sending us Jesus to be our forever friend.** Stamp the kids' hands, and then return the *world stamp* to the Learning Lab. **I can't wait to tell Pockets how ► God made us and our world. Let's call her. Pockets! Are you coming to visit us today?**



Closing

■ The Real Thing

SUPPLIES: small stuffed animal

Before class, tuck a small stuffed animal in Pockets' pouch. Have children sit in a circle. Take out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.





Pockets: *(Holding stuffed animal up to her ear)* Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Pockets! What do you have there?

Pockets: It's my little animal. I thought I heard it say something to me.

Teacher: How could it talk to you, Pockets? It's just a stuffed animal. It's not real.

Pockets: But I'm trying to make it real. I talk to it all the time, but it never talks back. I even tried to feed it a bottle this morning, but I just spilled milk all over.

Teacher: Pockets, only God can create a real animal. Today we heard a Bible story about creation. Class, why don't you tell Pockets about how ► *God made us and our world?* *(Encourage children to describe the days of Creation and all the different things God created.)*

Pockets: Wow! God sure made a lot of stuff! And he did such a good job. I love to look at the stars and hop, hop, hop over the green grass.

Teacher: You're right, Pockets. God made a wonderful world for us to enjoy. Do you feel better now?

Pockets: Yes, I do. With all the real things God made, I don't need to worry about my stuffed animal. I think I'll take it back to my toy box now. 'Bye, everyone.

(Have children say goodbye.)

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■ God Made the World

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Let's end class today by singing a thank you song to God for the wonderful world he made.** Lead the children in singing "God Made the World" (track 5) on the CD to the tune of "God Is So Good." Point to items on the *Creation poster* as you sing.



God made the world.
God made the world.
God made the world.
God is good to me.

God made the day.
God made the night.
God made the light.
God is good to me.

God made the sea.
God made the sky.
God made the clouds.
God is good to me.

God made the plants.
God made the trees.
God made the flowers.
God is good to me.

Say: **Do you remember our Bible verse? It's from Psalm 24:1, and it says, ►"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." God made everything, and it all belongs to him. Now, let's talk to God. I'll begin praying, and then I'll stop for each of you to say one part of God's creation you're thankful for. Let's bow our heads. Pray: Dear God, we're so thankful ►you made us and our world. Thank you for sharing your world with us. I especially thank you for...** Pause and let children name things they're thankful for, such as oceans, mountains, or pets. **Thank you for every part of your wonderful world. In Jesus' name, amen.**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: “Days of Creation” Rhyme**

Lead children in the “Days of Creation” rhyme. Say: **Let’s say the “Days of Creation” rhyme we learned in our lesson. It will help us remember how ►God made us and our world.**

One is for the day and night. God knew how to make them right! (*Hold up one finger.*)

Two is for the beautiful sky. God made it blue. Oh me, oh my! (*Hold up two fingers. Lift arms toward the sky.*)

Three is for each flower and tree. God made them all for you and me. (*Hold up three fingers. Point to someone and then to yourself.*)

Four is for the moon and sun. God made them bright for everyone! (*Hold up four fingers. Hold arms above your head like a shining sun.*)

Five is for the birds and fish, with wings that fly and fins that swish! (*Hold up five fingers. Act out birds and fish.*)

Six is for animals; people; too. I’m glad that God made me and you! (*Hold up six fingers. Point thumbs at yourself; point index fingers at two others.*)

Seven is for God’s day of rest. I thank you, God, for the world you blessed. (*Hold up seven fingers. Fold hands and look up.*)

■ **Make to Take: Tactile World**



Set out balloons, tissue paper, cotton balls, scissors, glue, a bowl, and paintbrushes. In the bowl, dilute glue with water to a brushable consistency. Blow up and tie one balloon for each child. Invite children to turn their balloons into globes. Show them how to tear tissue paper to form continents; then have them brush glue where they’d like to place the continents. Demonstrate how to pull apart cotton balls to represent fluffy clouds. Tell children to be careful not to remove an item from the balloon once it has been glued on. (Warning: Discard any popped balloon pieces to avoid potential choking hazards.) Talk about all the wonderful things God did when ►God made us and our world.

■ **Treat to Eat: Skies**

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Let each child spoon a few blueberries into a cup and then squirt the “sky” with a “cloud” of whipped cream. As children enjoy their edible skies, remind them that ►God made us and our world.

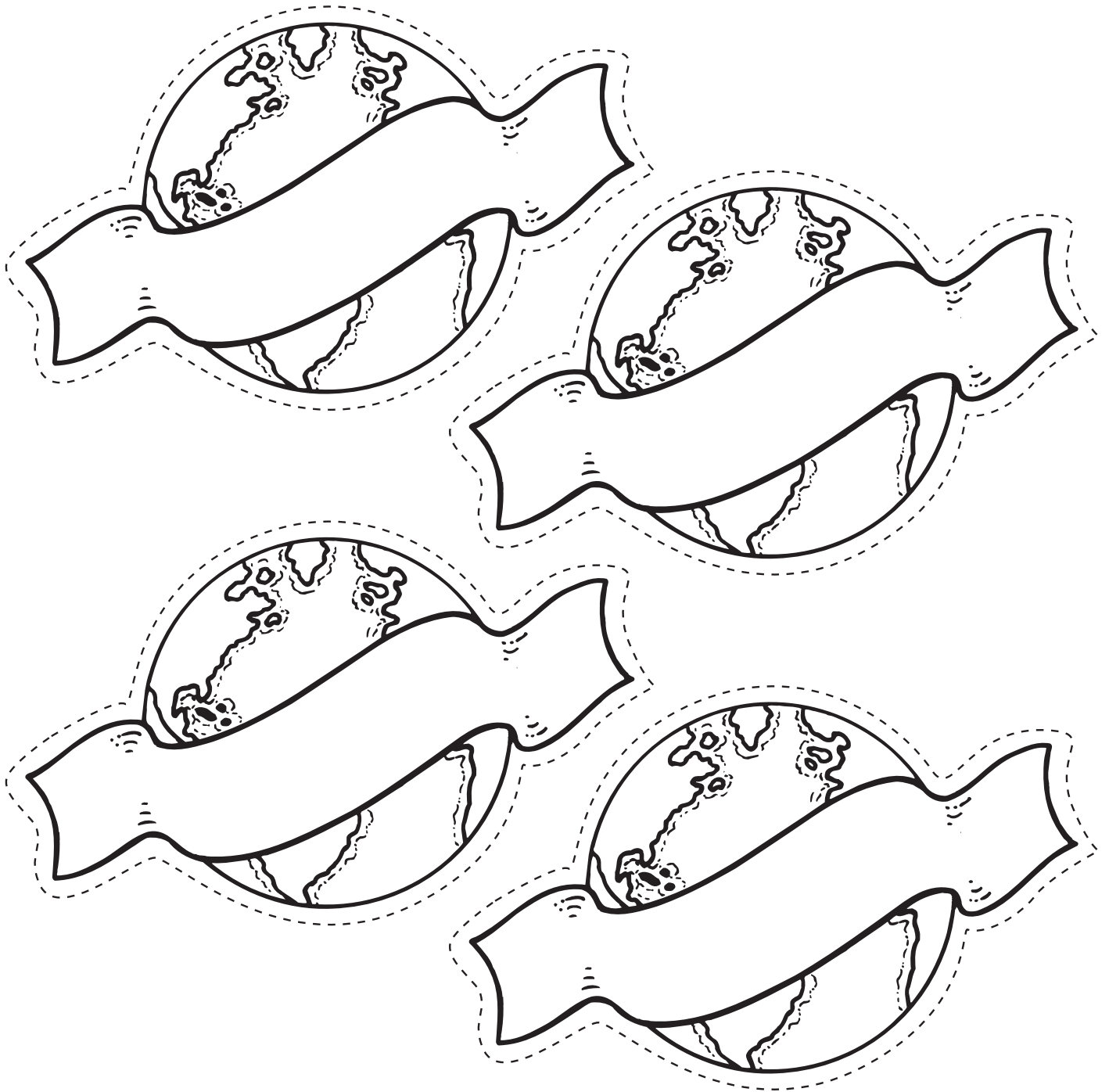


■ **Story Picture: God Creates the World**

Give each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out markers, sand, and glue. Let children color the seas and the sky. Have them put glue on the continents of the world and then sprinkle sand on the glue.

World Name Tags

Photocopy this page and cut out the name tags. Have children color the water and the land, and then help them write their names in large letters.



Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God made us and our world. Children learned that God made all things and that God is the only Creator. Children talked about the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

God
made us and
our world.

Verse to Learn

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1a).

Ask Me...

- What was it like when God created the world?
- What are your favorite parts of God's creation?
- How can we let God know that we appreciate our beautiful world?

Family Fun

- Go outside and take a family nature walk. Collect a basket of nature items such as twigs, leaves, flowers, and nuts. Use your nature basket as a centerpiece on your table. Each mealtime it will remind you to thank God for the beautiful world he has made.

God Creates Our World (Genesis 1:1-25)

