

Get Ready!**Text**

Genesis 1:1-31 with special attention to verses 27 & 31; Genesis 2:1-4; Isaiah 40:28-29; Isaiah 44:24; Psalm 24:1-2

**Key Quest Verse**

“It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts” (Isaiah 45:12).

**Bible Background**

The creation story shows us that God brought the physical world into existence out of nothing. He is the only one who is capable of making something out of nothing. The detailed account of creation is found in the first two chapters of Genesis, although God as creator is the also a theme in Isaiah 40-48. God creates each thing in order while leaving the creation of man for the final and sixth day of creation. Man was special because he was to rule over the rest of creation (Genesis 1:28-30) and was chosen to be created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26 & 27). Notice that God mentions six times in the account of creation (Genesis 1) that what He created was good. The Bible begins with revealing to us a caring, powerful Creator who desires a relationship with His most precious creation, mankind.

Get Ready!

**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

- Know:** That God created all things.
- Feel:** Respect for God's creative power.
- Do:** Show respect for God's creation.

**Leader's Devotion**

When you visit a zoo, do you find yourself thinking God must have had fun making all these animals? Just notice the contrast between an octopus and a flamingo. My visit to a large Aquarium gave me the chance to see a black and white, polka dot fish! This session gives us a great opportunity to explain to our youth that there is a Master designer for all of these things. He created them and set everything in motion. Sure they change and adapt through the years, but God is the one who started it all for His glory. Human beings were given the special honor of being created in His image, with the ability to worship and build a relationship with Him. It is so important we teach our youth to have a respect for others because we are made in God's image. Many of our youth spend hours playing video games filled with violence and killing. The message of life being precious has to be given to our students. Pray that you may be able to convey to your students that our creative, powerful Creator should be respected, and they should also respect what God has made.

Get Set!



Option A



Materials: A variety of seed packets

Procedure: (Pass out a variety of seed packets to students. You can pick these up at end of season for 10 cents per pack. Ask students to share with the class what type of seeds they have. Many packets have a written description and pictures of the full grown vegetable or flower on the packet, which they could show. Let students respond to the following questions.)

1. What time of year does the packet state is best to sow your seed?
2. What does it tell you about the soil to plant it in?
3. In what depth does it recommend that you plant the seed?
4. Germination is when the seed begins to come up as a sprout. How many days will it take for your seeds to germinate?
5. Does it state on the packet that you have to water the seeds?
6. Does it mention how much sun the plant will need?

“Sometimes you must remove some of the weaker plants to make room for the more healthy ones. This is called thinning. Does it state that you will have to thin the plants? Many people love to garden and plant seeds each year. Have any of you planted a garden with your families? What work is involved? What did you grow? Did you grow anything that became a favorite of yours?

Today we are going to discover how God used His immeasurable power to create plants for the whole earth. It is estimated that there are around 400,000 types of plants today. Just think about the types of vegetation He made. The tall, tropical palm trees to the tiny plankton eaten by huge whales. We will even discover how God created that great whale. He set up a perfect balance with animals and plants. And then created human beings to take care of and enjoy this incredible world He made.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Option B



Materials: A package of refrigerated cookie dough, items to make shapes such as: cookie cutters, plastic silverware, plastic cup, straws wax paper, sprinkles, cookie sheet, adult volunteer

Procedure: Place a piece of wax paper at each students place. Slice the dough into pieces, one piece for each student. Have the youth wash their hands or provide tow-lettes. “You are all guest hosts on a famous cooking show. When you are feeling very creative you say ‘Kick it up a notch’ or ‘Bang,’ because that is what our guests do. (The students that have seen the “Emeril Live” show will know these phrases and the others will catch on quickly.) Now let’s form this piece of dough into something in God’s creation that you like. You could make the sun, moon, a star, trees, animals, fish . . . it is up to you. You may use your hands, the cookie cutters also work well, but any of these items can be used to form your creation. You may add sprinkles after you have shaped it.” It would be helpful to have a volunteer that would put cookies in the oven and bring them back to the students when they are baked.

“What was it like to create something out of the dough? Did your creation turn out the way that you planned? God used His power to create all things in the beginning. We used cookie dough to create our objects, but God used dust to form man. We will discover that God used His incredible power to create everything in heaven and on earth. He made human beings and put them in charge of the world and all the animals and plants. Let’s open our Bibles and learn more about our God, the Creator of all things.”

(This activity is more fun if the adult volunteer will use a video camera to record the students making their creations. The teacher can play off the TV theme by asking talk show questions.) Have a fake microphone and ask the students questions while they work on their creations. “Thank you for joining us here on Food Network, how long have you been cooking? As a child did you know that you would be making masterpieces of artwork with food?” They will love to see a video of themselves later.)

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story



(To make this Bible Story interactive, go to the Arts and Crafts Learning Activity for today. The entire creation story is read while the students make a mural of the world. A list of supplies is included.)

“I would like for all of you to close your eyes. Now take your hand and cover your eyes. I want it to be as dark as possible. I want you to imagine this as I read something to you.” (Read Genesis 1:1-3, slowly.) “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light and there was light.’”

“Okay, uncover your eyes. Just think, before there was anything, God existed. He was there before the beginning of the world. He spoke the words and created everything out of nothing. He created light. He separated the light from the darkness and called them day and night. He created the sky. He created the sea, land and plants. Think about how creative God was and still is! He made the beautiful flowers, like roses, and the interesting plants, like the Venus fly trap. The Venus fly trap is probably the best known carnivorous plant. The hairs lining the trap cause it to shut quickly when insects brush against them. This plant will have to wait for a meal until God creates something for it to eat. He created the seasons, stars, the sun and moon.

Think about the incredible power God displayed when He created our solar system. He created the animals of the sea and sky. Just think about all the fish and birds that He made. On your next trip to the zoo, notice the different birds and the colors of their feathers. When you go to an Aquarium, you will notice that there are so many different types of fish. They vary – from the shark, to the puffy blowfish, to the beautiful angel fish. Finally, God made the land animals.

On this day, He created the crowning touch of creation. He made man in His own image and likeness. Wow! We were created in the image of God. God formed the first man, Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. Because we are created in the image of God, we need to respect and honor each other. This is one reason it is important we treat everyone with respect. If at all possible, we should avoid being involved in fights and arguments (Titus 3:1&2). God wants us to honor human life. God created man special, because we are made to worship Him and build a relationship with Him. He loves us and provides a way for us, so He can reward us with eternal life someday in His Kingdom.”

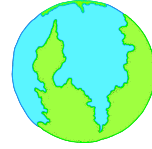


ARTS AND CRAFTS: Be sure to display the final results of this activity where everyone can enjoy it!

Go!



Create A World



Materials: Newsprint paper, two flashlights, Bible, markers, a variety of animal stickers, clear mailing and scotch tape, stretched out cotton balls, glow in the dark markers, plant items from outside (tiny twigs with leaves, grass blades, flowers, etc)

Procedure: Have one of the youth who enjoys reading, to read Genesis 1. Give that same student a flashlight. Have one of the youth turn out the lights. Using the flashlight have that student read verses 1 through 3.

1. Turn the lights on when the student reads, "Let there be light." Continue reading through verses 4 and 5.
2. Turn the lights on and off when day and night end evening and morning are read. Leave the lights on. Read verses 6-8.
3. Choose a couple of students to go to the newsprint and make the sky. They may choose to shade it in blue and stick the cotton balls on to symbolize clouds. Read verses 9 and 10.
4. Have a couple of students draw the land and sea. Read verses 11 through 13.
5. Have students add the plants and leaves from outside. Read verses 14 through 19.
6. Have students draw the sun. The moon and stars can be drawn with the glow in the dark markers. Turn the lights off to see the moon and stars glow. This works really well in a dark room with a black light. Turn the lights back on.
7. Read verses 20 through 23. The students will want to add the fish and birds. These can be drawn or the stickers may be used. (The stickers come in packs that have birds and fish.) Read verses 24 through 25. The students may draw some animals or again use the animal sticker packs.
8. Read verses 26 and 27. Now let's draw ourselves on our mural. We can draw ourselves as stick people.



Continued from page 6.

Go!

CONTINUED

“What do you think it means to be made in God’s image and created in His likeness? What are some things about human beings that make them special to God? (They can worship God and have a relationship with Him. He loves them so much, that He gives them the opportunity to have eternal life someday in His kingdom.) Because God made humans in His image, it is important that we honor and respect each other.” (Tip: your students may ask who was with God in verse 26. Let us make man in our image. You may want to point out that God could have been talking with angels. There are several stories throughout the scriptures that describe the angels looking like men.)

“Let’s complete our mural by writing our Key Quest Verse on a piece of paper. Have students use different colored markers to write words of verse. Now let’s tape our verse above our masterpiece mural.”



Quest Connection

Place the newsprint paper on an area of the wall. (You could use a class bulletin board, also.) “We are going to make our own world! Let’s make ours in the same order that God did, because He is the perfect Creator. Look at our paper. There is nothing there. God made something great out of nothing.”



Close

“Just like God rested on the seventh day, let’s sit back for a minute and look at what we have created. God’s creation is incredible! He has made so many things, including human beings. We should respect God, because He made all of the heavens and earth from nothing. He is a wonderful Creator.”



GAME: Have students make up their own cards for another round of the game.

Go!



What Am I?



Materials: Index cards, tape

Procedure: Write the name of an animal, plant or heavenly body on an index card. Examples would be: elephants, trees, stars, sun, moon, planets, cloud, anteater . . . be creative. Stick the index cards on the back of each student. Tell them not to tell each other what the cards say. Have the students form a circle. One student will turn his back to the group. The other students read the card. He turns around facing the circle. When the teacher says go, the students have 30 seconds to act out through charades the object which was on the card. The student must try to guess what the others are describing. Remind them that there is no talking. Each student will have an opportunity to guess. If the 30 seconds runs out, then the group tells the student the object.



Quest Connection

“It seems like we always take the beauty of God’s creation for granted. We are going to play a game to help us really focus on some of God’s wonders.”



Close

“It was fun acting out these things from God’s creation. He has made so many wonderful things. He has done all of this, just like our Key Quest verse says, ‘It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heaven; I marshaled their starry hosts’” (Isaiah 45:12).



FOOD: Check for food allergies!

Go!



Eden Fruit



Materials: Several types of fruit (such as apples, bananas, peaches, oranges and kiwi), napkins, a knife

Procedure: Cut each piece of fruit so the students can see the seeds inside. As students enjoy the fruit, discuss the varieties of plant life that God has created for our food. "Have you ever planted in a garden or sown seeds? Do you have fruit trees at home or have you ever visited an orchard? What is your favorite vegetable or fruit? Have you ever thought about God making the different parts of plants edible? For instance: on different types of plants the flower clusters are cauliflower, fruits are tomatoes, leaves are spinach, roots are carrots, seeds are peas, stems are asparagus, tubers are potatoes and bulbs are onions. Each part of the plant performs a function for that plant and also tastes great. God gave mankind the fruits and vegetables to eat. This only shows us once again how God made His creation to work together. We have many kinds and colors of wonderful foods to enjoy. God gave us all these good things. Let's look at our Key Quest Verse."



Quest Connection

"God said that the land should produce vegetation, seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it. God made these on the third day. How did God describe what he saw? It was good."



Close

Ask a student to close in prayer.

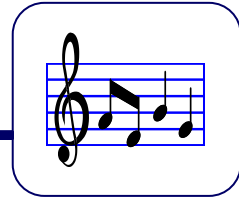


MUSIC

Go!



Creation Praise



Materials: Write the song on the chalkboard or on poster board, a CD or tape of this song, a CD or tape player, (You may want to ask someone that plays an instrument to play the song and sing with the class.) song: “Let everything That Has Breath” by Matt Redman (available in Christian bookstores).

Procedure: “We are going to listen to a song today that is very popular. In it we sing about everything that has breath should praise the Lord. This song is based on Psalm 150:6. It states, ‘Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.’ David was famous for writing and singing songs to God. Those are called psalms. He wanted to praise God. In this Psalm, we are told to praise Him for His acts of power. We can certainly see that God’s mighty acts of power are displayed in the creation that surrounds us.”

Song:

(chorus) “Everything that, everything that, everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise You in the morning, Praise you in the evening, Praise you when I’m young
and when I’m old. Praise you when I’m laughing, Praise you when I’m grieving,
Praise you every season of the soul.

If we could see how much You’re worth, Your power, Your might, Your endless
love, Then surely we would never cease to praise You (chorus)

Praise You in the heavens, Join with the angels, Praising You forever and a day,
Praise You on the earth now, Join with creation, Calling all the nations to Your
praise

If they could see how much You’re worth, Your power, Your might, Your endless
love, Then surely they would never cease to praise You.”



Continued from page 10.

Go!



Quest Connection

“I am going to play a song for you. I want you to listen to the many ways that God is praised.”



Close

“Try to make a special time to read one of the Psalms this week. Notice the many times that God is praised.”



GUEST QUEST: This activity is a great way for students to get to know members of your congregation!

Go!



Star Gazer



Materials: Invite someone from your congregation who enjoys astronomy. He/she can bring books from the library or pictures that have been downloaded from the Internet about planets and stars. (If you do not have anyone who has astronomy as a hobby, a science teacher who has taught in this area might enjoy being a guest.)

Procedure: Ask your guest to share the following information:

1. How did you become interested in astronomy?
2. Do you have a favorite planet and some interesting facts about that planet you would share with us?
3. Do you own a telescope?
4. Do you have a favorite book about astronomy?
5. Do you have a favorite verse in the Bible which talks about the heavens, stars or sky? (Have class look it up.)
6. What do think is the most beautiful thing you have observed in the heavens?



Quest Connection

“Our Key Quest Verse from the book of Isaiah tells us that God stretched out the heavens and marshaled their starry hosts. Marshaled means that God arranged them in order. God has created a huge sky with countless planets and stars. These billions of stars and planets are very beautiful and offer many interesting facts for people to discover.

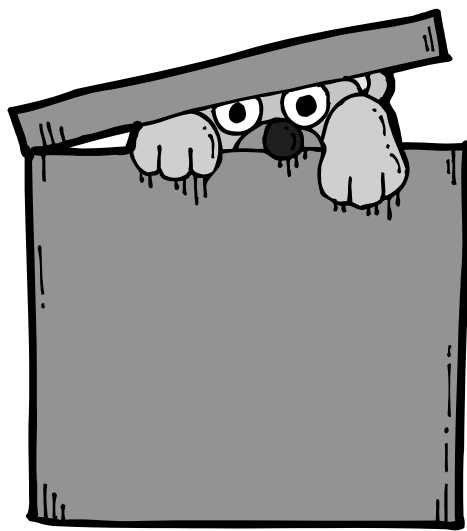
_____ (guest's name) is here to share some information about astronomy. Astronomy is the study of anything beyond the Earth's atmosphere.”



Close

“I can see why _____ (guest's name) really enjoys viewing the many interesting objects in space. God has certainly created a wonderful universe for us. Let's say our Key Quest Verse together, ‘It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts’” (Isaiah 45:12).

Create a new kind of animal and draw it below. What would you name it? What would be some of its characteristics? What would be its habitat?



Design a cover for a jewel case for a CD about God's creation,
with the title below.

SING HIS PRAISES!

CREATION PRAISE

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.

To Him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

Who by His understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever.

Who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever.

Who made the great lights-- His love endures forever.

The sun to govern the day, His love endures forever.

The moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever.

All: Glorify the Lord with me. Let us exalt His name together.

He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.

He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth:

The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.

How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord.

—Psalm 34, 104, 136

In the beginning...

G S D F T H H D U T
S N N A H S T E L H
W U I A Y I R T L G
I E N N E F A A I I
N O O M N C E E G N
B I R D S I O R H M
R E S T E D G C T G
S N E V A E H E O Y
A N I M A L S D B P
W D Y M A N K I N D

Find the words below in the above word search. They will either be across, down or diagonal. Be careful . . . Some may be backwards or upside-down!

ANIMALS
CREATED
FISH
LIGHT
NIGHT
SUN

BEGINNING
DAY
GOD
MANKIND
OCEANS

BIRDS
EARTH
HEAVENS
MOON
RESTED