

IN THE BEGINNING

Bible Basis: Genesis 12

Bible Verse: Adapted from Genesis 5:1: "God made me."

Bible Point: God made everything.

STEP 1 | COME TOGETHER

Stuff you need: animal story pictures, printed and cut apart (included at the end of this lesson)

- Say, **Let's listen to some animal sounds and see if you can guess the animal.** Call up one volunteer and show an animal picture card. Instruct the child to make that animal's sound. Allow the other children to call out that animal's name. Repeat with different volunteers until all cards have been used.
- Say, **God made all these animals, and he made you too. Today we'll hear a Bible story that tells how God made everything.**

STEP 2 | HEAR THE STORY

Stuff you need: six pieces of construction paper labeled with large outlined numbers, markers, glue stick, cotton balls, blue tissue paper, leaves (real or artificial), star stickers, fish-shaped crackers, feathers, animal stickers, ink pad, baby wipes

- Display the numbers 1–6. Have the children count aloud with you as you point to each paper. Say, **When God made everything in the world, it took him six days. Let's see what God did on each day.**
- Say, **On the first day, God made light. He called the light day and the darkness night.** Color the top half of the number 1 yellow and the bottom half black. Say, **Show me what you do at night.** Children should pretend to sleep.
- Say, **On the second day, God made air and water.** Glue cotton balls to the top of the number 2 and crumpled tissue paper to the bottom to represent air and water. Say, **Show me how you breathe air.** Children should inhale and exhale deeply.
- Say, **On the third day, God made land, plants, and trees.** Add leaves to the number 3. Say, **Stretch your arms up in the air like the branches of a tree.**
- Say, **On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars.** Add star stickers to the number 4. Lead children in singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" while you add stickers.
- Say, **On the fifth day, God made fish and birds.** Add fish-shaped crackers and feathers to the number 5. Ask, **Who owns fish as pets? Who owns a bird?**

- Say, **On the sixth day, God made all the land animals. Then he made people.** Add a few animal stickers to the bottom of the number 6.
- Say, **On the seventh day, God rested. He was happy with all he created.**
- Say, **God made the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He also made every person on earth. He made you, and you are special to God.**
- Pray, **Thank you, God, for making the whole world. Thank you for making each one of us special. Amen.**
- Call children up one at a time to touch one finger to the ink pad and press a fingerprint onto the number 6. As they do so, have them repeat today's verse: "God made me." Immediately wipe each child's finger with a baby wipe.

STEP 3 | EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: GOD MADE EVERYTHING

Stuff you need: blue construction paper, glue sticks, items from "Hear the Story," "God made everything" strips (one per child)

Preparation: photocopy the "God made everything" strips, cut them apart

- Point to the six numbers you decorated during "Hear the Story." Say, **God made everything in the world, including you! Let's make our own pictures of God's creation.**
- Help children glue a "God made everything" strip to the top of their paper. Help children decorate their papers by adding stickers and gluing cotton balls, tissue paper, leaves, feathers, and fish.

OPTION 2: GOD MADE ME

Lead the song (sung to the tune of "A-Hunting We Will Go") and demonstrate the actions.

God made the sun,	<i>(hold hands overhead in a circle)</i>
And God made the sea,	<i>(mime swimming)</i>
God made all the animals,	<i>(flap arms at sides)</i>
And God made me!	<i>(point with two thumbs to chest)</i>
Thank you for the sun,	<i>(hold hands overhead in a circle)</i>
Thank you for the sea,	<i>(mime swimming)</i>
Thank you for the animals,	<i>(flap arms at sides)</i>
And thank you for me!	<i>(point with two thumbs to chest)</i>

OPTION 3: THANK YOU, GOD!

Stuff you need: items you can thank God for (e.g., piece of clothing, box of cereal, picture of family, Bible, etc.)

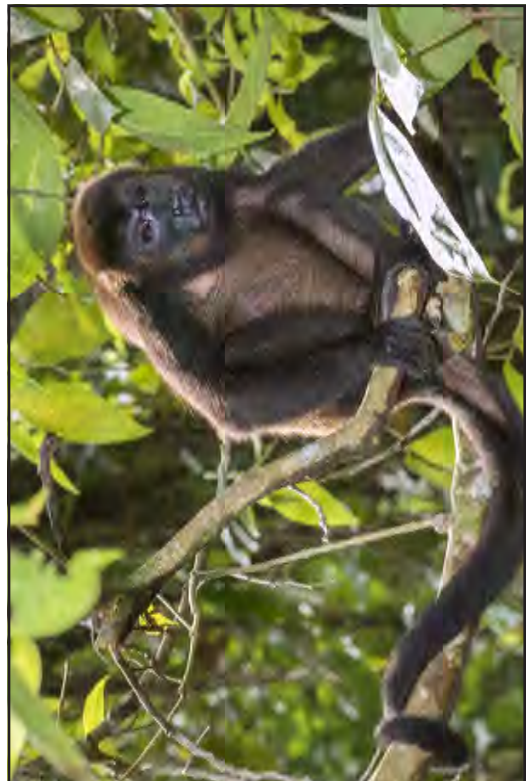
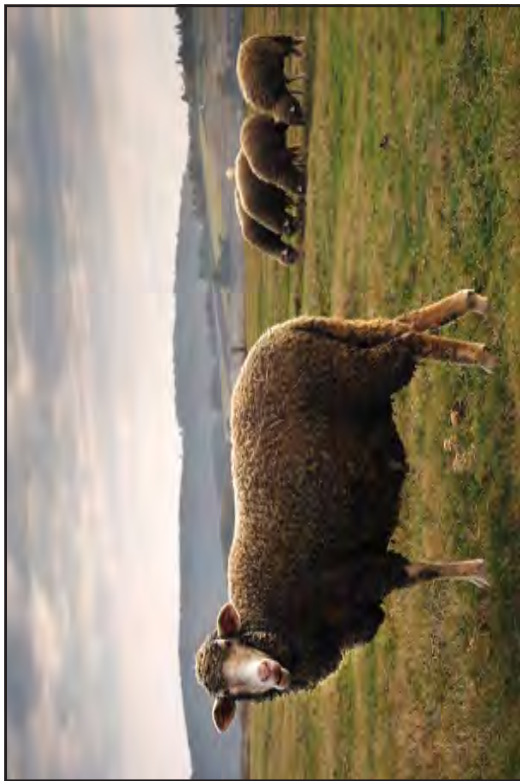
- Say, **God created so many good things! Let's thank God for all he created.**
- Sit in a circle. Have a volunteer hold up the first item. Explain, **God made food. Let's thank God for giving us food.** Lead all children in repeating with you, "Thank you, God!"
- Continue with each item, choosing a different volunteer each time.

OPTION 4: COPY CATS

Stuff you need: animal story pictures from "Come Together"

- Say, **God created every animal on land, in the sky, and in the water. Let's pretend to be some different animals that God created.**
- Show the first volunteer an animal card (or have the volunteer think of his or her own animal), and have the child act it out. Instruct the other children to copy the leader's sounds and actions. Ask, **What animal was that?** Allow the children to answer.
- Continue until every child has had a turn as leader.

STORY PICTURES



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