

1



CREATION

A Very Good Beginning

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Genesis 1 – 2

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- God has always existed and he is three in one – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – and they were all there at the beginning of time.
- God created heaven and earth, and everything in it, and it was all good.
- God made clear separations between land and sea; night and day; man and woman.
- God created people (Adam and Eve) to be the rulers of God's creation under the kingship of God.
- Adam and Eve were to love and obey God.
- When Adam and Eve trusted God and were obedient to him, God blessed them.

Memory Verse "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1 – NIRV)

ACNA Today's story of the Creation is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Catechism

Connections

Q 28 What is in the Old Testament? ...contains the record of God's creation...

Q 38 Who is God? ...God is one, eternally existing in three divine persons, the Holy Trinity... (Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit)

Q 44 Why do you call God the Father "Creator"? ...He is the creator of everything...

Q 45 How does recognizing God as Creator affect your understanding of his

creation? ...created in his image to be stewards of creation...

Suggested Materials, Props, and Costumes

Big story props:

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson Props:

- 3 felt circles (in the lesson, place them slightly overlapping each other to signify the Trinity being three in one)
- Trinity Poster (found on the last page of this lesson plan)
- Large black tablecloth (optional)
- Signs for children to hold: 'day', 'night', 'land', 'sea', 'man', 'woman'
- Name signs to hang around neck: 'Adam' and 'Eve'
- Sign saying 'Garden of Eden' to place on wall/easel
- Toy microphone or crown for "God" (optional)
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Memory Verse: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1 – NIRV)

(Found on the second to last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.



2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - Old Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the key concepts highlighted in this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

This picture shows us God's creation. Name some of the things you see that God created in the very beginning. (A man, a woman, the animals, earth, sun, and moon.) Everything that God made was VERY good!

I wonder what God is like.

I wonder how he made all of this.

I wonder why there is a crown above the earth.

I wonder what life was like in the very beginning.

Let's find out more in our story....



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Say to the children:* This year we are going to tell the story of God's Forever Kingdom, and each lesson will fit into that big story. What do you need to have a kingdom? A king, people for the king to rule over, and a land for the people to live in. In God's Forever Kingdom, God is the king, and this crown (*point to the crown*) represents God as king.

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say:* 'The big story of God's Forever Kingdom is found in the Bible. We know that it is a true story because the Bible is God's Word. There are two parts to the Bible - the Old Testament and the New Testament. Our first story is from Genesis, right at the beginning of the Bible, in the Old Testament.'

LESSON SUMMARY (Important introduction to the lesson): *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster: In Genesis, the very first verse in the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Today we will learn about: God, the beginnings of his wonderful creation, how people are made in His image, and what people are made for.*

Let's start with knowing more about God. God is a Trinity. The word "Trinity" means that God is three in one – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God always existed, even before creation. So, how did God create the world? The Bible tells us that "by his word", God created the heavens and the earth, and everything in them. "By his word", God created the plants and the animals and the sea and the sky. Then God created people, Adam and Eve. They were his most special creation because God made them in his image. What does "made in God's image" mean? It means that we are like God in many ways: we are intelligent, we can speak, and we can love. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. He made Adam and Eve to be rulers of his creation, to take care of it. God would be their loving king and they would be under his loving rule. They were meant to trust and obey him. By trusting and obeying God, they would receive His blessing, which is always the best way to live. One thing God told Adam that they must not do was to eat the fruit from one certain tree in the garden. Adam and Eve were meant to have an obedient and loving friendship with God. God said that everything that he made was good. It was excellent in every way.

STORY:

TEACHER: Let's talk about God.

ACTION: Bring out 3 felt circles.

TEACHER: God is three separate persons. God the Father (*place down one felt circle*), God the Son (*place down the second felt circle*), and God the Holy Spirit (*place down the third felt circle*). But he is one God.

ACTION: *Show Trinity poster*

TEACHER: Let's take a look at this Trinity poster that will help us understand how God can be three and one at the same time. Here we see the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We see that the Father is God, The Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. They are three persons that are different from each other, but one God.

TEACHER: Now, let's talk more about God and the beginning of creation. The VERY beginning! That was surely a *l-o-n-g* time ago!

Can you imagine what it was like before anything existed in the world? Let's turn off the lights, and read a few scripture verses from the Bible.

ACTION: *Turn off the lights so that the room is dark. (Warn the children that you are going to turn off the lights. Ensure that younger children are seated beside a teacher/helper.) Another option to create darkness is to have a black tablecloth and have the children go under the tablecloth so it is dark.*

TEACHER: In the beginning of time, everything was dark. But God ALWAYS existed – even before the world was created. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all there at the beginning of time, creating the world.

Imagine.... there was no earth, no light, no plants, no animals, no people, no buildings, no computers. Then, into this total darkness, God spoke:

GOD (student): "Let there be light!"

ACTION: *Turn on the lights immediately (or take off the black tablecloth) as the voice sounds: "Let there be light."*

TEACHER: Wow....this is exciting.....God was excited too!

The Bible tells us that God named the light "day" and the darkness "night."

ACTION: *Give two children the signs "day" and "night" and have them stand either side of you.*

TEACHER: God also separated the water from the air. God called the air "sky."
Then God said,

GOD (student): "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry

land will appear.”

TEACHER: “God named the dry land, “earth” and the water, “seas.” God saw that this was **good**”.

ACTION: *Give two children the signs “land” and “sea” and have them stand either side of the other two children.*

TEACHER: God made the earth to produce plants.

Then God made the sun, the moon and the stars.

Then God filled the water with large sea animals, fish and other living things, and he made birds to fly in the air above the earth.

Then God said,

GOD (student): “Let the earth be filled with animals, and let each produce more of its own kind.”

TEACHER: While God was creating, he was making clear separations. He made day and night. *(Use your right and left hands to point to children with signs.)*

He made land and sea *(point to children with signs).*

Then God created people in his image. He made a man and a woman. They were also different from each other.

ACTION: *Give two children the signs “man” and “woman” and have them stand either side of the others.*

TEACHER: God blessed the man and the woman and told them to have many children. God wanted them to be the masters of the earth, and to rule over everything that moves on the earth!

God saw that it was very **good**.

On the seventh day, God rested. “God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day.”

ACTION: *Have the “man” and the “woman” stand together in front of you.*

TEACHER: God created people for a loving relationship with him and each other, and to take care of the world that he had made. God named the man, Adam, and the woman's name was Eve. *(Hang the name signs around the necks of the two children.)* Adam and Eve were very special to God because they were made in God's image. Being made in God's image means that we are like God in many

ways. We can love, be kind, be creative, speak and do many wonderful things.

TEACHER: Do you know that you are also special to God? Do you know why you are special to God? You are special because you are made in God's image! We are made to be like him. The Bible tells us that God is love and that he loves each person in the world because we are made in his image.

Now, God put Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden called the "Garden of Eden."

ACTION: *Bring Adam and Eve over to the sign saying "Garden of Eden".*

TEACHER: God told Adam and Eve to look after and rule over his beautiful creation.

But most importantly, they were to love and obey God. God also told them that they could eat *anything* they wanted in the garden, but they were not to eat from *one* certain tree. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate from that tree, they would die.

God was teaching Adam and Eve that he was their king, and they were to obey Him. Adam and Eve trusted and obeyed God, and God blessed them.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (He is love, a Trinity, eternal, creative, and a loving King)
- What did God make? (the world)
- How did he make creation? (by his word...out of nothing...he spoke what was to be created)
- What clear separations did God make when he created the world? (land and sea; day and night, man and woman).
- Where did God place Adam and Eve? (in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden)
- What did God tell Adam and Eve to do with his creation? (to take care of it)
- Why are you and every person ever born special to God? (we are created in God's image)
- What does it mean to be made in God's image? (to be like God in many ways: be

able to love, to be kind, to speak, to be creative, etc.)

- What was the *one* thing that God said Adam and Eve were *not* to do? (to eat the fruit of one certain tree)
- What would happen if they did? (they would die)
- What does eternal mean? OR Did God ALWAYS exist? (yes, God ALWAYS existed. There was never a time that God did not exist. All three persons of the Trinity are eternal.)
- Who are the three Persons of God? (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
- Who was there at the beginning? (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
- How does believing that God created the world for us, change how we live? (makes us want to obey him, be thankful and take care of creation)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

What are some of the beautiful things that you enjoy that God has made for us? (Family, relationships, creation) How can we show God that we appreciate these things? (Thanking God for them, taking care of them.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Arrange a "Creation Table" for children to discover and touch some of the wonderful items from God's creation (e.g. peacock feather, pine cones, stones, any natural object or even toy replicas of animals).
- Take the children outside to find natural items from God's creation.
- Have lots of calendar pictures of creation and creatures. Ask the children to choose their favourite and then tell why they like it. Say a prayer of thanks to God for making such wonderful things.
- Take individual or group photos of the children and make a display, "I am made in the image of God." (This theme will be taught in greater detail in Year 2, Lesson 9.)
- Use the student handout to draw the earth, sun or other aspects of creation. Do the word search on student handout.
- Use an inflated plastic globe available at a teacher's store or dollar store. Toss this around the circle of children and have them call out something that was created by God in Genesis.



Creation Discovery Table

"In the beginning,
God created the
heavens and the
earth."

(Genesis 1:1)

