Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

In order to best prepare your heart and mind for the lesson this week, take time to read through Genesis 1:1–2:3 and John 1:1–3.

What scriptural background can we possibly give here? Before Genesis nothing but God in eternity past existed. Genesis 1 is the beginning of the universe, time, space, history, and all of life as we know it. In addition, Genesis is foundational to the rest of Scripture. It sets the tone for God's eternal plan of redemption.

From the very first verse, Scripture assumes God's existence without trying to prove it in any way. We must avoid using arguments that attempt to prove God by demanding evidence in the natural world. Man's need to prove God implies his intention to elevate his own autonomous reason above God's Word.

Though obviously presented with very little "background," the information given to us in the early chapters of Genesis is foundational to many important doctrines. Included in these are the Trinity (Genesis 1:26), death (Genesis 2:17), marriage (Genesis 2:24), sin (Genesis 3:6), the gospel (Genesis 3:15), and clothing (Genesis 3:21). The book of Genesis is to be taken as literal history provided by God to give us a glimpse of His majesty, wonder, creativity, and eternal purpose.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This first verse in the Bible answers many questions for us, such as "Where did everything come from?" "Is there a God?" "When did time begin?" These are questions Christians often have trouble answering—not because they lack faith, but because they don't realize that answers to questions like these can be found in Scripture when it is examined closely.

When did time begin? Time itself began when God began to create the universe. He created time for man, but He Himself is not bound by time. He is eternal—the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8). God confirms this concept when He tells us that to Him a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day (2 Peter 3:8).

There are many opposing views of the Genesis account of creation that manipulate God's Word to include millions of years (the old-earth view). Many will try to persuade us that the creation account must be "proven" before being believed. Realistically, however, no account of origins can be proven—it must be accepted by faith. Christians must stand firm on biblical authority—God told us in His Word what happened and how He created: "By faith we understand that the worlds [universe] were framed [created] by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3).

Does the order of creation matter? God specifically and systematically presents the order of His creation over a six-day period—so, yes, it does matter. The creation and evolution positions are in direct opposition to each other. Creationists believe God's Word as recorded. Evolutionists believe in millions of years of slow change, from non-life to simple cells, to more complex plants and animals, and eventually to the organisms that exist today, including man. Those who embrace this position must reject God's Word because evolution does not harmonize with God's account of creation. Here are a few examples of the more obvious differences:

Evolution	Creation in Genesis
Sun before earth	Earth before sun
Sun before light on earth	Light on earth before sun
Stars before earth	Earth before stars
Earth at same time as planets	Earth before other planets
Sea creatures before land plants	Land plants before sea creatures
Reptiles before birds	Birds before reptiles
Land animals before trees	Trees before land animals
Creation took billions of years	God created in six normal 24-hour days.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Over the past 200 years, many scientists have developed unbiblical ideas and taught that the earth formed around 4.5 billion years ago. Unfortunately, many Christians have attempted to merge these long ages of geological time into the Bible's account of creation. A few of these views are:

1. The day-age view: a compromise belief that the days of Genesis 1 are actually vast ages of different lengths; based on secular dating methods.
2. The gap theory: a compromise belief that a vast

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period of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 into which the geologic eras can be fit.

3. The framework hypothesis: a compromise belief that Genesis 1 is written in a non-literal, non-chronological way; based on secular dating methods.
4. Theistic evolution: a compromise belief that suggests God used evolutionary processes to create the universe and life on earth over billions of years.
5. Progressive creation: a compromise belief accepting that God has created organisms in a progressive manner over billions of years to accommodate secular dating methods.

These are all theories that attempt to fit evolution and/or millions of years into the Bible rather than taking God's Word for what it says.

Many Christians feel that the age of the earth is an unimportant side issue and that discussing it detracts from the gospel message. However, Christians must understand that *all* of Scripture is foundational to our faith. If we can set aside a literal six-day creation because it is considered "unscientific" or unpopular, then at what point do we determine the rest of the Bible to be true? Can we teach a virgin birth or a literal Resurrection? When we read the genealogy of Christ, which goes back to Adam, can it be taken literally? Believing the historical account of Genesis 1–11 is foundational to believing the rest of the Bible, and essential for understanding the gospel message.

For more information on this topic, go to the Online Resource Page.

BEFORE THE THRONE

Eternal Lord, you are my Creator. Please bless my class this week. Where I am weak, be my strength. Help me be gentle and patient as you are so patient with me. Use me as a vessel to speak the truth of your Word clearly and accurately. You are a loving God. Help me to love my students with your love, Lord. You know my students intimately. Please meet their needs this week. Minister to their individual families, their growing minds, and their precious souls. Draw them in such a way that they come to class this week thirsty to learn more about you!

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COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will color the God Made . . . Flowers coloring sheets. Talk to the children about all the different kinds of flowers God created.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.

REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, consider reviewing the previous quarter's lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.

Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Bible, Flip Chart, stuffed animal, pictures or samples of created things, completed Creation Week picture from Activity 2, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer Page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented here. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today, Thanksgiving prayers are suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of Thanksgiving. Think of something you are especially thankful for.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

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I'll start. Dear God, I am so thankful for all you do for me. Today, I thank you for . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to pray saying thank you for something God has done for them.

Very good! Now let's get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? What is in this Bible? *God's holy Word!*

? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*

? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

And that means we can believe what it says! Before we read God's Word today, I have a question for you.

Show the pictures or items you brought with you one at a time asking, "Who made this?" after each one. The answer, of course, is God made it.

➤ As you teach this refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

That's right! God made all these things and it was only about 6,000 years ago!

? How do we know that God made all these things? Let me give you a hint. *Hold up your Bible. The Bible tells us.*

That's right and we are going to look here right now!

Genesis 1:1

I am going to read the very first thing God said in the Bible. Listen carefully. This comes from the book of Genesis and it tells us how God made everything! Listen carefully. *Show the verse to the children. Point out that it is in the very beginning. Read Genesis 1:1.*

? Who created the heavens and the earth? *God.*

? What is another word for created? *Made.*

That's right. God made the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:3

? What did God make first? Let me read another verse. Listen carefully. *Read Genesis 1:3. Light.*

? Yes! He made light. But how did He make it? *Read the verse again and emphasize that God "said" and there was light.*

Wow! He just SAID, "Let there be light" and it happened, just like He said! Isn't that awesome? Let me try that. *Get up and turn the lights off or have your assistant turn them off.*

Let there be light! Let there be light! . . . Hmmmm! Let there be light! No light. I guess we'll have to turn the switch back on. It doesn't work when I say it,

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does it? No. God is the ONLY one who has power to make things just by speaking. And when God spoke in the beginning, EVERYTHING was created!

Let's take a look here at our Flip Chart. The Bible says that God made light and dark. And it says that there was evening and morning on the first day. *Refer to Day One on the Flip Chart.*

➤ As you go through the days of creation do hand motions for evening—hands on cheek like you're sleeping; and morning—rubbing eyes and stretching arms out. Then hold up fingers for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. This will help the children understand that these were six ordinary 24-hour days.

? So how long did it take God to make the light and dark? If there was evening and morning on the first day? *One day.*

? What do we do in the evening at the end of the day when it gets dark? *Go to sleep.*

? And what do we do in the morning when it gets light again? *Wake up.*

That's right! One day is 24 hours! *Do the hand motions for evening and morning.*

So God made the light and the dark on the first day! Then it was evening *Do a sleeping motion with hands on cheek like you're lying down.* . . . and it was morning *Do a waking up motion, opening eyes and stretching.* . . . the first day. *Hold one finger up.*

Now let's keep going. The Bible says God made something else the next day! From now on whenever you hear me say "it was evening and morning," I want you to do the motions. *Do the motions again for evening (sleeping) and morning (awake).*

Point to the next section on the Flip Chart with the sky area. The Bible tells us God SAID, "Let there be a sky." He made the sky on the second day! And it was evening and it was morning, the second day. *Do the motions for sleeping and waking. Hold up two fingers.*

God wasn't finished yet! On to the third day. And God SAID let the dry land appear. And out of the dry land came grass, trees, flowers, and fruit. And it was evening and it was morning, the third day. *Do the motions for sleeping and waking. Hold up three fingers.*

Genesis 1:11

? Now how is God making all of these things? Who can tell me? *Read Genesis 1:11 from your Bible emphasizing "said."*

? So God is speaking, just saying the words and all of these things are being made. What do you think God made on the next day? Day Four? *Refer to the Flip Chart. Allow for quick answers.*

The Bible tells us that God SAID, let there be lights in the sky. It tells us He made a light for the day . . . and a light for the night.

? What lights are those? What great lights are in the sky in the day and in the night? *Sun and moon.*

That's right. And God made all the stars, too. Then the Bible says . . . are you ready? It was evening and morning, the fourth day. *Do sleeping/waking motions together; hold up four fingers.*

Wow! God sure is powerful! He made all those things just by SPEAKING.

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? Ok, here we go on the fifth day. Ready? Then what did God SAY? *Refer to the Flip Chart. Allow for answers.*

God SAID, "Let there be birds in the sky and sea creatures in the water." *Point to the next section on the Flip Chart.*

? Are you all ready? And it was evening and it was morning, the fifth day. *Do the sleeping/waking motions; hold up five fingers.*

Look at all the beautiful things God made! He just SPOKE and they all came to be. The Bible tells us it was ALL GOOD! But He wasn't finished yet.

? What kinds of things did He make on the sixth day? *Allow for answers.*

Genesis 1:24

Let me read to you exactly what the Bible says. *Read Genesis 1:24 emphasizing "said."*

God made all kinds of land animals, creeping things, and beasts of the field. He made things like the elephants, dogs, cats, giraffes, even dinosaurs. He made them on the sixth day of creation. In fact, the Bible says, it was evening and morning, the sixth day. *Do the sleeping waking motions; hold up six fingers.*

Wait a minute, I see people in this picture! *Refer to Flip Chart.*

Genesis 1:27a

But people aren't land animals. God must have created something else. Let's see. Listen carefully. *Read just the first phrase in Genesis 1:27 from your Bible.*

? So what else did God make? *Man!*

That's right. God made all the land animals and they were very special. But, He made man even more special. God made man in His image. Nothing else God made was made in His image. We are God's special creation!

We were made to be "extra special" to God. And He loves us "extra special," too! That's why He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us so we could love Him and know Him forever. Isn't that wonderful? What a wonderful God!

? How did God create all of this? *He just spoke. He said, "let it be" and it was.*

? How many days did it take for God to make everything? *Count the days on the Flip Chart. Six.*

Wow! God is amazing! God just spoke and everything in the whole world was created in six days. He is powerful! There is a special word that means "all-powerful." Listen to this word. *Sound out each syllable alone, then have children repeat it several times after you. Om-ni-po-tent..*

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SONG

➤ Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse page and Song page during this part of the lesson.

Let's stand up and we'll learn a new song about how God created everything. This is right from the Bible. It is our memory verse. *Refer to the pictures on the Exodus 20:11 Memory Verse Flip Chart page as you teach this song to the tune of "Jingle Bells." Repeat as time allows.*

Wow! That was great! We'll be singing that every week. That will help us learn our memory verse—Exodus 20:11.

And we can review all seven days of God's creation by singing the "God Created!" song. *Sing through the song once or twice as time allows. You may want to add clapping, motions, stomping, or marching.*

Lyrics to this song can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Can You Say "Om-ni-po-tent"?

MATERIALS

- ☐ Beanbag or soft, spongy ball

INSTRUCTIONS

This will be a continuation of the circle time today.

We are going to play a game now using our new word, "omnipotent." I want you all to say that after me. *Have the children repeat it several times.*

While standing in a circle, children will pass the bean bag or ball around the circle and each child will say one syllable of the word, om-ni-po-tent. When all the syllables have been said, everyone should shout out the whole word together OMNIPOTENT! and then shout out ALL-POWERFUL! Like this: om (pass) ni (pass) po (pass) tent (pass) OMNIPOTENT (pass) ALL-POWERFUL! (pass) and repeat. Keep going around the circle. Use variations like slower, faster, louder, softer, etc.

Have the children sit down in the circle when you're finished with the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? What is our new word? *Omnipotent.*

? Who remembers what our new word means? *All-powerful.*

? That's right! And who is the only one that is all-powerful? *God.*

Only God is omnipotent!

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2 Creation Week Sticker Picture

MATERIALS

- ☐ One 8-1/2 X 11 foam sheet cut in half for each student
- ☐ Variety of foam stickers shaped as created things: sun, moon, stars, plants, animals
- ☐ Or use colored construction paper and regular stickers instead.

INSTRUCTIONS

It may be easier to keep children in the circle and show an example of the activity before they move to the tables. Have your assistant set up the craft materials at each place while you and the children are still in the circle.

Now we will be making some sticker pictures to remind us of how omnipotent God is. He is all-powerful. He spoke and everything was created.

When I say, "Go," I want you to move quietly and walk to the table. At the table is a sheet of foam for each of you and some stickers. Peel the paper off of the sticker and stick it onto your foam to make a picture of some of the wonderful things God created.

Ready? Let's go!

If you do not have self-adhesive stickers and foam, students may put stickers or draw items onto construction paper.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Review the items God created on each day using the Flip Chart as the children decorate their foam or paper.

? Are we omnipotent? *No!* Can we make pretty things? *Yes.*

That's right. We can make some things, like pictures out of stickers and crayons to remind us of the wonderful things that God has created. But only God can make things by just saying so because only He is . . .

? What's our new word? *Omnipotent!*

That's right only God is the omnipotent Creator.

Memory Verse

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse card in the Flip Chart. Sing the song again. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on his own.

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Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Let's take a look at our Flip Chart again. Remember, God spoke and everything was created! He is all-powerful. He created everything in six normal days. The Bible said—get ready—"it was evening and it was morning, the (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth) day!" *Rehearse the motions for the students. Have them do it with you.*

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible says that God created man—people—in His image. We are His very special creation. We are not animals; we are people.

➤ *Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.*

Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for being a loving and omnipotent God.
- Thank Him for all the beautiful things He has made.
- Thank Him for making each of us special and different from the animals.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

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Song Sheet

EXODUS 20:11—THE LORD MADE

(To the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Exodus 20:11!
(Everyone shout!)
In six days, in six days,
(Jingle bells, jingle bells,)
The Lord made the heavens and the earth.
(Jingle all the way.)
God made the heavens and the earth, the sea,
(Oh, what fun it is to ride,)
And all that is in the—em!
(In a one-horse open slei—eigh!)

In six days, in six days,
The Lord made the heavens and the earth.
God made the heavens and the earth, the sea,
And all that is in them! Hey!
Exodus 20:11!

GOD CREATED!

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

Hold up 1 finger for Creation Day 1.
God made day, God made night,
(This old man, he played one,)
God made everything in sight.
(He played knick-knack on my thumb.)
So let's stand up, turn around,
(With a knick-knack paddywhack,)
Thank God for His grace.
(Give a dog a bone.)
With a big, happy smile on our face!
(This old man came rolling home.)

Hold up 2 fingers for Creation Day 2.
He made the air, the blue sky too.
He knew exactly what to do.
So let's stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace,
With a big, happy smile on our face!

Hold up 3 fingers for Creation Day 3.
He made the plants and the land,
From the hardest rock to the softest sand.
So let's stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 4 fingers for Creation Day 4.
He made the stars, the moon, the sun.
Exploring the sky is so much fun.
So let's stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 5 fingers for Creation Day 5.
He made the fish, the birds that fly;
We see them daily in the sky.
So let's stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 6 fingers for Creation Day 6.
All the animals that roam the land,
He even created woman and man.
So let's stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

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