

The Bible Account of Creation

Lesson 25a — God Created the Universe

Lesson 25b — God Created the Plants and Animals

Lesson 25c — God Created Man

Lesson 25d — God Created Me

OVERVIEW

Our fall quarter opens with a unit on the subject of Creation. As your students begin the new school year, they will no doubt be studying many aspects of life around us, for creation is everywhere. It is evident in the humming of insects and the singing of birds; it exists in the icy polar regions and in parched deserts; it is present under the sea's surface and high in the atmosphere.

Earth is packed with life so abundant and varied as to stagger the imagination. And as your students become aware of the complex and wonderful world we live in, the question is sure to come: How did it all start? As they think about the big things that amaze them and the little things that stir their imagination, to what will they attribute them? How can such things be explained?

As Sunday school teachers, we have a great privilege

and a tremendous responsibility to help our students understand and believe the biblical account of Creation. And in this unit, as well as merely studying the chronological order of events, we will be focusing on the thought of **why** God created.

Our first lesson deals with the formation of the universe, bringing out that it was created to declare the glory of God and reveal His power. The second lesson explains the creation of plants and animals, emphasizing that these were made for God's pleasure and for man's enjoyment. The next lesson deals with why God created man, with the students learning that man was made to praise and glorify God, and was given dominion over all the rest of creation. Our final lesson in the series focuses on why God created us as individuals, stressing that each person is special to God.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Review the lessons in this unit by giving a true and false quiz. Make statements regarding the lessons, having pupils respond by standing up if the statement is true and by remaining seated if it is false. Some sample ideas: God thought the most special thing He created was the hippopotamus. God made people to be His friends. God gave each of the people He created a name.

Draw a large grid on a chalkboard or posterboard. Explain to your group that you want them to help you fill in the blanks with letters that spell a special mystery message about the lessons in this unit. Bring a number of pictures, having each one start with a letter that is needed in the grid (A-apple, R-road, T-tree, etc.). Hold up these pictures, allowing your group to tell you what the item is and what letter it begins with. Fill in the blanks with letters until at last the message is revealed — "Created for God's Glory."

Bring a large box with a lid, and put the words, "What Did God Make?" on the side. One week ahead arrange to have each one in your group, or each class, bring some item from nature that they will keep as a surprise. Put one item in the box and close it, not allowing your group to know what is inside. Allow the students to ask questions to help them guess what the item is, letting the person or class who brought the item answer the questions. When the group is able to guess the object, another item is secretly placed in the box and questioning begins again.

CONTEST IDEAS

Every Sunday have each teacher ask his class questions pertaining to the lesson that day, or have the children name the things God made. Be sure to keep track of the number of answers each child gives. The last Sunday of the month the winners from each class could participate in a competition similar to a spell-down quiz. The last one standing would receive a prize.

For an individual contest within your class, provide each child with a copy of the world at the beginning of the unit (see Patterns). On the first Sunday, let them add the parts of the universe for bringing their Bible, knowing the memory verse, etc. On the second Sunday, they can add plants and animals to their world for these various accomplishments. On the third Sunday, add people to their chart. On the fourth Sunday, give them a yellow happy-face sticker for themselves, and happy faces of other colors for the other accomplishments.

BULLETIN BOARDS

THINKING OF GOD'S CREATION will be the theme of this bulletin board idea (see Patterns). Feature silhouettes of each of your students. Use the overhead projector light or any other bright light that you can shine onto a wall. Seat the child so that his face is in profile, creating a shadow behind the child. Trace the outline onto white paper. Cut out the silhouettes and mount them on a dark background. Write the title across the top of the board. Each Sunday let the children write or draw inside their silhouette something that the Lord created — something they like to think about. Or, they could write in their favorite memory verse for this unit. This board could be used to help teach the last lesson in this unit because each silhouette is unique — the children look different and also their thoughts are different.

God created man to love and glorify Him. Let your students help you make a bulletin board showing God they love Him and want to glorify Him. Put together the GOD CREATED ME! bulletin board (see Patterns). Subtitle the board "Children Who Love the Lord." You can either trace their hands inside the church outline or use tempera paint and then press their handprints onto the paper church. Make the church large enough so all your students have room for their handprints. They can either write their names inside or underneath their handprints.

Let the children help you create the SHINING STARS bulletin board (see Patterns). Cover your board with black or dark blue paper to represent the nighttime sky. Make the title letters from white paper. Give the students different materials from which they can "create" stars (paper and crayons or felt pens, foil, construction paper, fabric, old cards, etc.). After the children have made their stars let them hang them in the nighttime sky on the board. Explain to them that just as God's stars and each of their stars are different they, too, are unique — God created them.

From construction paper, make a large tree and some apples (see Patterns). Put the words A VERSE A DAY

KEEPS THE DEVIL AWAY on the side of the board as shown. Write some verses in the middle of the apples and place them on the tree.

UNIT SONGS

"My God Is So Great"
"The Birdies in the Treetop"
"Praise Him, Praise Him"
"Let All the Little Children Praise the Lord"
"Praise Ye the Lord"
"Today" — The First Sunday Sing-a-long — Maranatha for Kids
"Jesus Is a Giver" — Here We Come Rejoicing — Manna Records (Alexandria House)
"It's a Miracle" — The Bill Gaither Trio, The Very Best of the Very Best for Kids — (Alexandria House)

UNIT PROJECTS

Have each child assemble a creation mobile using the moon, stars, and sun; dog and flower; boy and girl; and the name tag. Cut an eight-inch circle out of light cardboard. Beginning at one side, cut around the circle on the lines to make a spiral (see Patterns). Have the children attach one shape each Sunday.

Each week give your class the creation assignment for that week: Week One — Wonder Watcher; Week Two — Super Searcher; Week Three — Careful Caretaker; Week Four — Mighty Me (see Patterns). If they bring back their completed assignment, reward them with a small prize.

CHART IDEAS

Make a REJOICE IN GOD'S CREATION bookmark for each child in your class (see Patterns). Have each child color one. If you laminate them or cover them with clear contact paper, they will last longer.

Use the God's Creation Picture Gallery (see Patterns) as a chart for this month. Let your students draw the picture in each frame on the appropriate Sunday.

Give your children one page for their Creation Books on each Sunday (see Patterns). Let them color the pages. On the final Sunday, give them the cover, punch the holes as indicated, and thread yarn through to complete the books.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

See Support Material for Unit 15.
God Made the World — coloring book, Concordia
Attendance card: "Creation" (A-1812) with animal stickers (A-1749) from Standard Publishing. Card has picture of garden: animal stickers are added for each Sunday to mark attendance. Can be used as an aid for the lessons.