

Adventures with GOD!

BEFORE CREATION (A.1.FALL.1)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 1:1-2
Key Verse	Genesis 1:1
Key Concept	The Bible tells me that God existed before anything in the world as I know it was made.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw or say what existed before creation. 2. Say the verse. 3. Express how a person feels who's completely alone

Life Application

Our society tries to explain creation in ways that leave out God's intervention. We have to continue to teach children that creation is God's wonderful work, as is written in the Bible. Everything in this world was made by God. This week the children will think about how the world would be without anything in it; as well as how the world would be like if we didn't take care of it.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Instruction and story	A dark place, white board/chalk board, erasable markers/chalk	5 minutes
Creation Calendar	Bible, illustrations, story, calendar	10 minutes
Activity	Paint, paper, old t-shirts	15 minutes
Snack, Prayer, songs	Music, guitar	10 minutes
Activity	white board/chalk board (or on a big piece of paper), markers, magazines pictures	10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Instruction and story: One way to introduce the idea of the creation of light is to experience darkness. Find a place in your church that is dark. Have the children hold hands as they go in and experience the darkness together. If you don't have such a place in your church, the children can simply close their eyes, or you could use blindfolds. Tell them:

-It's dark when we have our eyes covered, isn't it?

-Now when we close our eyes, what do we see?

-There's still a little bit of light that gets in, right?

-But what do we feel when it's completely dark?

-Before God made the world there was absolutely nothing, not even light.

(If the children aren't afraid of the dark, you can continue to talk to them with the lights off or their eyes covered or uncover their eyes and turn on the light)

"Before creation there was nothing. (Ask them, what would have been missing if there was nothing in the world. They might reply: people, animals, plants, the sun, stars, etc. Let them think about the different things that didn't exist before God created them.) But, you know what? There was someone special who existed when nothing else did. Do you know who? God existed before the creation. What do you think of that? How would it have felt for God to live in a world with nothing else? Not even the world existed. How would you feel to be completely alone? (Let them answer). Before creation, God didn't have anyone else."

During the next few Sundays we will learn about what God did so that we could be friends and live in this wonderful world. We are going to see what God made each day that was so special.

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(Note: Even though we don't know how long an actual "day" was in the creation story, the concept of 24 hours is much easier for children to comprehend. We don't need to try to explain the different interpretations of a "day". That would be extremely difficult for them to understand at this point)

Creation Calendar: Make a "calendar" as you find explained in this lesson (make sure to make it bigger than the image shows). While you explain that they will see what special things God made each day, they can help you hang up the blank calendar. Show them the squares that represent the days. Count with them to seven, showing them the 7 squares. Explain that next week they are going to put something in the first square which will represent what God made on the first day.

Activity: Using the finger paint, the children can draw on pieces of paper what they imagine it was like before creation. While they work you can be observing and conversing with them. If a child draws an animal, for example, it's an important moment to say, "What a beautiful dog you drew! But you know what, dogs were made by God and they didn't exist before he created them. Wouldn't the world be a sad place without dogs." (We don't want them to feel bad about their drawing, but instead use this time to help them see that before God created it, nothing existed except God.)

Snack, Prayer, Songs: Choose a song that you can sing together each week during this trimester. You can add new verses, every time you add something new to your creation calendar. You can also sing it during snack. It depends on your schedule and the time you have together. Always give thanks to God with words that children can understand. Don't worry about saying a long prayer, but rather something like, "God, thank you because you were here before the creation of the world when there was absolutely nothing. And thank you that you love me."

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Activity: When we study about creation it's very important to start to think about the responsibility we have to take care of it. You can draw two columns on the white board/chalk board (or on a big piece of paper). In one of the columns write the word "YES" and in the other the word "NO." (Or for children who don't read, you can draw two traffic lights, one in red and one in green. Explain that the traffic light in red shows us the things we shouldn't do and the one in green the things we should. Instead of writing words use drawings or images in the columns.) The children can name things that they can do to take care of the creation (like: watering plants and throwing trash in the waste basket) and things that don't help take care of the earth (like throwing garbage in the street or wasting paper). If you can find pictures from magazines that show what it looks like to take care of creation, it would be good to show them.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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CREATION ART PROJECT

Take a large piece of paper, as big as you can make it and put it up on one of the walls. Divide it into seven equal columns. Each Sunday add an illustration of the things God made that day.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7