

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD...

GENESIS 1-24 | YEAR ONE | FALL QUARTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR YOUNG ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

SS01F-E

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LESSON SEQUENCE

FALL QUARTER

The Lesson Sequence gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

LESSON ONE	Genesis 1:1–2:7
LESSON TWO	Genesis 2:8–3:24
LESSON THREE	Genesis 4–5
LESSON FOUR	Genesis 6–7
LESSON FIVE	Genesis 8–9
LESSON SIX	Genesis 10–11
LESSON SEVEN	Genesis 12–13
LESSON EIGHT	Genesis 14–15
LESSON NINE	Genesis 16–17
LESSON TEN	Genesis 18–19
LESSON ELEVEN	Genesis 20–21
LESSON TWELVE	Genesis 22–23
LESSON THIRTEEN	Genesis 24

WINTER QUARTER Genesis 25–50, Job

LESSON ONE | GENESIS 1:1-2:7

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Q&A
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The Bible
3–5 mins.

W.O.W!

Bible
3–5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Genesis 1:1–2:7
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Genesis 1:1
3–5 mins.

OVERVIEW

This quarter’s lessons will take the children through the first half of the Book of Genesis—the “Book of Beginnings.” Genesis provides us with stories of all of our “firsts,” including the first days of creation, our first parents, and our first sin.

Genesis 1:1-2:7 describes the first week and God’s powerful work of creation. He created the heavens and the earth in six days and all very good. He created man in His own image. He breathed life into mankind. God is shown to be Creator and Life Giver in these first verses of our Bible.

Make sure the children understand that God is Creator, and we are His creation. While we are made in the image of God, we cannot create in the same way He does—speaking words and making something out of nothing. The Creator/creature distinction is the first building block of a right view of the awesome God that we serve and must obey.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on the first two chapters of Genesis this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Christian education is all about telling the story of God to other people including children. The art of reading the Bible to children is not rocket science or quantum physics. It simply begins with your own love for God’s Word, which should then explode into a passionate telling of the stories of Scripture. It’s not about entertaining the children or keeping them from becoming bored; rather, it’s all about demonstrating how much YOU delight yourself in God’s Word (and how they should, too). Passion is contagious, and it will bring each story alive. Teaching God’s Word is not just for those with exciting, outgoing personalities, but for all believers who relish and cherish the lessons of Scripture. Enjoy reading the Bible to your students this quarter!



WELCOME

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *I have a question for you. Who made you? **Allow answers.** That's right, God made you! What else did God make? **Allow the children to name several things that God has made.** God has made everything, hasn't He?*

I am so glad that God made all things, including you and me. We are going to read today about exactly how He created all things. Are you ready to learn?



DRILL TIME

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Show the children your Bible. *Who can tell me what this is? **Allow answers.** Yes, this is my Bible. Do your parents have a Bible? Do you have a Bible? I hope so, because it is the most important Book in the world.*

*Who wrote the Bible? **Allow answers.** Yes, God wrote the Bible—that's why we also call the Bible "God's Word."*

But did you know that God used men to write down the words of His Bible? Yes, God moved on the hearts and minds of men who lived long ago to write these words down. Isn't that amazing?

Have the children stand up.

How would you like to stand up forever? I wouldn't! Guess what? God says that the Bible, His Word, stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** BY USE OF A TIMELINE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.



W.O.W!

Have the children seated and facing the board.

Say: *Each week in this class, we will learn a new word. Do you like learning new words? I do! God has given us the ability to speak and use wonderful words to learn more about Him.*

Our *W.O.W!* (Word of the Week) this week is **BIBLE**. **Write the word on the board.**

You all know what a BIBLE is—I showed you my BIBLE earlier. But I bet you don't know what the word BIBLE really means. It actually comes from an old word which means "BOOKS."

Show your Bible again. *So, the BIBLE is not just one BOOK; it is a collection of many BOOKS. That's how it got its name!*

So how many individual BOOKS make up the BIBLE? Allow guesses. There are actually sixty-six different books in the Bible. Isn't that amazing? And all of them have been given to us by God so that we can learn more about Him.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Say: *We are about to read our Bible Lesson today. Each week, we will talk briefly about when in HISTORY the events took place.*

The only thing we know for sure about WHEN today's lesson took place is that it happened "In the Beginning."

Many Bible scholars think that these events happened about 6000 years ago, maybe around 4000 B.C. (Before Christ). That's pretty long ago, isn't it?

Whenever these events happened, we do know that the Bible says they happened in the "beginning."



BIBLE INVESTIGATION

THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS. THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Use pictures of the Days of Creation as you read through Genesis 1-2.

Introduction: *We begin today in the Book of Genesis—the very first book of all of the sixty-six books of the Bible. What do you think the first Book of the Bible is about? Well, the word “Genesis” means BEGINNINGS. So this book will tell us all about our BEGINNINGS!*

Read Genesis 1:1.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Discussion: *Who created the heavens and the earth? [God.] When did He create them? [In the beginning!] God is our Creator. He created all things from the very beginning.*

Let's continue reading. Read verses 2-5.

²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Discussion: *What was here before God created all things? [Nothing.] Who was hovering over the waters? [The Holy Spirit.] What did God create on this first day? [Light.] How did God create light? [He just spoke, and it came to be.]*

Application: *Can you just speak and create something? Let's try it. I want to create an elephant. ELEPHANT! Did I make an elephant? No. We cannot create anything just by saying a word. But God can! He is the true CREATOR.*

Let's go on to the next day of Creation. Read verses 6-8.

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.



Remember to show pictures of each day.

Discussion: *What did God create on the second day? [The expanse.] Yes, He created expanse which separated the “waters from the waters.” We now have waters under the expanse (or sky), and waters above the sky.*

*Let’s see what God created next. **Read verses 9-13.***

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Discussion: *Wow! God created several things on Day Three. What were they? [Land, seas, vegetation, trees.] Now we have land to live on with plants growing on the land. Is God done creating now? No! There is still much more to be made.*

*Let’s continue. **Read verses 14-19.***

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Discussion: *What did God create on the Fourth Day? [The sun, moon and stars.] God had already created light, since He is the light of the world. Now, He put the sun and the moon and the stars in their places.*



APPLICATION POINTS ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF THE DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN BEING LEFT TO THE END OF THE LESSON.

THIS GREY SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.

Application: *Who here has ever tried to count the stars in the night sky? It's impossible, isn't it? God is so amazing that only He can create those millions of stars in the sky. And, they are so beautiful, aren't they?*

Let's continue. Read verses 20-23.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Discussion: *What happened on the Fifth Day? [God created fish and birds.] Aren't you glad God created all of the different kinds of birds and all the different kinds of fish that live in the seas! Can you create a fish or a bird? No! Only God can.*

Let's read on. Read verses 24-25.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Discussion: *Now what did God create? [Land animals, livestock, wild animals.] What's your favorite animal? Allow answers. Aren't you glad God created animals? But Day Six is not over yet. What else does God need to create?*

Read verses 26-31.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And...



God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Discussion: *What was the most important thing God created? [Human beings.] Yes, humans are the crown of God’s creation. You and I were created in God’s image. That means we were created to be a reflection of who God is. Humans are the only creatures that are made in God’s image.*

Let’s read just a few more things that happened “in the Beginning.”

Read Genesis 2:1-3.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Discussion: *So God created all things in six days. What did God do on the seventh day? [He rested.] Did He rest because He was tired? [No!] God rested because He was finished with His work of creation. Was God happy with His creation? [Yes!] He saw that it was all very good. Notice also that God blessed the seventh day as a day of rest. This is why we also rest one day in seven—and come to church to worship our Creator.*

*Let’s finish our reading for today. **Read verses 4-7.***

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens ⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground...



⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Conclusion: *Wow, did you hear that! The LORD God made man, but he was still not alive. What did God do? [He breathed the breath of life into him.] God is Creator and He is also Life Giver.*

Have the children stand up. *Look at each other. Are you all alive? Can you all breathe? Why? Because God has made you and given you life. You and I might be able to make a doll or a robot, but we can't make it come to life. Only God gives life. We should all praise Him right now for giving us life!*

Have the children sit back down.



LESSON-AT-HOME

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Genesis 1:1) to the children.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Say: *This is the first verse in the entire Bible, so it is probably a great one to learn by heart. Tell your parents about who created the heavens and the earth—they can help you memorize this verse this week!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.