

# THE BEGINNING OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1:1–3:24

**Key Verse:** So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. —Genesis 1:27, NIV

**Bible Point:** God made everything there is. He made me to know him.

**Resource:** *The Story for Children*, Chapter 1: “The Beginning of Life as We Know It”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Get children’s attention by pacing around the room clapping your hands slowly. With each clap name an item that you see in the classroom. This can be anything as big as a whiteboard or as small as a paper clip. Children will try to figure out what you’re going to look for next. As children watch you, invite them to join in. Ask individual children to name something they see as you all clap together. Then ask:

- **If we were going to name everything there is, how long would the list be?**
- **How many things do you think there are that we don’t even know about?**

Say, **In our Bible story today, we’re going to hear about some of the amazing things God made—including you and you and you!** Point to children as you say this.

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

**Stuff You Need:** copies of *The Story for Children*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 1*

Tell the story from *The Story for Children*, Chapter 1. You can also have children find Genesis 1 and mark it in their Bible. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

Follow the directions to present the Bible story. Then gather to debrief.

### In the Beginning

As you begin Bible story time, have children spread out so they have plenty of space to move. If possible, dim the lights. (Some young children may be frightened by complete darkness.) Begin the story in dim light, and turn on the lights when indicated. Explain that they should watch what you do and follow your example. Ask children to crouch with you as you begin the story.

**In the beginning, everything was dark. But God’s Spirit was there. God said, “Let there be light.” Jump up and have someone flip on the lights. God called the light “day.” He called the darkness “night.”**

*Spread your arms wide and lift them up. Next, God created a huge space that he called “sky” with water underneath. Stomp in place. Then, God made the dry ground that holds us up.*

*Punch your arms upward repeatedly and twinkle your fingers. And then came the stars and the sun and the moon in the sky. Pretend to swim. Then God filled the water with living things—fish and whales and starfish and everything else that lives in the water. Pretend to fly as you turn in a circle. And God made birds that fly through the sky—eagles and robins and swallows and every other kind of bird. Gallop in place. Then God made all kinds of animals—wild animals and livestock, big animals and small ones, friendly ones and scary ones.*

*Have everyone be still. All of this took six days of work for God. In six days, he made the whole world except for one thing. What do you think was missing? Pause for responses. People! So God did one more thing on the sixth day. He made people! Grin and point to your cheeks. But the people were not like the animals. God said, “Let us make man in our image.” He wanted people to know him and be like him. He called the first people “Adam” and “Eve.”*

*Read Genesis 1:31a; 2:1–2. Our amazing world was finished and ready for us to live in. God was ready for people to know him and enjoying being with him.*

Early elementary children will enjoy retelling the story themselves with some prompting. You might tell the story again and ask children to suggest new motions for each creation event. Or you might demonstrate the same actions and encourage children to tell you the part of the story each action represents.

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 1*. Ask children to describe the picture on the card and tell what part of the story the picture shows. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- **Of all the things God created, why do you think people are the best?** (*Because we can know God and be like him.*)
- **Tell me some things you know about God.**

Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home with the children later.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

#### OPTION 1: WHAT GOD MADE

Have children stand along one wall, facing you. Explain to children that you will name an object. If they think God created that object, they should take one step forward. If they think God did not create the object, they should stay still. Play until a child reaches where you are standing. Children might enjoy being the leader and naming objects God created.

## OPTION 2: THIS I KNOW

**Stuff You Need:** beanbag or other small item to pass, open floor space

Invite kids to join you in a circle on the floor. Say, **God made us in his image so we can know him and be like him. I'm going to toss the beanbag to someone. If it's you, tell me something you know about God and toss the beanbag back to me.** After everyone has had a chance to tell something they know about God, play again. This time, ask children to tell you one way they can be like God (loving, kind, creative, generous, and so on). If you have time, you can play again and this time let one of the children take the role of choosing whom to toss the bag to. After the game, have a brief discussion on these questions.

- **Of all the things we've named, what do you think is the coolest thing about God?**
- **Tell me one way you'd like to be more like God this week.**

Say, **Our great God, who made everything in the universe, wants us to know him and be like him! Totally cool!**

## OPTION 3: GOD IS SO GOOD

**Stuff You Need:** God is So Good Activity Sheet, markers or crayons

**Optional:** tissue paper, glitter glue, fabric scraps, foam shapes, watercolor paint and brushes

Give an activity sheet to each child. Talk about the special things that God provided in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve. Say, **What do you think Adam and Eve liked the best? What part of God's creation do you like the best?** Instruct children to color the picture. Consider offering the optional supplies so children can give texture and dimension to the coloring page.

## OPTION 4: CREATION MOBILE

**Stuff you need:** plastic disposable plates, ribbon or string, hole punch, construction paper, crayons, markers, glitter, etc.

1. Ahead of time, cut the plastic plates in half. Each student will need one half, so two students can share a plate.
2. Punch eight holes along the bottom (straight) edge of the plate. Some holes may be higher than others. Punch one hole at the top in the middle to help hang the mobile.
3. Have students draw and color a small picture to represent each day of creation.
4. Punch a hole at the top of each of the creation pictures.
5. Cut eight pieces of ribbon of varying lengths.
6. When they are done decorating help students thread ribbon through the pictures and the holes in the plate. Tie securely in place.
7. Thread a ribbon through the top hole and tie in a loop. This will allow you to hang the mobiles around the room.

**STEP 4: GOING HOME**

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At the end of the lesson, pray together praising God for his creation and asking God to help you know him better. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 1*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.