

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	God is creator
Bible Reading	Genesis 1-2
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 1-2: There are many ways that people have interpreted this section of the bible, ranging from completely literal to figurative and poetic. The children in your class may well have questions about how the biblical account of creation tallies with the theory of evolution. The first and foremost goal of the lesson is to communicate what the bible teaches about how the world came to be. If the question of evolution arises, draw out the fact that <i>God was there</i>, in the beginning (Gen 1:1), before anything was made, and he ensured this account was written down so that even though we weren't there, we can know how it happened too. God insists that <i>He</i> is the one who made the world, which means it isn't just chance or luck. This has big implications for our lives, which will be discussed further in the Family Bible Time material for this week. If questions come up early in the lesson, it may be helpful to suggest that first, you find out what God has to say about this, and then discuss how that compares with what other people might have to say. If evolution is a big issue for the children in your class, you might like to arrange a separate session to go into more detail about the different arguments (ideally don't get dragged into this during the lesson).</p> <p>Take home message: The children should go away knowing that God made the world, and start to think through what that means for our relationship with him.</p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": Write/print out a list of ingredients for a cake (e.g. flour, sugar, eggs... etc), as well as bullet point instructions (e.g. mix dry ingredients, bake in oven....). Write/print out a list of objects needed to make a model aeroplane (e.g. wood, paint, glue ...etc) as well as bullet point instructions (e.g. glue wing to fuselage, paint on windows...). Cut them all up into individual words/bullet points and mix them up.</p>
Getting Started	Give the children the mixed up words for making a cake and a model aeroplane. Tell the children they need to sort the words into two piles in order to make two separate things. The piles also need to be sorted into "things you need to make this" and "instructions for making this". (Depending on the size of the class you might want to make two or more sets of words and split them into teams). Get them to guess what the two things being made are.
Finding Out God made... 1. All things out of nothing (Gen 1:1)	<p>Explain that today we are going right back to the very beginning of time. Before there was anything. Before the world or the universe existed.</p> <p>Read Genesis 1:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Who does the bible say existed "In the beginning"? ➤ When there was nothing else, God was there, before the beginning. • Q: What did God do? • Q: What did God use to make the heavens and earth? ➤ Help the children to see that there was nothing available for God to use, so he must therefore have made everything out of nothing!

<p>2. By his powerful word (v.3,6,9,14,20,24)</p> <p>3. And all very good (v.4,10,12,18,21,25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How is that different to how you would make something?</i> ➤ Refer back to the “Getting Started” activity. We always need ingredients/ objects to be able to make something. We can’t just make something appear. ➤ God made a whole universe out of nothing! <p>Read Genesis 1:1-25 Let’s find out how God made everything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explain that the rest of the chapter describes how God made the world and everything in it. The story is split up into six days, with different things being made on each day. • <i>Q: What phrase is repeated at the beginning of verses 3, 6, 9, 14, 20 and 24?</i> ➤ Explain that God didn’t need to do anything except speak. Refer back to the “Getting Started” activity. What needs to happen to make a cake or model aeroplane? You need to buy things, mix things, stick things, colour in things, etc. God only needs to speak for a whole world to appear. ➤ You may want to try and get them to imagine what it would have been like to be there, to hear God speaking and then see things appear around you. <p>Read Genesis 1: 26-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was the last thing that God made?</i> • <i>Q: What was different about how God made people compared to everything else?</i> <p>Finally, God had finished making everything; he looked at everything he had made and was pleased with everything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What phrase is repeated in verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, and 25?</i> • <i>Q: What about verse 31?</i> ➤ Talk about when we make things what happens? They don’t always turn out the way we want them to. Sometimes we mess up, or we stick things in the wrong place, or put the wrong ingredients in. (Maybe get the children to share examples) ➤ But when God made the world, it was perfect. There was nothing in the wrong place, nothing outside the lines, he didn’t forget anything or mess anything up – it was “very good”.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God made everything in the whole world, including you and me. He made everything out of nothing, just by speaking, and everything he made was perfect. • <i>Q: What does that tell you about God?</i> • <i>Q: Imagine if you met God face to face. The same God who made the whole world. How do you think that would make you feel?</i> ➤ Try to get the children to appreciate how great God is, and that meeting him face to face would be a daunting thing. ➤ The amazing thing is that we can get to know and be friends with God. We will find out more about that over the coming weeks.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PSALM 145:1 <i>I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	God made everything
Bible Reading	Genesis 1-2
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 1-2: There are many ways that people have interpreted this section of the bible, ranging from completely literal to figurative and poetic. It is possible some children in your class may have questions about evolution. The first and foremost goal of the lesson is to communicate what the bible teaches about how the world came to be. If the question of evolution arises, draw out the fact that <i>God was there</i>, in the beginning (Gen 1:1), before anything was made, and he ensured this account was written down so that even though we weren't there, we can know how it happened too. God insists that <i>He</i> is the one who made the world, which means it isn't just chance or luck. This has big implications for our lives, which will be discussed further in the Family Bible Time material for this week. If questions come up early in the lesson, it may be helpful to suggest that first you find out what God has to say about this, and then discuss how that compares to what other people might say.</p> <p>Take home message: The children should go away knowing that God made the world and realise how great he is.</p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": Write/print a list of ingredients for a cake (e.g. flour, sugar, eggs... etc). Write/print a list of objects needed to make a model aeroplane (e.g. wood, paint, glue ...etc). Cut them all up into individual words and mix them up.</p>
Getting Started	Give the children the mixed up words for making a cake and a model aeroplane. Tell the children they need to sort the words into two piles in order to make two separate things. (Depending on the size of the class you might want to make two or more sets of words and split them into teams). You could either tell them in advance, or get them to guess what is being made.
Finding Out	<p>Explain that today we are going right back to the very beginning of time. Before there was anything. Before the world or the universe existed.</p> <p>Read Genesis 1:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What does the bible say God did "In the beginning"?</i> • Q: <i>If we were going to make something, like a cake, what would we need?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity. Emphasise that we always need ingredients/objects to be able to make something. We can't just make something appear. ➤ But when God made the world, there wasn't anything around for him to use • Q: <i>So what did God use to make the heavens and earth?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There was nothing available for God to use, so he must therefore have made everything out of nothing! God made a whole world out of nothing! <p>God made...</p> <p>1. All things out of nothing (Gen 1:1)</p> <p>2. By his powerful word</p> <p>Let's find out how God made everything.</p> <p>Read Genesis 1:3</p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	God made everything
Bible Reading	Genesis 1-2
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 1-2: God was there in the beginning (Gen 1:1), before anything was made, and he ensured this account was written down so even though we weren't there, we can know how it happened too. God insists that <i>He</i> is the one who made the world, which means it isn't just chance or luck. This has big implications for our lives, which will be discussed further in the Family Bible Time material for this week.</p> <p>Take home message: The children should go away knowing that God made the world, and realise how great he is.</p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": Draw/print pictures of ingredients for a cake (e.g. flour, sugar, eggs... etc). Draw/print pictures of objects needed to make a Lego car (e.g. wheels, doors, windows, etc). Cut them all up into individual pictures and mix them up.</p> <p>For later in the lesson, draw/print pictures of things needed to make a cake (e.g. oven, mixing bowl, wooden spoon). Or alternatively bring in actual objects.</p>
Getting Started	Give the children the mixed up pictures of ingredients / objects for making a cake and a Lego car. Tell the children they need to sort the pictures into two piles in order to make two separate things. Either tell them or get them to guess what two things are being made.
Finding Out God made... 1. All things out of nothing (Gen 1:1) 2. By his powerful word (v.3,6,9,14,20,24)	<p>Explain that today we are going right back to the very beginning of time. Before there was anything. Before any of us were born, or your grandparents were born, even before the world was here.</p> <p>Read Genesis 1:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What does "created" mean?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Explain this means to make something. Ask the children to tell you about things they have made. • <i>Q: What would I need to be able to make a cake?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity (use the pictures to help). Emphasise that we always need ingredients/objects to be able to make something. We can't just make something appear without first having something to start with. ➢ But when God made the world, there wasn't anything around for him to use • <i>Q: So how did God make the world?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ God made the world out of nothing! We can't do that – only God can. <p>Let's find out how God made everything.</p> <p>Read Genesis 1:3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God do to make light appear?</i>

<p>3. And all very good (v.4,10,12,18,21,25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You may want to dramatise this – Ask the children to close their eyes. Say loudly “Let there be light” and then get them to open their eyes. ➤ Explain that God made the whole rest of the world the same way. You may want to get them to imagine hearing God say “let there be oceans”, and an ocean appearing, etc. ➤ Explain that God didn’t need to do anything except speak. Refer back to the “Getting Started” activity (use the second set of pictures/ objects). What needs to happen to make a cake? You need to buy things, mix things, stick things, colour in things, etc. ➤ God only needed to speak to make a whole world! <p>Finally, God had finished making everything; he looked at everything he had made and was pleased with everything.</p> <p>Read Genesis 1:4a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God think about the light that he had made?</i> ➤ What happens when we make things? They don’t always turn out the way we want them to. Sometimes we mess up, or we stick things in the wrong place, or put the wrong ingredients in. (Get the children to share examples). You might want to have an example of something like colouring outside the lines. ➤ But when God made the world, it was perfect. There was nothing in the wrong place, nothing outside the lines, he didn’t forget anything or mess anything up – it was “very good”.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God made everything in the whole world just by speaking. • <i>Q: What things has God made?</i> ➤ Get the children to list lots of things in the world that God made. Make sure they realise that also includes people. • <i>Q: God made all those things, all by himself! How powerful do you think God is?</i> ➤ God is more powerful and greater than anyone in the entire world. ➤ Even though God is more powerful and amazing than anyone in the whole world, he wants to be friends with us! We will find out more about that over the coming weeks.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PSALM 145:1 <i>I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.</i></p>
<p>Alternative activity to worksheet</p>	<p>Make things out of Lego or playdough or blocks. While you’re doing that, you could remind the children that God could make things out of nothing.</p>