

LESSON ONE

GOD, OUR CREATOR

Memory Verse

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah, Lord, is not this you
who have made heaven and the earth
by your great power?

Bible Story

The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-5

Questions

All Things Come From You, O God
Blue Skies and Green Grass
That Is Thy Handiwork
Great Is Our God
For Great Thou Art
This Is Your World
Our God Is Alive
Praise the Lord

Pre-lesson Considerations:

1. The lesson is divided into "blocks" of instruction. To ensure that all the material is covered, you will want to consider carefully each block and its relation to the overall lesson.
2. Read all the material carefully before the lesson.
3. Make sure that all the materials are prepared for the students' use. The following materials will be required for this class:

- Student Book
- Visual Aids—Lesson One—Lesson One Memory Verse Poster; Elijah puppet; Flower, Trees, and Mango cards; God's Di-Vine Plan poster; Memory Verse Leaves-Lesson One; Story Time Bible Book; Creation Choices reproducible; Days of Creation Flash Cards; Creation Charades
- Bible
- Provision Packsack (Block Five)
- scissors (Block Five)
- small container (Block Five)
- chairs (Block Five)

Beginning the Journey

- Welcome students, and introduce the jungle theme, **Untangled**.
- Introduce the theme, and discuss God's plans for us.

Begin by welcoming the students to class. **Welcome to the jungle! How do you like our camp, Tanglewood Tents.**

Introduce yourself and any co-teachers as Jungle Guides. Allow your students to introduce themselves, one at a time. Then continue by explaining the theme of the VBS series. **I am so excited that each of you has chosen to come to VBS because we are going to learn some wonderful lessons about God and the plans God has for us.**

In this VBS, we are going to explore a jungle. Can anyone tell me what a jungle is? (Response) **Very good! A jungle is a place with lots of trees and bushes and all types of plants. A jungle is also a place that is home to all types of wonderful animals. Doesn't that sound exciting!?**

While we are exploring the jungle we are going to learn some wonderful lessons about God. We are going to learn how great God is and how much He loves us. God is so wonderful, and I am glad to be here with you. Does it make you happy that God has plans for each of us? (Response)

Are you ready to get started on our journey of exploration? (Response) **Okay, before we begin, let's sing a song that will help us remember everyone's name.**

WELCOME SONG

the Multimedia CD!

See page 45.

Rotate through song
every student has been mentioned.

Elijah the Elephant

are class. Use the *Elijah the Elephant* puppet and *Flower, Trees, and Mango* cards from the Visual Aid set, and give each student a stick to hold the puppet. Use the *Elijah* puppet to tell the following story. (Or you could use the *Elijah* puppet.) Hold *Elijah* in your hand as you speak to the students. If you wish, you could use the *Elijah* puppet to act out the part of *Elijah*.

Teacher: We are exploring the jungle who I just met! (Show *Elijah* puppet to the students.) **This is Elijah the Elephant. He's new to the jungle to**

Elijah: Hey, I'm so excited to meet you! I'm so excited to be here. This place is fantastic! All these plants and flowers! And the trees! Can you believe how big they are? They are bigger than me, and that's saying something!

Teacher: It certainly is! So what brings you to the jungle, *Elijah*?

Elijah: Some friends invited me to visit! Isn't that cool! And you'll never guess what they told me!

Teacher: What did they tell you?

Elijah: You see this pretty little flower?

Teacher: (Hold up *Flower* card.) Yes.

Elijah: And you know those great big trees?

Teacher: (Hold up *Trees* card.) Yes.

Elijah: And this tasty mango?

Teacher: (Hold up *Mango* card.) Yes.

Elijah: And this great big me?

Teacher: Yes.

Elijah: Do you know what they all have in common?

Teacher: (laughs) No, but I hope you're going to tell us.

Elijah: You'll never believe this. I'm still having trouble believing it. It's amazing!

Teacher: Are you going to tell us what "it" is?

Elijah: Oh, sure! The thing they all have in common is... God made them all! Can you believe that? I mean everything from that huge sun in the sky down to this itty, bitty butterfly. God made them all. He's so...so...

Teacher: So what, Elijah?

Elijah: (awestruck) He's so powerful.

Teacher: You're right! God is very powerful. How does that make you feel?

Elijah: About as big as this itty, bitty butterfly. I mean God created this whole world, I'm just an itty, bitty butterfly. It's so big, right?

Teacher: Not at all. When God created all of these things, He saw it, and do you know what He said?

Elijah: No, what?

Teacher: He said that it was *good*. And that includes you. God created you and saw that you were good.

Elijah: Really?

Teacher: Really! It's so good for you. How does that make you feel now?

Elijah: You mean this big, powerful God who made the whole world cares for me?

Teacher: He does.

Elijah: That makes me feel...safe.

Teacher: That's good. That's how it should make you feel. How do you like your powerful Creator?

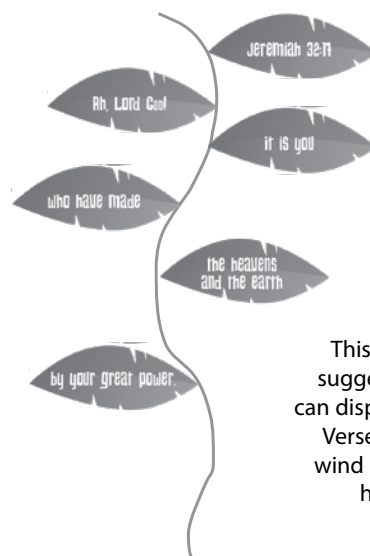
Elijah: Oh, I love Him! We were just about to learn a Bible verse about Him. Let's learn more about God.

memory verse

You will be making a Memory Verse wall by using the verses from the Visual Aid Packet. Cut out each Memory Verse leaf, and glue the set per lesson to class. Affix the leaves on poster board. Each lesson you will be adding a new Memory Verse wall. You will need a recording of some kind like twine, yarn, or paper. Use string, tape, or glue to wind the "vine" somewhere around the Memory Verse wall. Make sure to leave room for four more vines that will be added in the next lessons.

You will also make copies of the lower reproducible page, one for each student. Write each child's name on the bottom. Gather the students at a table, and give them crayons or markers, so they can color their flowers as you talk.

Okay, jungle friends, it is time to learn a very important Bible verse. Show the "Jeremiah 32:17" Leaf. **The verse can be found in Jeremiah 32:17. Hold up each Leaf as you read the verse. It says, "Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power." Our Bible verse is saying that God is so powerful. He created everything around us. He created trees and flowers. He created you and me! Let's say our Bible Verse together.** As you say the Memory Verse again slowly, press each Leaf to the Lesson One vine. If you have time, you can have your students help you by pressing the Leaves to the vine while you guide them. **That was a great job, everyone! Now let's decorate our vine with our flowers.** Help each child to attach their flower to the Memory Verse vine for Lesson One.



For more display options, see page 47.

This diagram is only a suggestion of how you can display your Memory Verse Vine. Feel free to wind or hang your vine however you wish!

Bible Story Time

- Examine the story of Creation.
- Explore the power held by our Creator.

Prepare the students for the Bible story. **Okay, junior members, it is time for our Bible story. We are going to hear the Bible story that tells us about God creating the world. Before we begin, let's sing our "Story Time Song."**

STORY TIME SONG

Audio Tracks available
on the Multimedia CD!

See page 45.

Remove the Story Time Song from the Visual Aid Packet. Turn to the first group of pictures, and show the corresponding pictures as you tell the following story. Cultural reference: Genesis 1:1—2:3

PICTURE ONE

At one time, many years ago, there was not much here. It is hard to imagine, but our world was not here. There were no beautiful sunflowers, no filled skies, no sweet-smelling flowers, no apples, no soft bunnies. There was nothing... but God was there. God is all-powerful and powerful, and God decided He would create the world and everything that would be in it. What did God do first? Do you know what God did first? (Response) Right! The first thing God did was create light. It must have been dark before God created light. God knew His world was dark, so God said, "Let there be light." Just as God commanded, light appeared all around. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. The light He created He called day, and the darkness He called night. That was the first day.

PICTURE TWO

God was creating stars and planets. He created His world to be beautiful and formed the earth. He began making the world beautiful. On the second day, God made the beautiful blue sky. Then God decided to give the sun, moon, and stars to separate the waters from the land.

God was not finished yet. On the third day, God decided to create trees and all types of plants. He gave the plants so they would continue to create even more plants. He filled the world He had created with beautiful grass and bushes. He even created jungles on the third day. God looked at what He had created and said it was good.

On the fourth day, God put twinkling stars in the sky. He created a sun to give us warm sunshine and lots of light during the day, and He created the moon to shine at night. Once again, God saw that what He had created was good.

On the fifth day, God filled the sky and the waters with living creatures. He created lots of beautiful birds to fly up in the air. He also created many types of fish to swim in the oceans and rivers. And God saw that it was good.

On the sixth day, God filled the land with living creatures. He created monkeys and tigers to roam the jungles and horses and cows to graze in the pastures. He created huge elephants and tiny little bugs. And God saw that it was good. By this point, God had created many wonderful things. There was just one thing left to create. Do you know what God created next? (Response)

PICTURE THREE

Very good! God also created mankind on the sixth day, but mankind was different from all the other things God created. After God had created everything else, He said, "Let us make man in our image." This meant mankind would be a special creation, because they would be more like God than anything else God had created.

So God created mankind in His own image, man and woman. God put them in charge of taking care of all the other things God created. After God created mankind, God looked at His creation and knew that it was very good.

And so the world was finished. On the seventh day, God rested. God is very wise and powerful, isn't He? I'm so glad that God created our beautiful world for you?

Review Questions

1. What did God create on the first day? light
2. What did God create on the second day? sky, separated from earth
3. What did God create on the third day? trees, flowers, grass
4. What did God create on the fourth day? sun, moon, stars
5. What did God create on the fifth day? birds, fish
6. What did God create on the sixth day? animals, mankind
7. Did God believe His creation was good? Yes.
8. How was mankind different from God's other creations? They were made in God's image.
9. What did God do on the seventh day? He rested.

4

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Expedition Exercises

- Reinforce the lesson.
- Create a hands-on learning experience that will solidify the concepts in the students' minds.
- Have fun!

Grand Uncle came

Repeat the exercise with another item from the *Creation Choices* reproducible (for example, *Turtle*). When you say *Turtle*, the student who picked *Turtle* should stand up and follow the student who picked *Monkey*. The *Monkey* should continue to imitate a *Monkey* as the *Turtle* imitates a *Turtle*. Continue until all the students are marching around the room, each performing a different action. Then shout, "God made everything the way you do," and all the students should scramble to find an empty chair. The student who is left standing will be the student who begins following you again as you continue play. Play as long as you wish.

Creation Choices

MONKEY	SHARK	SUN
FLOWER	CAT	WATERFALL
CLOUD	RABBIT	TURTLE
ELEPHANT	PARROT	TREE IN WIND
DOC	STAR	HORSE
FISH	CRAB	FROG

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You may want to make a second copy of the *Creation Choices* reproducible, and mark on it which of the Creation Choices your students have selected. This ensures your game play doesn't lag by calling a Creation Choice that one of your students has already picked.

Days of Creation Flash Cards

Materials needed: Visual Aid marked Lesson One—Days of Creation Flash Cards
scissors
backpack (Provision Packsack)

Before class, remove the *Days of Creation Flash Cards* poster from the Visual Aid package and cut apart the flash cards. Place the pictures inside a Provision Packsack or small bag.

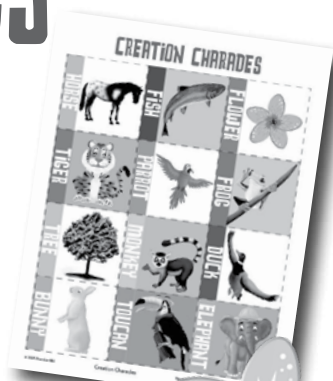
Have students sit in a circle on the floor. SAY: **Let's see how much you remember of the days of creation!** Pull a flash card out of the Provision Packsack, and show it to the children, placing a finger over the number of the day to hide it. ASK: **What do you see in this picture?** After they have identified the item in the picture, ASK: **On what day did God create (item)?** Instruct the students to hold up one, two, three, four, five fingers to indicate the day on which they believe God created the item. Reveal the correct answer. Then have all the students stand and act out the item. (For land animals, students might smile brightly and stretch their arms wide. For sky, students might float around and wave their arms. For any type of plant, students might squat down and "grow" up and spread their arms.) After a few moments, have the students return to the circle, and choose another flash card. Once all the cards have been used, place them back in the Provision Packsack and play again. Play until you feel the students have a good grasp on what items were created on which day.

Creation Charades

Materials needed: Visual Aid marked Lesson One—Creation Charades
scissors
backpack (Provision Packsack)

Before class, remove the *Creation Charades* poster from the Visual Aid package and cut apart the pictures. Place the pictures inside a Provision Packsack or small bag.

Gather students in a large area of the classroom. Ask for a volunteer to reach into the bag and pull out one of the pictures. The student then moves to the center of the open area, and imitates the creation shown on their picture. The other students will try to guess what they are imitating. When a student has answered correctly, another student can also name on which day God made this creation. If they can't answer, allow other students to help. It is now this student's turn to act out a creation. Some of the creations are more difficult to imitate than others. If a student is having difficulty thinking of a way to imitate their item, you can choose to whisper suggestions in their ear. Continue play until everyone has had a turn.



Tip

You can add your own creations to the bag.

Exploring the message

- Review and apply the lesson.
- Praise God!

Can anyone tell me what our Bible story was about? (Response) **Do you remember what God made on each of the first six days?** (Allow students to respond by taking turns naming things created on each of the first six days.) **Good job! I can tell you were all listening very closely. God is very powerful. He would have to be very powerful to create the entire world and everything around us. I know that He is also powerful enough to take care of you and me, don't you? He has wonderful plans for all of us.**

The story of creation is in the Bible. The Bible is filled with wonderful stories about God. Every story is true and teaches us a lesson about God. Let's sing some songs that will help us to remember what God is.

See page

JUNGLE SONGS

Audio Tracks available on the Multimedia CD!

Does anyone remember our Bible verse for today? (Response) **Let's say it again together. "Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power." Jeremiah 10:12. We praise you, O Lord God, and we thank you for your great power. You are a powerful God, and I am glad He created this beautiful world we live in. That's why we want to praise you about you?"** (Response) **Let's say a prayer to God right now and thank Him for all the things He created. Let's pray, let's sing our "Prayer Song."**

PRAYER SONG

Audio Tracks available on the Multimedia CD!

Allow the students to complete the Application Activity from Lesson One in their Student Books.