



GOD CREATES

GENESIS 1, 6-9

◦ **Big Idea** *God speaks the universe into being, giving people opportunities to honor Him.*

Lesson Summary

God Creates (4000–2200 BC) During this era, God creates the earth and all life in six days. Adam and Eve disobey, breaking fellowship with God. As wickedness increases on the earth, God is sorry that He made man, but Noah finds favor with the Lord. God rescues Noah's family and the animals on the ark. Years later, Noah's descendants disregard God's command to spread throughout the earth, so God confuses the language so that people finally disperse.

God graciously chose to save one faithful man and his family to repopulate the earth. God selected Noah, not because of his good deeds, but because of his faith (Hebrews 11:7). God still promises to deliver the faithful, using them to influence their culture and to carry out His plans.

Bible Background

Genesis is a book of beginnings. It introduces the first man and woman, the first temptation and sin, the first clothing, the first rain, and the first judgment. In these chapters, God also answers the most basic questions about life: how we got here, who we are, and how sin and death entered the human race.

In Genesis 6-9, God responds in grief to human wickedness by causing a catastrophic flood that forever changed the face of this planet. The Biblical record states that the flood was a worldwide catastrophe (2 Peter 3:5-6). Vast underground water sources were opened (Genesis 7:11), perhaps by an earthquake, causing the displacement of the continents themselves. Torrential rains pummeled the earth for 40 days and nights. The earth, mountains, all flesh, and every living thing were completely covered. God began anew with Noah and his family.

Teacher Devotional

When God created Adam and Eve, He carefully set humans apart from the animals. God lovingly placed His own imprint, His personal image, upon His most advanced creations. Regardless of the effects of the fall, God's image on people remains. We are still His workmanship, re-created in Christ to do good works!

Father, thank You for creating me in Your own holy image so that I might bring You glory and praise. As I prepare this lesson, remind me how much You love me and these children. Help me show them the richness of Your mercy and grace. In Jesus' name, amen.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • God created all people in His own image. (Genesis 1:27)
- N** • Noah's faith pleased God and set him apart from others. (Hebrews 11:7)
- O** • God sent the flood over the earth to judge wickedness. (Genesis 6:5-7)
- W**

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Awed by God's power and creative genius.
- E** • Thrilled about being carefully formed in God's own image.
- E** • Thankful that God has provided Jesus Christ so their sins can be forgiven.
- L**

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Make drawings to show what God made during each day of creation.
- O** • Compare and contrast Noah's culture with their influences.
- Create a personal plan for facing and overcoming temptation.
- DiscipleSkill—Identify the 17 Old Testament History Books.

Make Disciples

Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

Opening Prayer

Pray that the kids will see God's greatness through each era of the Old Testament. Ask the Lord to reveal His divine image in their individual lives. Pray that God will open their hearts to the truth about sin, temptation, and judgment.

WorldWatch

Missionary Biography 2 of 12—Don and Carol Richardson—A Dangerous Call *Missionary stories can have a profound impact on a child. Take 1-2 minutes to read this brief narrative. Download discussion questions at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.*

Don hears God's call to share Jesus in a place where the name of Jesus has never been heard. Much like William Carey and other missionaries before him, Don Richardson begins to study maps. He also attends Bible college, where he can receive the training he will need.

One day in college, Don hears a special guest speaker in chapel. The guest speaker is a missionary who challenges the students to serve Jesus on a faraway island. The remote island is called Netherlands New Guinea (now part of Indonesia). By the end of the chapel message, Don knows Jesus is sending him there.

Sitting in the same chapel service is Carol. She hears the same challenge to serve among the headhunting tribes of New Guinea. It could be dangerous to go and serve among cannibals, but Carol says "yes" to God's call.

After graduation, Carol spends three years in nurse's training. Don spends this time as a youth pastor. Both of them know God is preparing them to be missionaries to the unreached tribes of New Guinea.

Missions Education—The Target

To add this component to the lesson, download the teacher script at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

Create an environment that is safe both physically and emotionally for your students. Listen to their comments with an open mind. Avoid being judgmental. When you need to correct a child, do so sensitively, remembering the old saying, "Children are like wet cement; whatever falls on them makes a lasting impression."

KeyVerse

Topic: God Creates

Reference: *Genesis 1:27*

Memorization Activity: Have each child find a partner. (To form pairs, you may want to hand out cards with animal names from Noah's Ark. Make two cards for each animal. Next, have students find their partner by making the sound of that animal.) Guide the student pairs through these steps.

- Read the verse aloud together.
- Read the verse aloud, alternating readers with each word.
- Recite the verse, alternating back and forth with each word.
- See how quickly each pair can say the whole verse (including the Bible reference), alternating speakers with each word.
- Finally, switch places so that kids now say the words of the verse that their partners said the first time.

Bonus Resources

Access free downloads for this lesson at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

- More activity ideas
- Activity templates and resources
- *Explore Scripture* teacher notecards

SUPPLIES

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides (pages 5-8)
Pencils, markers, paper
Notecards, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

No additional supplies

Spark Interest

- THE IMAGE OF GOD: mirrors, shiny pans, etc.
- BIGGER THAN YOU THINK: string

Explore Scripture

Teaching Picture 5A.3—Era 2—God Creates
Teaching Picture 5A.4—Noah

Inspire Action

- MOVIE PREVIEWS: none
- TEMPTATION BATTLE PLAN: none

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

The Image of God (10 minutes)

This observation activity helps kids understand what it means to be created in God's image. **Supplies:** mirrors, shiny pans, aluminum foil

Before class, place mirrors, pans, foil, or other reflective items at various places along one wall. Ask children to look at themselves and each other in the mirrors. Have them make faces and gestures (happy, sad, scared, surprised, etc.). **Is this the real you?** (No; it is an image of what you look like.) **The very first chapter of Genesis reveals that God made us in His image. What do you think this means?** (Encourage responses.)

OR

Bigger Than You Think (10 minutes)

This demonstration activity gives kids a better idea of the size of Noah's Ark. **Supplies:** long measuring string, markers

How big was the ark? If you are able to leave your building, go outside to a parking lot or large field and have the students figure out the size of the ark. The ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 50 feet high. It was the length of 1.5 football fields and as tall as a five-story building! If you can't find an area that's 450 feet long, have students calculate the length of the ark as it compares to familiar objects (i.e. how many football fields, buses, cars, etc., would it take to equal the length of the ark?).

Disciple Guide—page 5

Ask a different child to read each segment from Genesis 1. Complete this page at the beginning of class or after a Spark Interest activity.

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God speaks into being, giving people opportunities to honor Him.

GOD CREATES

Draw simple pictures or write summary captions of what God created on each day.

- Genesis 1:3-5 light & darkness
- Genesis 1:6-8 sky
- Genesis 1:9-13 land, sea, & plants
- Genesis 1:14-19 sun, moon, & stars
- Genesis 1:20-23 sea creatures & birds
- Genesis 1:24-31 animals & humans

God created everything from invisible elements (Hebrews 11:3!)

5A • Old Testament Champions • Lesson 2
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Explore Scripture

Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include Teaching Pictures and exercises from the student Disciple Guides.

Genesis 1, 6-9

Era #2: God Creates (4000–2200 BC)



We are exploring an Old Testament timeline and champions who lived during each era. Today's era begins with God's creation—and a whole lot more. The events in this era took place on earth during a span of nearly 2,000 years! Show the Teaching Picture 5A.3 of Era 2—God Creates.

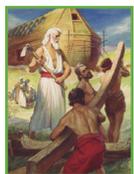
This era can be divided into four major sections:

- **Creation** (before 4000 BC) *God creates the earth and all life in six days (Genesis 1-2).* Key People—Adam, Eve; Key Place—Garden of Eden
- **Fall** (4000 BC) *Adam and Eve disobey, breaking fellowship with God (Genesis 3-4).* People—Cain, Abel; Place—Mesopotamia
- **Flood** (2500 BC) *God rescues humans and animals on the ark (Genesis 6-9).* People—Noah and family; Place—Mount Ararat
- **Tower** (2200 BC) *God confuses the language; people disperse (Genesis 10-11).* People—Shem, Ham, Japheth; Place—Babel (in Mesopotamia)

Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1 while kids follow along in their Bibles. **After God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, most of their descendants forgot that God had lovingly created them in His own image. They ignored God or pretended that He didn't exist. Things went from bad to worse. Before long, God was sad that He had made people. Noah was the only exception.**

Champion: Noah

Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6-9. **Noah trusted God and walked by faith. He lived a righteous life among the people of his day. What does it mean to be righteous?** (living the right way, meeting God's standard) **What made Noah righteous?** Encourage responses. **At first, it seems like God chose him because he**



was a good man, but Hebrews 11:7 explains that God considered Noah "righteous" because of his faith, not because of his deeds! Show the Teaching Picture 5A.4 of Noah.

Noah showed his faith in God by obeying God's commands. As far as we know, in the pre-flood world rain had never before fallen from the sky. There had never been a thunderstorm or a rainbow. Based on the available evidence, did building an ark make sense? Why then did he do it? (FAITH!)

Disciple Guide—page 6

Talk about Noah's life and why he is a "champion of faith." Help kids use their Bibles to describe how other people lived in Noah's day.

Jesus said that social and cultural conditions on the earth will be the same when He returns as they were when the flood came. Read Matthew 24:37-39 to see how Jesus describes what things will be like. Talk about how Noah's culture may be similar to and different from today's culture.

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Righteous Noah

Some of Adam and Eve's descendants chose to trust God. Others rebelled against God's authority (see Genesis 4:1-8 and 4:25-26). This continued for many generations—until God decided that it was time to act.

Noah's Stats

- ▶ "Walked with God"
- ▶ Lived 950 years (about 3090—2140 BC)
- ▶ Took 120 years to build the ark
- ▶ Genesis 6:8-9

What was Noah like (Genesis 6:8-9)?

1. Found favor with God
2. A righteous man
3. Blameless among his people
4. Walked with God

What made Noah like this (Hebrews 11:7)?

faith

What were people in Noah's culture like (Genesis 6:5, 11)?

1. **wicked**
2. **evil all the time**
3. **corrupt**
4. **full of violence**

What made his culture like this?

rejected God



GOD REIGNS

GOD CREATES

before 4000—2200 BC

Inspire Action

Disciple Guide—page 7

As you examine these verses, emphasize how Noah promptly obeyed everything God told him to do. Complete the HeartBeat, helping kids develop their own plan to face temptation victoriously.

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

Movie Previews (15-20 minutes)

This group writing and drama activity reminds kids about the events that took place before, during, and after the flood.

Before a new movie is released, a preview is often aired on TV and in theaters. This preview gives viewers a glimpse of what the movie will be about and sparks your interest to see it when it reaches theaters. Working in small groups, write a movie preview for a movie about Creation or the Flood. Remember to include things that grab people’s attention—mystery, intrigue, suspense, high-speed chases, close calls, and explosions. Then have kids read or act out these for the rest of the class.

OR

Temptation Battle Plan (10 minutes)

This Bible activity motivates kids to fight off temptations to sin. Supplies: Bibles

Look up these Scripture references to discover what God says about temptation:

- Genesis 4:6-7
- Mark 13:13
- 1 Corinthians 10:12
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- James 4:7

Jesus understands what we have to go through. Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are (Hebrews 4:15). Bible verses that Jesus had memorized helped Him fight off each temptation to sin when Satan met Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

7

Faith in Action

List examples of righteous actions that are the result of FAITH in God.

Forgiving someone who has wronged me

**F
A
I
T
H**

answers will vary



God speaks the universe into being, giving people opportunities to honor Him. God really cares! He rewards those who walk in faith. But rejecting God still has tragic consequences. Prepare yourself for temptations that will come your way.

When I am tempted:

How to avoid or fight off those temptations:

- 1 At school →
- 2 At home →
- 3 With friends →
- 4 →

answers will vary

Something I can do right now to prepare for temptation:





Closing Prayer

Ask the Lord to show the children how they can honor God with their lives, rather than please themselves. Pray that students will find ways to withstand daily temptations to sin. Pray also for their family members who may need help in facing temptations. Pray for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.

Closing Words

Today we saw that God gives every person opportunities to trust Him. In his generation, Noah alone stood for the Lord. Next time we will learn about a husband and wife who packed their bags and went on a long journey—without even knowing where God would lead them!

Teacher—Children should complete this page on their own or at home with a parent.

DiscipleSkill

How to Navigate the Old Testament

For 4,000 years, the Old Testament has molded Jewish civil, religious, social, and economic life. Never has one Book so greatly influenced the way of life of an entire nation!

During this quarter, kids will learn how the Old Testament fits together. Seventeen History books illumine the past, five Poetry books imprint the present, and seventeen Prophecy books inspire the future. Each one has a theme and message for today!

DiscipleZone.com

Direct children to DiscipleZone.com/5A2 for:

XploreMore Discover more about the era of Creation.

SwordWork Read Psalm 44.

WorldWatch Observe Sawi customs.

KeyVerse Memorize Genesis 1:27.

HymnNotes Meet Isaac Watts, author of “O God, Our Help in Ages Past.”

Lesson 2

Disciple Skill

How to Navigate the Old Testament
History

Old Testament **History** books illumine the past; **Poetry** books impact the present; and **Prophecy** books inspire the future. Each one has a theme and message for today!

17 **History** books (Genesis through **Esther**) contain exciting **STORIES**. These stories record ancient events and activities of God's people.

5 **History** books tell about God's Law.
Law = Genesis through Deuteronomy

12 **History** books describe the Adventures of God's people.
Adventure = Joshua through Esther

Deuteronomy

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Esther

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

World Watch
Where do the Sawi people live?
New Guinea

Key Verse
Genesis 1:27

Class C 8

Disciple Guide—page 8

Encourage kids to complete DiscipleZone before the next lesson. Explain that activities are available at a special website—

DiscipleZone.com

—where kids go to grow! Children should visit the website with their parents to complete the online activities.