

Investigating

God's Word...

Year One

Genesis 1-24

Sunday School Curriculum

Fall Quarter

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.

Week One	Genesis 1:1-2:7
Week Two	Genesis 2:8-3:24
Week Three	Genesis 4-5
Week Four	Genesis 6-7
Week Five	Genesis 8-9
Week Six	Genesis 10-11
Week Seven	Genesis 12-13
Week Eight	Genesis 14-15
Week Nine	Genesis 16-17
Week Ten	Genesis 18-19
Week Eleven	Genesis 20-21
Week Twelve	Genesis 22-23
Week Thirteen	Genesis 24

Winter Quarter: Genesis 25-50, Job



Suggested Schedule

Welcome	2-3 min.
<i>Questions and Answers</i>	
Drill Time	3-5 min.
<i>The Bible</i>	
W.O.W!	3-5 min.
<i>Bible</i>	
Historical Context	2-3 min.
<i>Timeline</i>	
Bible Investigation	20-30 min.
<i>Genesis 1:1-2:7</i>	
Lesson-At-Home	3-5 min.
<i>Genesis 1:1</i>	

Lesson One

Genesis 1:1-2:7

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

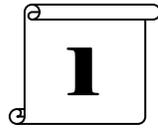
Christian education is all about telling the story of God to other people including children. The art of reading the Bible to children is not rocket science or quantum physics. It simply begins with your own love for God's Word, which should then explode into a **passionate** telling of the stories of 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!

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.



Welcome

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 (NIV)

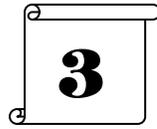
⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

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 redemptive 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 sit down.

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."

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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 New International Version (NIV).

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.

¹ In 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.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God 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. Only He can speak and create everything out of nothing.*

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

⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

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.

Remember to show pictures of each day.

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

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

⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And 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.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And 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: *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.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let

Application Points are woven into the fabric of the discussion, rather than being left to the end of the lesson.

birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”²³ And 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.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so.²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. 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.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ God saw all that he had made, and 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 completed in all their vast array. ²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

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.*

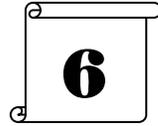
Let's finish our reading for today. Read verses 4-7.

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground,⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground—⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

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

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.