

LifeStone
 **ILLUMINATE**
B I B L E S E R I E S



GOD

Our Savior

VOLUME 1

1st-6th Grade Guide Book

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6



This material is part of the "Illuminate Bible Series," copyright © 2019 by Union Gospel Press. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission from Union Gospel Press, except as permitted by United States copyright law. Edited and published by The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division, 2000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109-5812. Mailing address: P.O. Box 6059, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-1059. Phone: 216-749-2100. www.uniongospelpress.com

Scripture is taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

Contributors: Eric Ballard, Korynn Freels, Emily Jennings, Kathlyn Longtine, Don Ruff, Todd Williams,
and the Union Gospel Press editorial staff

ISBN 978-1-59843-960-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Curriculum Overview	4
Plan for the Year	10

Semester 1: The Need for a Savior

Unit 1: God Creates the World	11
Week 1, Lesson 1: The First Five Days of Creation	12
Week 2, Lesson 2: God Creates Adam and Eve	20
Unit 2: Man Turns from God	28
Week 1, Lesson 3: The First Sin	29
Week 2, Lesson 4: The First Murder	37
Unit 3: Man’s Wickedness Covers the Earth	45
Week 1, Lesson 5: God Calls Noah to Build an Ark	46
Week 2, Lesson 6: God Sends a Flood	54
Week 3, Lesson 7: God Scatters Sinful Mankind	62
Week 4, Lesson 8: God Punishes Sin	70
Unit 4: God Delivers the Israelites	78
Week 1, Lesson 9: A Deliverer Is Born	79
Week 2, Lesson 10: God Calls Moses to Deliver His People	87
Week 3, Lesson 11: “Let My People Go”	95
Week 4, Lesson 12: The Passover: God Provides	103
Week 5, Lesson 13: Out of Egypt	111
Week 6, Lesson 14: God Delivers the Israelites	119
Week 7, Lesson 15: The Ten Commandments	127
Week 8, Lesson 16: Man Fails to Follow God	135

Semester 2: The Savior Revealed

Unit 5: The Savior Is Born	143
Week 1, Lesson 17: God Remembers His Promise	144
Week 2, Lesson 18: Jesus Grows Up	152
Week 3, Lesson 19: Redemption Comes.	160
Unit 6: Jesus' Life and Ministry	168
Week 1, Lesson 20: Jesus Saves the Lost.	169
Week 2, Lesson 21: Jesus Forgives the Sinful.	177
Week 3, Lesson 22: Jesus, the Light of the World	185
Week 4, Lesson 23: Jesus Serves His Disciples	193
Unit 7: Jesus, Our Savior	201
Week 1, Lesson 24: The Last Supper	202
Week 2, Lesson 25: Jesus Is Arrested	210
Week 3, Lesson 26: Jesus on Trial	218
Week 4, Lesson 27: Our Savior's Sacrifice	226
Week 5, Lesson 28: Victory over Death	234
Unit 8: Our Future Hope	242
Week 1, Lesson 29: Jesus Goes to Heaven.	243
Week 2, Lesson 30: The Worthy Lamb.	251
Week 3, Lesson 31: Jesus Is Coming Soon!	259
Week 4, Lesson 32: New Heavens and New Earth	267
Unit Test Answers	275
Glossary	283
Activity Supply List	286



Semester 1: The Need for a Savior

In these four units, we explore the greatest need every person has:
we all need a Savior to rescue us from our sin.

UNIT 1

GOD CREATES THE WORLD

God spoke, and the world was created. The source of everyone and everything is in the beginning, as the infinite God chose to create the world for His glory. The best of His work is His creation of man and woman, made in His image.



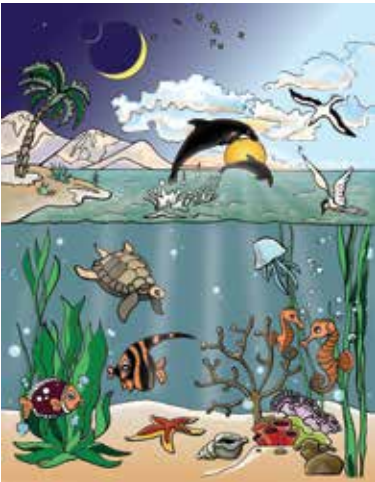
THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF CREATION

 Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1


Have you ever wondered why this world is here?

A whole lot of nothing. What if you got a big present for your birthday, but when you tore off the wrapping and opened the box, there was nothing inside? Would you be excited? What could you do with nothing? You can't eat it. You can't wear it or play with it. And how would you show it to your friends? You don't even know what it looks like! Nothing is certainly nothing to get excited about.

But that is what God started with—nothing! Before there was a world, a sun, or people, there was absolutely nothing. Only God **existed**. And since we can see that this world exists now, we can be pretty sure God's desire was to share His goodness. It pleased Him to create this world (Rev. 4:11).



Nothing to it! But how could God make anything at all from *nothing*? The Bible says that nothingness gave way to *something* when God simply spoke and the earth came to exist: "The worlds were framed [made] by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Heb. 11:3). For God, this was easy.

But God's earliest command did not create things as we see them now. At first, the earth He created was just a dark, formless blob; it awaited further work from Him. His Spirit was there to begin the work (Gen. 1:2). The very next thing God did was command light to exist; then He separated day from night. All that was on just one day.

God continued giving order to His creation on days two and three by spreading out the sky and forming seas and dry land. When He commanded grass and trees to grow, the land brought forth the first living, growing things in the world. Even though God created light on the first day, and there was already day and night, it was not until day four that the sun, moon, and stars were made. The purpose of these things, He said, was to separate day from night and to mark off the days, seasons, and years.

Once the skies, seas, and land were ready, God began to fill them with living **creatures**. On day five, He called for sea creatures to abound in the waters, and flying animals of all sorts were commanded to fill the air. This totally shoots down the idea that fish evolved hundreds of millions of years before birds. Although no human being was alive when these things happened, the truth about how this world began is clearly explained in Scripture. And it shows that there is nothing too hard for God!

Nothing but good. After God created each new thing, He looked at what He had made and called attention to something very important: it was good! This teaches us not only that God's work was brilliant and amazing, but also that He Himself is good. His goodness shines through in all of creation because He made nothing that was evil or that had an evil purpose. Praise God for His goodness!

Prayer Point

Praise God for His great power and goodness.

Christ Focus

John 1:1-3 teaches us that Jesus Christ was there in the beginning and that all things were made through Him.

FOCAL POINT



Psalm 33:7 says that God gathers up the waters of the sea. Here is an activity to gather your own sea.

Items you will need to make your own sea in a jar:

- clean, empty, clear glass jar or bottle with lid
- water
- vegetable or baby oil
- blue food coloring
- seashells

Fill 2/3 of the jar with water. Add a few drops of food coloring at a time to get the shade of blue that you want. Add a few seashells, and then fill the jar the rest of the way with the oil. Put the lid back on the jar tightly so

that the “sea” does not leak out of the jar.



Hold the jar in both hands and turn it on its side. Move the jar from side to side to get a wave effect. This happens because oil and water do not mix.

As you watch the sea that you made, remember that you made it with things that already exist. God made the seas with just a word (Ps. 33:9).

100 BILLION GALAXIES

We live in the Milky Way galaxy, which contains Earth, the sun, and other planets. Scientists believe there are over 200 billion stars in our galaxy, each with its own planets surrounding it. If you think that is hard to imagine, scientists have used telescopes to estimate that there are over 100 billion galaxies in the universe.

Amazingly, our Creator can measure all of this with His hand (Isa. 40:12) and created each of the galaxies to praise Him (Ps. 148:1-4). Even the best telescopes in the world can never truly capture the magnificence of our awesome God.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nothing is faster than light. It travels at a speed of 186,282 miles per second. If you could run that fast, you could get to the sun in about 8 minutes. You would be able to run to the moon in about 1.3 seconds. God made light that fast. His power is unlimited.

 Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BEGINNING

The Bible says that in the beginning, God created everything in six days. Only He has the power and the wisdom to just speak and create everything from nothing.

GOD IS ELOHIM

A Hebrew name for God is Elohim. This name gives the idea of strength and power. It is the most commonly used name for God in the Old Testament (used over 2,500 times). God has infinite power and greatness. He made everything by just speaking it into existence. He is the Supreme Ruler of all the universe.

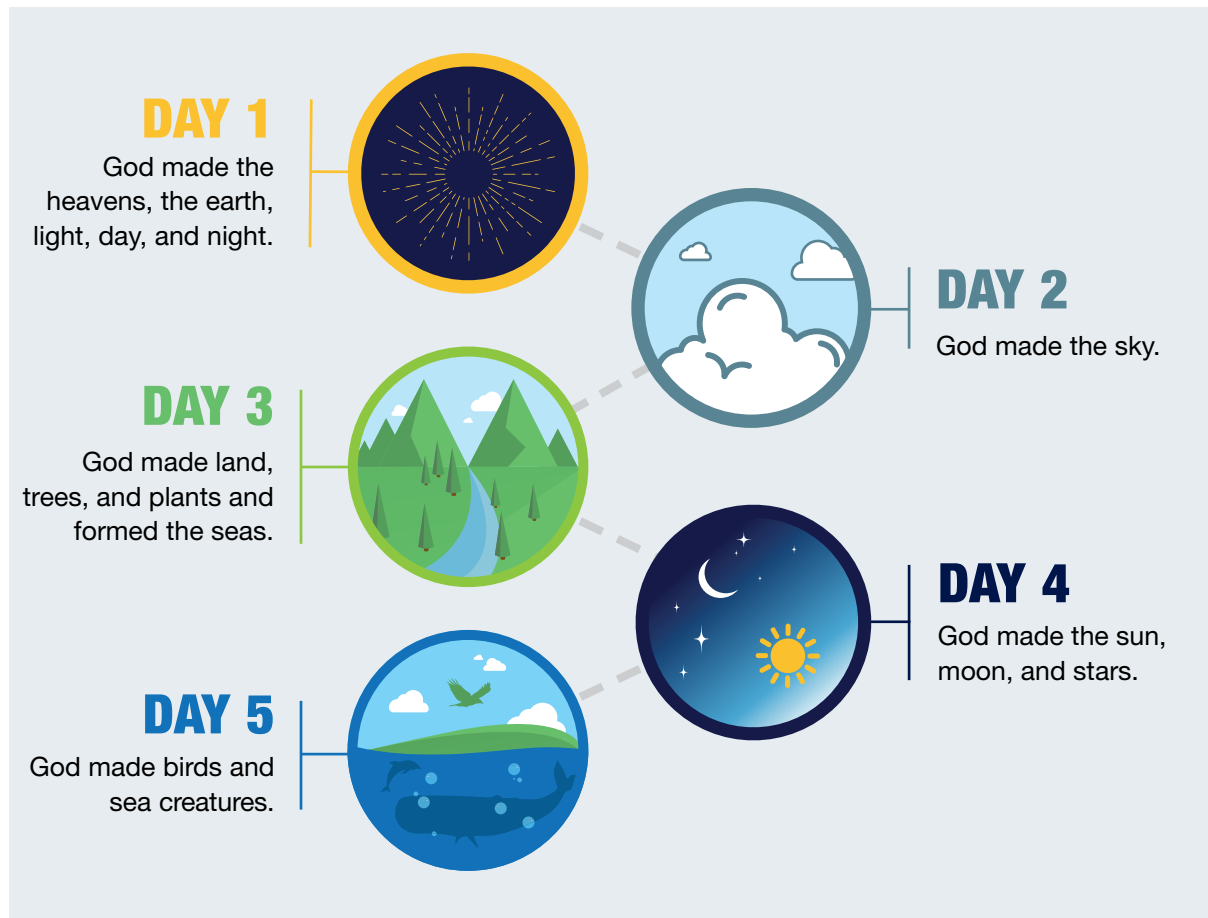


GOD SUSTAINS

When you go to bed at night, you should not worry about whether the sun will rise the next day. God created everything in His great power, and with that amazing power, He keeps everything in its place. God sustains all that He created.

THE FIRST FIVE DAYS

God created everything in six, twenty-four-hour days, with no time period in between the days. During the first five days of creation, God made the heavens, the earth, light, the sky, water, the seas, land, plants, the sun, moon, stars, sea creatures, and birds.



When you see a snowman, do you think that the snowflakes got together and created it by chance? Of course not! You know someone built it. It is the same with creation. The Lord God is to be praised for His greatness in creation. In six days, all things that exist were made by Him. He spoke and created everything from nothing.

Prayer Point

Praise God for His power and wisdom.

Christ Focus

Jesus Christ is God. All things were made and exist through the Word, who is Jesus Christ (John 1).

THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF CREATION

 Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1


Scripture Connections: 1 Chr. 29:11-12; Ps. 19:1-3; 96:11-12; 104:24-32

It all starts with God. The light bulb was invented in 1874. But do people remember the inventors, Henry Woodward and Matthew Evans? No, they think of Thomas Edison. The truth is that this bright idea came from Woodward and Evans. Edison took what they did and made it better. But Edison did not invent the light bulb.

God made this world. The Bible tells us that. But many people look at our beautiful world and do not think of God as the one who made it. Does it really matter who or what made the world? Yes! It matters very much who made the world. Let's think about a few of the reasons.

First, creation teaches us about who God is. Pretty flowers and rugged mountains, bald eagles and woolly mammoths, tiny mice and massive whales all point to a brilliant, imaginative, astonishing Creator! The sun, the sky, and the sea are like dazzling neon signs telling of God's wisdom and power (Ps. 19:1-3). And since no creature can live without God's help and care (104:27-29), we know that He is a good God.

Second, when we know that God made the world, we know that everything belongs to Him! He owns every part of this universe—every planet, star, flower, tree, and animal. He is in charge, and He gets to make the rules for our world (1 Chr. 29:11-12). What the Bible teaches is very important because its words come from God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Finally, knowing that God is the Creator of this world helps us understand the new creation. The same God who said "Let there be light" in the beginning commands the light of His truth to shine in our hearts (2 Cor. 4:6). In this way we become a new creation (5:17). Although the world we live in has been spoiled by sin and evil, God has said He would create new heavens and a new earth (Isa. 65:17). This new creation is completely pure and holy.

A scientific study published in 2011 said that we know of about 8.7 million different species of animals that exist on earth—and more are being discovered all the time!

Wonder and worship. The wonder of all creation is meant to move our hearts. The reason everything exists is to show how glorious God is! When we marvel at the wings of a butterfly or thrill at the sight of snowy mountain peaks, our hearts should well up with worship and praise for God. It is good to speak of God's greatness!

The Bible pictures the sky, the sea, the fields, and trees rejoicing in the Lord (Ps. 96:11-12). We can do the same (Neh. 9:6). Although there are many bad things in this world that can make us sad, we can always rejoice that our good and loving God made this world. Not only that, but He is watching over it and working out His good will in it (Prov. 16:4; Rom. 8:28).

Not only was everything created by God, but all of creation depends on Him (Ps. 147:9; Isa. 42:5).

Prayer Point

Think about God's amazing creation and praise Him!

Christ Focus

Christ is the Creator and Head over all creation (Col. 1:15-17).



Doctrine: Jesus Was at Creation

One of a kind. If you see a turtle on top of a fence post, you can be sure he did not get there on his own. Think about our amazing, beautiful world. It should be easy to see that it did not get that way on its own. John 1:1-5 is an important Scripture linked to the story of Creation in Genesis 1. It tells us something surprising about the One who started and guides our world. Let us learn more about who He is.

God is very different from every other being in the universe. John 1 teaches us that there was more than one Person present at Creation. Jesus is called the Word, and not only was He with God when the world was created, but also Jesus was and is actually God (vss. 1, 3). Trying to think that through can make your head hurt. How can Jesus be *with* God and *be* God at the same time? We have to admit: that is not something we can really figure out.

One person can be different things all at the same time. A man might be a chef, a store clerk, and the town mayor all at once. What he cannot be is three different *people* all at once.* But the Bible teaches that God is actually more than one person at the same time.

The truth is that God is the only being in the universe who is like this (Isa. 46:9). We cannot fully understand Him. Many Bible verses call Jesus God (see Matt. 1:23; Col. 1:15). Other verses show that the Heavenly Father is God (1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6). But while both Jesus and His Father are God, Jesus is not the Father, and the Father is not the Son (see Matt. 3:17; John 20:17).

“What’s the difference between an orange?” This question can’t be understood because it makes no sense. God can’t be understood, either, but not because He makes no sense. It is because He is too great and wonderful!

The New Testament was written in the Greek language. Jesus called Himself the Alpha and Omega, which are the names of the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet (Rev. 22:13). This world starts and finishes with Him in control!

Creation and redemption. So why is it important that we know Jesus is God? It is important because He is the one who created this big world and the one who controls what will happen to it. Although the world was pure and good at the beginning, people sinned. Sad and sinful things then spread throughout the world. Everyone was sinful, and no one could make the world right again.

It is very wonderful news, then, that God *Himself* chose to **redeem** this world (Isa. 59:14-16). Jesus, the Creator of this world, sacrificed His life on the cross to set this world free from the power of sin (Rom. 8:19-23). Our Savior is making all things new (Rev. 21:5)! All who trust in Him are part of His new creation (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Jesus is the only link between this world and the next. He is the beginning and the end of everything (Rev. 21:6).

* The Trinity will be discussed more extensively in a later study.

Prayer Point

Thank God for the life we find in Christ (John 1:4).

Christ Focus

Jesus is both our Creator and our Savior from sin and death.



REVIEW

God **created much of the world in the first five days**. Let's do some review. For each day, begin by narrating the lesson.



- How did God create all that **exists**? *He spoke creation into existence out of nothing.*
- What did God call His creation? *Good.*
- How do we see God's goodness in creation? *Nothing He made was evil; no sin existed.*



- What does Elohim mean? *God is full of infinite power.*
- What did God create in the first five days? *Heavens, light, sky water, land, trees, plants, the sun, the moon, stars, birds, and the sea.*
- How long was each day? *Twenty-four hours.*



- What does creation teach us about God? *He is creative, powerful, wise, and good.*
- Why doesn't creation fall apart? *It belongs to God, and He sustains it all, including every living **creature**.*
- How should we respond to God's creation? *In worship, praise, and wonder.*



- Who is Jesus? *God, Himself, but not the same person as the Father or the Holy Spirit. He was present at Creation.*
- How did God **redeem** His creation? *Through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross.*
- Who controls the universe? *Jesus, the Beginning and the End.*

APPLY

God made everything, and He made everything to praise Him. Everything you see reflects something about God that is worthy of praise. Sunrises proclaim God's mercy every morning; the stars show God's wonder and creativity. Take a walk outside and look around. Quietly observe God's creation and then write down some of what you see. Praise Him for those things, for He made everything!

Prayer Point

Thank God for creating you.

Christ Focus

When He calmed the storm (Matt. 8:26), Jesus spoke, and creation responded much like when God spoke the world into existence.