

GENESIS 1-36

**INVESTIGATING
GOD'S WORD...
AT SCHOOL**

**1ST GRADE
BIBLE CURRICULUM
UNIT 1**



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ESV Text Edition: 2007

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Printed in the United States of America



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DEDICATED TO THE STUDENTS OF **CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL**

USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Investigating God's Word...At School is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the "big picture" of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

Introduction. Each "Day One" starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to "call" them to study.

Quiz Time. Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

W.O.W! The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

Historical Context. Each lesson, the Scripture text is 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.

Bible Investigation. The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). 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.

Scripture Memory. At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

Quiz Time. Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

Historical Context. As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God’s Word.

Bible Investigation. Again, this is the heart and soul of each day’s Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God’s Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

Worldview Builder. This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a “pillar” of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

Defend the Faith. A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

Scripture Memory. The day’s lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

AND FINALLY...

Teaching God’s Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

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LESSON 1 // GENESIS 1:1-2:7

OVERVIEW

This unit's lessons will take the children through a significant portion of the Book of Genesis—the "Book of Beginnings." Genesis provides us with history 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.

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 year!

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Q & A
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

The Bible
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

Bible
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Genesis 1:1-23
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Genesis 1:1
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

Review
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Genesis 1:24-2:7
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Creation
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

The Bible's Authority
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Genesis 1:1
3-5 mins.



INTRODUCTION

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?



QUIZ TIME

But first, we will move on to QUIZ TIME—our regular 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 (ESV)

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.



W.O.W!

Have the children sit down.

Say: *Each week in this class, we will learn new vocabulary words. 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) for today 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. Before each lesson, 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."



BIBLE INVESTIGATION

YOU MAY WANT TO MAKE
A CHART OF THE DAYS OF
CREATION ON THE BOARD
AS A VISUAL HELP.

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 the book of Genesis will tell us all about our BEGINNINGS!*

*Let’s begin reading. **Read Genesis 1:1.***

¹In 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.***

²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God 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.***

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second 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 waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. 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 heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the 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 waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed



them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply 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.*

Conclusion: *We will stop here today. Do you think God is finished creating the world yet? What's missing? **Allow answers.** Our LORD God created an amazing place for humans and animals to live, didn't He? But this is only the beginning. We'll read more about what happens “in the beginning” next time.*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Write the Scripture Memory verse (Genesis 1:1) on the board. Read it to the children. Have them repeat it.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Say: *This is the first verse in the entire Bible, so it is a great one to learn by heart. We'll practice this verse several times this week. Tell your parents about who created the heavens and the earth—and ask them to help you memorize this important verse.*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Close in prayer.

DAY TWO



QUIZ TIME

We'll begin today with QUIZ TIME—our regular opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: What is our Word of the Week? What does the word "Bible" mean? Who created the heavens and the earth? When did God create the heavens and the earth? How did God create the heavens and the earth?

Answers:

1. Bible.
2. "Books."
3. God.
4. In the beginning.
5. He just spoke, and it came to be.

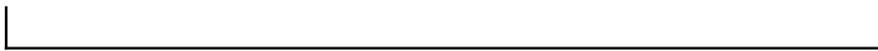
How many days of Creation did we read about last time? [Five.] Does God have more to create? [Yes.] We'll find out in our Bible Investigation time in a moment.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Say: What does the BIBLE say about when God did His work of CREATION? [In the beginning.] Let's put our first timeline on the board. **Draw this timeline on the board.**

CREATION



"IN THE BEGINNING"

God's Word teaches us that human history has a beginning—and it has an end too. We'll learn more about that as we study our Bibles each and every week together.



BIBLE INVESTIGATION

YOU MAY WANT TO MAKE
A CHART OF THE DAYS OF
CREATION ON THE BOARD
AS A VISUAL HELP.

Introduction: *Last time, we left off with Day Five of Creation. Remember that everything we read in God’s Word is TRUE. It is TRUE because God is the God of all TRUTH and He inspired men to write these words down for us. Isn’t that great?*

*Let’s begin reading. **Read Genesis 1:24-25.***

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. 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, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, 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.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

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 on the Lord’s Day to worship our Creator.*

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

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens ⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

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. He made human beings, then gave them life too.*

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.

Say: *Now, let’s go on to something new in our study of God’s Word. It’s called our “Worldview Builder.”*



WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Say: *When we study God’s Word, we learn how to SEE and UNDERSTAND the world the right way. We learn the TRUTH about the world we live in.*

Draw the “Creation” Pillar on the board. *Today, we will begin to build our “Christian worldview” with a first “pillar.” Pillars are structures that hold up buildings—our “worldview pillars” hold up our “thinking” so that it is straight and secure.*



We have learned a lot about CREATION in Genesis 1 and 2, haven’t we? Let’s list the things we now know about CREATION. Write these truths next to the Creation Pillar as the children list them:

1. God created all things out of nothing.
2. God spoke and all things came into being.
3. God created all things in six days.
4. God created “in the beginning.”
5. God saw all that He made was good.
6. God rested from His creative work on the seventh day.

We will learn many more things about God’s CREATION as we continue to study His Word. We will constantly be building our Christian worldviews so that we can learn the TRUTH!



DEFEND THE FAITH

Say: *Studying God’s Word each week also equips us to DEFEND our faith in Jesus Christ. Why do you think we have to learn how to DEFEND our faith? Allow answers. Satan and people who reject Jesus are constantly attacking what Christians believe about God and His world. We must be ready to stand for the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

But we also must also be ready to DEFEND our faith with those who really want to know why we believe what we believe. Listen to what the apostle Peter tells us about defending our faith:

I Peter 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ ...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...



So, you and I need to be **PREPARED** to give answers to the big questions people ask about the Christian faith. Today, we'll ask this question:

Q: Why do we believe what is written in the Bible? Isn't it just a book written a long time ago by a bunch of men?

How would you answer that question? **Allow answers.** Here is an answer for you to learn:

A: The Bible is the Word of God that is able to make us wise unto salvation. It is perfectly trustworthy since it is without error, always truthful and totally powerful to change hearts and minds. God inspired men to write the Bible so that we can know who God is and what He requires of us.

We will go over that answer in more detail in the weeks to come. Always remember that the **BIBLE** is our authority for all of life since that God who **CREATED** us gave it to us!



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Write this lesson's Scripture Memory verse (Genesis 1:1) on the board.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Use any method to review the verse with your students.

Close in prayer.