

LESSON ONE

GOD, OUR CREATOR

Memory Verse

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah, Lord God, you
who have made the heavens and the earth
by your great power.

Bible

The Story of Creation
Genesis 1:1—

Songs:

Things That Are Beautiful
The Skies and the Earth
Is Thy Father
What Is Our God
How Great Thou Art
This Is My World
Our God, He Is Alive
Praise the Lord

Preparation and Considerations:

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

- Student Books
- Visual Aids materials—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; Days of Creation Flash Cards; Creation Charades
- Bible
- chairs (Block Five)
- scissors (Block Five)
- Provision Packsack (Block Five)
- small container (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. I am so excited to see you here! Are you excited to be here in the jungle? Raise your hand if you are excited to be here!** (Response) **That's great!**

Introduce yourself and any co-teachers as Jungle Guides. Then continue by explaining the theme of the VBS series.

Here at VBS, we are going to learn some wonderful lessons about God and the plans God has for us. And we are going to have lots of fun at the same time! We are going to explore a jungle. Do you know what a jungle is? (Response) **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 about God. We are going to learn how great God is and how He takes care of us. He is so wonderful, and I am glad He loves us so much. He makes us happy that God loves you so much? (Response)

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

HELLO SONG

Available on the Multimedia CD!

Rotate through song
every student has been mentioned.

Untangled Action Rhyme

Before class, make a copy of the *Untangled Action Rhyme* found on page 48. You can also find copies of the PDF found on the Multimedia CD.

In a large open area, have students stand, facing you. Perform the Untangled Action Rhyme with them. **Alright, jungle explorers! We are going to learn the Untangled Action Rhyme together. We will do this rhyme together each time we meet. It will help us remember how exciting a jungle is and how God is with us everywhere we go, even in a jungle.**

Perform the action rhyme with the students. Instruct them to watch you, and perform the actions as you say the words. Recite the action rhyme slowly so students will have time to complete the actions. Perform each action as you say each line. This activity will be performed during each VBS session. The students will become more familiar with the actions as VBS progresses.

Elijah the Elephant

Before class, remove the *Elijah the Elephant* puppet and *Flower, Trees, and Mango* cards from the Visual Aid Packet, and glue a craft stick to the back of the puppet. Use the *Elijah* puppet to tell the following story. (Or you could use the *Elijah* finger puppet.) Hold Elijah in your hand as you tell the story to the students. If you wish, you can have an assistant play the part of Elijah.

Teacher: Hey, jungle explorers! Guess who I just met! (Show the *Elijah* puppet to the students.) **This is Elijah the Elephant. He's new to the jungle too!**

Elijah: Hey! Hi! Wow! I'm so excited to meet you! I'm so excited to be here! I mean, isn't this place 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: I guess, but I hope you're going to tell us.

Elijah: Never heard of it! I'm so having trouble believing it!

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

Elijah: Oh, sure! They all have one thing in common is... God made them! You know that? I mean everything from that great big tree down to this itty, bitty butterfly. God made them all! He's so powerful!

Teacher: So what, Elijah?

Elijah: (Awestruck) He's so powerful.

Teacher: Right! God is very powerful. How does that make you feel?

Elijah: About as safe as an itty, bitty butterfly. I mean, if God created this whole world, I must be just an itty, bitty part of it, right?

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

Elijah: I don't know.

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

Elijah: Really?

Teacher: Really! And He cares for you. How does that make you feel now?

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

Teacher: He does.

Elijah: That makes me feel...safe.

Teacher: That's terrific! That's how it should make you feel. Would you like to learn more about our powerful Creator?

Elijah: Can I?

Teacher: Sure! We were just about to learn a Bible verse that tells us more about God.

memory Verse

You will be making a Memory Verse wall display using the visuals from the Visual Aid Packet. Cut out each set of the *Memory Verse Leaves*, and bring one set per lesson to class. Affix the *God's DiVine Plan* poster to the wall. Each lesson you will be adding a new Memory Verse Vine. You will need green cording of some kind like twine, yarn, or crepe paper. Before class, tape a long, winding "vine" somewhere around the *God's DiVine Plan* poster. Make sure to leave room for four more vines that will be added in the lessons to come.

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

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



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 world held by our Creator.

Give the students the story for the Bible story. **Okay, jungle explorers, it is time for our Bible story. We are going to hear the Bible story that teaches us about God creating the world. As we begin, let's sing our "Story Time Song."**

See page 45.

Remove the *Story Time Bible Book* from the Visual Aid Packet. Turn to the first group of pictures, and show the corresponding pictures as you read the following story. Scriptural reference: Genesis 1:1—2:3

Audio Tracks available on the Multimedia CD!

STORY TIME SONG



In the Beginning

PICTURE ONE

Before God created the world, there was nothing here. There were no beautiful sunsets, no star-filled skies, no sweet-smelling flowers, no tasty apples, no soft bunnies. But God was here. God is very powerful, and He can do anything. God decided He would create our world.

But what would God do first? Can you see in this

picture the first thing God made? You're right! The first thing God made was light. It must have been very dark before God made the light. God knew His world would be a good place to live and said, "Let there be light." Just as God said, there was light all around. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. The light He called day, and the darkness He called night. That was the first day.

PICTURE TWO

God was just getting started. He began making His world beautiful. On day two, God made the beautiful blue sky. Then God made the water and the dry ground.

God was not finished yet. On the third day, God made trees, flowers, and all types of plants. He filled the world He had created with grass and bushes. He even created some animals. On the third day, God looked at what He had made and said it was good.

On the fourth day, God put twinkling stars in the sky. He made a sun to give us warm light and lots of light during the day. And He

made the moon to shine at night. Once again, God saw that what He had made was good.

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

On the sixth day, God made all types of animals to walk on the land. He made lions and tigers to roam the jungles and horses and cows to graze in the pastures. He created huge elephants and tiny bugs. And God saw that it was good. God had made many beautiful things. There was just one thing left to make. Do you know what God made next? (Response)

PICTURE THREE

God also made people on the sixth day, but they were different from all the other things God made. After God made everything else, He said, "Let us make people in our image." This means people are special, because they would be more like God than any other thing He had made.

So God made people, and He put them in charge of taking care of all the other things He made. After God created people, God looked at His creation and knew that it was very good.

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





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Jungle Journals, part 1

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



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Expedition Exercises

- Reinforce the lesson.
- Create a hands-on learning activity that will reinforce the lesson in students' minds.
- Have fun!

Creation Circle Game

Materials needed: chairs

Arrange chairs in a circle, facing out. Each student should have one chair. If you have students. Have your students stand up and march around the chairs as you sing the Creation Words to the Creation Song" vary slightly. Below is one version:

Day One, Day One, God made light when there was none.
Day One, Day One, God made light when there was none.
Day Two, Day Two, God made a sky of blue.
Day Two, Day Two, God made a sky of blue.
Day Three, Day Three, God made flowers and trees.
Day Three, Day Three, God made flowers and trees.
Day Four, Day Four, God made sun and moon.
Day Four, Day Four, God made sun and stars.
Day Five, Day Five, God made birds to fly.
Day Five, Day Five, God made birds to fly.
Sixth Day, Sixth Day, God made animals and man that day.
Sixth Day, Sixth Day, God made animals and man that day.
Seventh Day, Seventh Day, God rested just as he is in heaven.
Seventh Day, Seventh Day, God rested just as he is in heaven. REST!

When you should say the word, "Rest," the students should scramble to find a seat. There will be one student who is left standing. Ask that student, what was the most special thing God created. The student should reply, "Me." When they do, everyone should stand up and run to that student and give them a high five, fist bump, or pat on the back. Then continue playing.



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 pictures. Place the pictures inside a Provision Packsack or small bag.

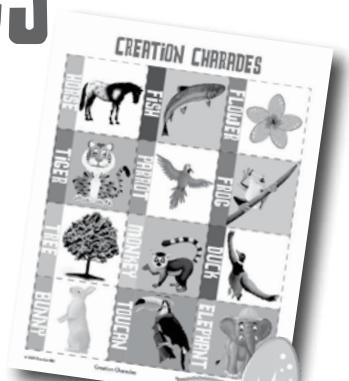
Have students sit in a circle on the floor. SAY: **Let's see how much we can learn about the days of creation!** Pull a flash card out of the Provision Packsack, and show it to the children, placing a finger on the number in the corner to identify it. ASK: **What do you see in this picture?** After they have identified the item in the picture, ASK: **On what day do you think God created (item)?** Allow students to make a guess. It's okay if they don't know. Try to get them to give the correct answer. When SAY: **If you think God created (item) on (day of creation), raise your hand.** Raise the correct answer. If no students stand and imitate or act out the item. (For light, students might smile brightly and stretch their arms wide. For sky, students might float around the room like clouds. For any type of plant, students might squat down and "grow" up and spread their arms. After a few moments, have the students to return to the circle, and choose another flash card. If all the cards have been used, place them back in the Packsack, and play again. Play until you feel the students have a good grasp of the items were created on what 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 around a large, open area in the classroom. Ask for a volunteer to reach into the bag and pull out one of the pictures. If a student is having difficulty thinking of a way to imitate their item, you can suggest a few ideas. Have them move to the center of the open area, and imitate the creation. The other students will try to guess what they are imitating. When a student has guessed correctly, the volunteer says, **Who made the (creation)?** Have them answer together, **God did!** Continue to 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!

Materials: Visual Aids—Elijah puppet
Visual Aid—Story Time Bible Book

Gather the students at a table or other seated area, and remove *Elijah* from the Visual Aid Packet. Have Elijah review the lesson with the students.

Elijah was just telling me he would love to hear about the Bible story we learned today. Can anyone tell Elijah some of the things we learned in our Bible story?

(Allow students to take turns retelling the Bible story to Elijah using the *Story Time Bible Book*. If they struggle, prompt them with review questions like the following.)

- Who can tell Elijah what God made?
- Who can tell Elijah what God made on the first day?
- What was God's special plan for the second day?
- What did God do on the third day?

Good job! I can tell Elijah what God made. Which you remember. You were all listening. God is very powerful. He is so powerful, He created the whole world! He is powerful enough to take care of the whole world. He has wonderful plans for all of us. That makes me feel happy and proud. Does it make you feel happy to know that God is so big and powerful? (Response) Let's sing some songs that help us remember how powerful God is.

Does anyone remember our Bible story? Let's sing together. "Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your power." (Psalm 124:1-2) We have a powerful God, and I am glad He created this beautiful world we live in. It makes me want to praise Him. What about you? (Response) Let's say a prayer to God right now and thank Him for all the wonderful things He has done. Before we pray, let's sing our "Prayer Song."

Jungle Journals, part 2

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