



Year 2—Quarter 2 God's Big Plan

God the Creator

Why Did God Make the World?

Ask students, How many of you have ever drawn a picture?

Think of the best picture you've ever drawn. What was it of?

Why did you draw that picture?

(As the teacher, tell a story about a time when you made something artistic and explain how you felt about creating it. If you still have it, bring it in to show.)

Summarize Genesis 1, with the following story, asking the included questions as you read.

In the beginning, God created everything in **six days**.

How many days did it take God to create everything? *(Six days.)*

That's pretty fast to create everything, isn't it? But remember that God is really powerful and He can do anything as quick as can be.

Well at first, everything was dark, but on the **first day**, God created the light. He said, "Let there be light!" and suddenly everything was bright. Then, at nighttime, it got dark again.

On the **second day**, God made the sky.

The **third day**, He made the oceans and all the dry ground came up out of the oceans. Show me with your hands what it would look like for the ground to rise up out of the oceans.

Then, plants and trees started growing out of the ground and covering everything.

Then, on the **fourth day**, God made the sun and the moon and the stars. How many stars do you think there are in the sky?

Lots, right? There are more stars than we could ever count. And God made them all.

On **day five**, God made everything that lives in the water. What kinds of things can you think of that live in the water? *(Fish, dolphins, whales, sharks, seals, seahorses, starfish, etc.)*

Then, on that same day, God made all the different kinds of birds that fly in the sky. What are some of the different kinds of birds that you can name? *(Pigeons, blue jays, robins, cardinals, eagles, hawks, crows, etc.)*

On **day six**, God made all the animals that live on the land. What kinds of animals live on land or used to live on land? *(Dinosaurs, bears, horses, dogs, pigs, lizards, lions, squirrels, etc.)*

Then, after God made all those different kinds of animals, He made a man and a woman. The man was named Adam and the woman was named Eve. God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and let them live there.

The question I want to ask you today is, Why do you think God made all those things?

God wanted to make everything. Just like when you made your drawings that you told me about and I made mine, God made what He made – people and animals and the whole world – because He wanted to. He created everything so that He could be proud of it and so that He could love it. God loves the world. He loves the mountains and the lakes and the animals, and He loves you.

Power Point

God created
the wonderful
world in which
we live.

MEMORY VERSE
Genesis 1:1, "In the
beginning God cre-
ated the heavens
and the earth."

Intro Object Lesson

Hold up: Legos and Play-Doh

Say: How many of you have ever made something out of Legos? How many of you have made something using Play-Doh? Who here has made art using watercolors? Crayons? Or chalk? What other creative tools have you used to make something amazing?

Let me ask you one more question. Has anyone here ever made something from nothing? I don't mean you took a blank page and applied markers to it. I don't mean you took a shapeless lump of Play-Doh and formed it with your hands. I mean you literally created something new, amazing, and creative out of thin air? Anyone?

Humans are creative. Just like the God who made us, we love to create. We make art. We make bridges and buildings. We make delicious dinners and

desserts. But none of us have ever made something from nothing. It's just not possible! If you want to build a bridge, you need steel. If you want to make a salad, you need vegetables. If you want to make vegetables, you need seeds and soil and water and sunlight. As creative as we are, we simply can't make something from nothing.

Today we're learning about how God created our world. The first five words are, "In the beginning, God created..." The first thing we learn is that our God is creative. But God didn't need Play-Doh or seeds or Legos to get started when he chose to create. God isn't limited like we are to using things already created. God spoke, and all of creation came to be.

Think about this: If God spoke and made our amazing world, what can He do in your life?

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Activity: Memory Verse

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1(New International Reader’s Version)

Have the children do the following sign language motions along with repeating the words after you, to help them learn the Bible Verse:

“**In the beginning**”—the index finger twists between the fingers of the other hand to indicate the turning of a key in an ignition switch

“**God**”—hold hand up with fingers towards the sky...the hand is raised to the heavens and then downward in a sign of respect

“**created**”—the hands (in fists on top of one

another) twist as if they were putting something together

“**the heavens**”—the hands move up, in a large circle, towards the heavens

“**and the earth**”—the thumb and middle finger pinch the side of the wrist which represents the earth rotating on its axis

“**Genesis 1**”—hold 1 finger up “1”—hold another finger up.

Do this a few times with the children. Make it fun for them to do the motions and say the words. Involving them in active learning is essential for memorization.

Activity

Sign Language Circle

- Split the children into 2 groups
- Make one group an inner circle and the other one be an outer circle
- Have the inner circle look outward facing the outer group (if you have an odd number of people put a group of three together)
- They are going to practice their Bible Verse by saying and signing it
- Start by having the inner group doing the sign language and the outer group saying it with them...then have them switch
- After each group has done both parts, turn the music on and have them walk in their circles in opposite directions.
- When the music stops, they stop and do the same thing again with a new partner.

Small Groups:

Split the children into 2 groups. Have one group explain the meaning of “create” and have the other group explain the meaning of “make”. Switch groups.

Keep the children in their groups. Give each group a piece of paper and a writing utensil. Have each group make a list of things that God can do that we cannot. Share the lists with the whole group.

Have the children stand up in the middle of the classroom. As you read the list, have the children go to the right side of the room, if the item you say WAS created on that day of creation. If the item you say WAS NOT created on that day of creation, have the children go to the left side of the classroom.

- Plants Day 1 (left)
- Adam Day 6 (right)
- Birds Day 2 (left)
- Stars Day 6 (left)
- Sky Day 2 (right)
- Light Day 1 (right)
- Dinosaurs Day 6 (left)
- Fish Day 5 (right)
- Eve Day 3 (left)
- Pizza Day 1 (left)

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Dig Deeper

God Wants Us to Be Like Him

Ask, How did you know how to draw a person? (*Suggest that we know how to draw people because we are people and because we’ve seen lots of people.*)

Well, we were drawing people, but God made real people. Does anyone remember who the first two people were that God made? (*Adam and Eve.*)

Read Genesis 1:26-27 (*quoted here in the NIV*) – “Then God said, ‘Let Us make humans 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.’ So God created humans in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

Who is God talking to when He says, “Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness...”? (*He’s talking to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.*)

God made us to be like Himself and like Jesus and like the Holy Spirit. We knew how to draw a person because we are people and we knew how to draw someone like ourselves. In the same way, God knew how to make us because He made us to be like Himself.

If God made us to be like Himself, let’s think about what it means to be like God. What is God like? How would you describe Him?

(*Lead students in thinking of different terms they could use to describe God. God’s general attributes are that He is Spirit, He is eternal, He is everywhere, He knows everything, He can do anything, He is holy, He always loves, He always does what is right, He is merciful, He is generous, He is peaceful, He is creative, etc.*)

(*Help students see that we are like God in some ways, but not in others. For example, God is a Spirit and we have a spirit, but God is powerful enough to do anything He wants, and we are not.*)

What about love? Does God love? (*Yes.*)

Do you think God wants us to love? (*Yes.*)

One way that God wants us to be like Him is to always love Him and to love other people. If we love God and other people, we will be like God.

What about doing what is right? Does God always do what is right? (*Yes.*)

He always wants and does the right thing.

Do you think God wants you to do the right things? (*He does.*)

If we will love God and love other people and do the right things that God wants us to do, then we will be like God and will be doing the things He made us to do.

Something Out of Nothing

“The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it.” Psalm 24:1 (NIRV)

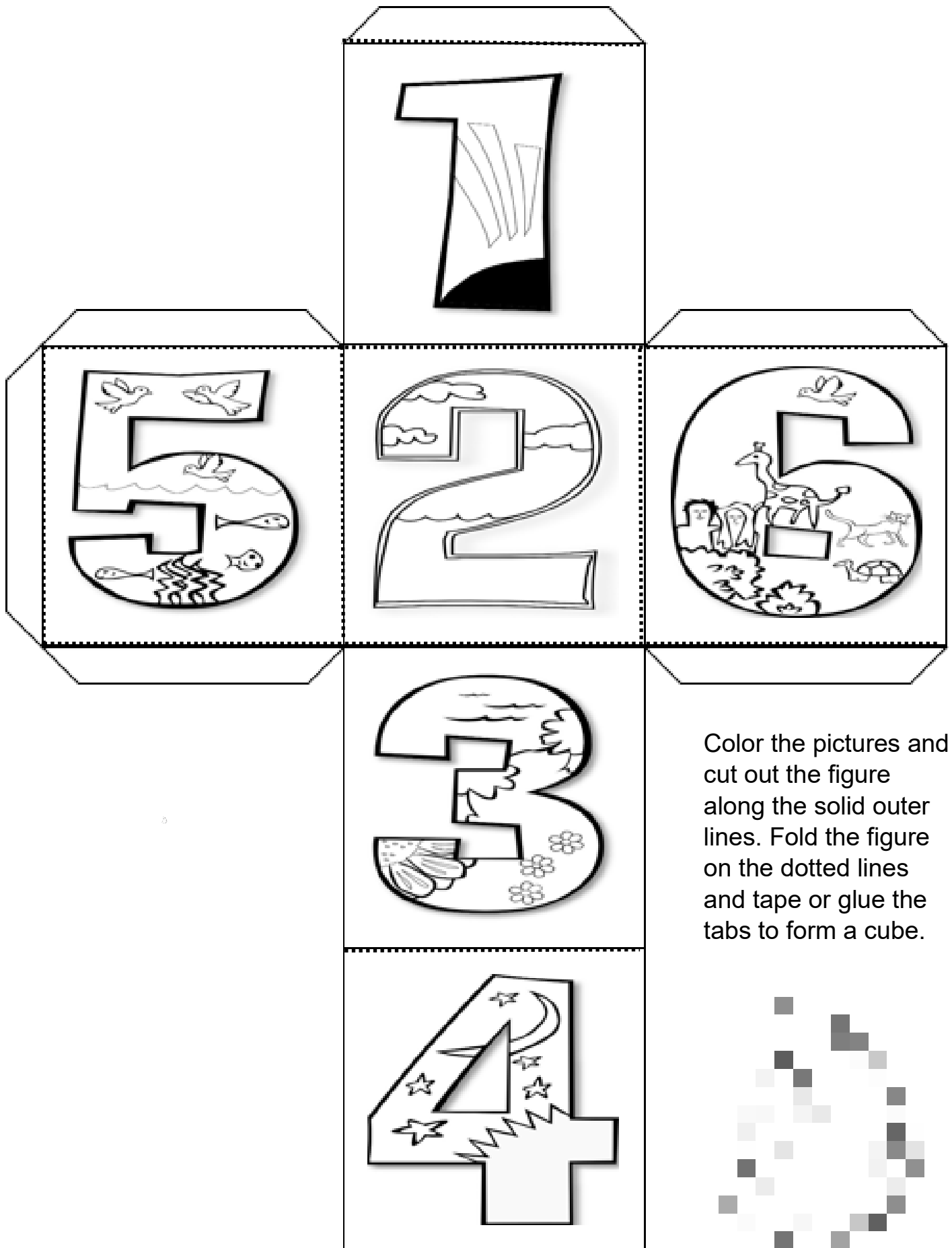
There is nothing we can do to make something out of nothing. Try as we might, we can’t create gold or water or anything out of thin air. The world we live in was designed and made by an all-powerful God so that all the parts and pieces work together.

But how often do we stop and remember this is the God who made light? This is the God who made the ocean and all the incredible creatures that live in it. God made the foods we eat, the air we breathe, and the families who love us. He made us

too and loves us very much.

God was all-powerful in the beginning, and he is still all-powerful today. When we pray, we are asking the God who made night and day, oceans and sky, to listen to our requests. The same God who made the world out of nothingness wants to know about our illnesses, our fears, our worries, and our concerns. He hears every prayer we speak, and He uses his awesome power not to do our bidding, but to answer our prayers in a way that will show us, and everyone around us, that He is who the Bible says He is.





Color the pictures and cut out the figure along the solid outer lines. Fold the figure on the dotted lines and tape or glue the tabs to form a cube.

