



The Very Good Beginning

VERSE & MAIN POINT

- Genesis 1:1 - *God created the heavens and the earth.*
- God Made Everything!

MATERIALS

- **Big Picture Story Bible:** The Very Good Beginning pp. 15-35
- **Props:** birdhouse, twigs, vines (or raffia). If you will not be using BigKidz presentation slides, please also include props to represent God's creation (i.e. animals, water, flowers, fruit and vegetables).

LESSON

The very first words in the Bible are *"In the beginning"* ... Genesis is the first book in the Bible. The word Genesis actually means *"beginning."* Genesis tells us the story of the beginning of the earth, the beginning of people, trees, animals, the sun ... everything that we can see, smell, touch, and hear. It is not the beginning of God! God has no beginning. He has always been. This is hard for us to understand because everything we can see has a beginning: babies are born, puppies are born, things are made. But God has always been.

One of the reasons God gave us the book of Genesis is to tell us the story of how He created everything. People were not alive to see the world come into being. God wanted us to know how and why He created the world.

Let's look at how God created the earth...

If I asked you to create a bird house (show birdhouse), what do you think you would need? *(Allow children to answer - possible answers are: Wood, nails, hammer, glue)*

But what if you were asked to make it without any wood or tools? Some of you might get really creative and go into the woods and find some sticks. You could break them into just the right size. You might find some vines and tie them together to make the walls and roof.

TEACHER: Demonstrate with your twigs and vines.

Now, what if I asked you to make it out of nothing at all? Could any of you do that? No. No one can create something out of nothing, but God can! Listen for the special way that God created everything.

Let's say our verse together again, *"God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. We cannot imagine exactly what this looked like, but we are told there was no light and that God was there. God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. Let's talk about what God created on each of these days.

Day One:

God said, *"Let there be light."* And there was light. God saw that the light was good.

TEACHER: Have children say "It was good!" with you. Explain to the children that after everything that God created, He said that it was good. Our goal is for the children to understand that everything God made was good. Children will say this with you for each day of creation.

Did you hear that? All God did was speak! He SAID, "Let there be light," and then there was light! Isn't that amazing? God is very powerful!

Day Two:

The next day, God spoke and separated the waters and created the sky. God saw that it was good.

TEACHER: Have the children say "it was good" along with you.

Day Three:

On the third day, God made dry ground appear. God called the dry ground *"land"* and called the waters *"oceans."* Before day three, the earth was covered with water. On the dry ground, God created plants. Each plant has its own kind of seed. A watermelon seed grows into a watermelon. All of the information needed to grow a big watermelon, God put into a tiny watermelon seed. Wow! And God did not just create watermelon. He created lemons, oranges, apples, daisies, roses, squash, oak trees, and many, many more plants.

TEACHER: Have the children say "it was good" along with you.

Day Four:

On the fourth day, God spoke and made two great lights. One was to light the day, and one to light the night. Who knows what shines during the day? *The sun.* Who knows what shines at night? *The moon and stars.* God saw that it was good.

TEACHER: Have the children say "it was good" along with you.

Day Five:

On the fifth day, God spoke to create the sea creatures in the oceans and birds in the sky. Sea creatures like fish, sharks, whales, jellyfish, and stingrays filled the oceans. Eagles, sparrows, crows, owls, and robins filled the sky. God is so creative! God saw that it was good.

TEACHER: By this time the students may be able to say the following line with you... "God saw that it was good."

Day Six:

On the sixth day, God spoke all the land animals into existence. What animals live on land? *(Allow children to answer - some possible answers: Cows, lions, tigers, dogs, bears)*

There are too many to name. God is so amazing!!

Next, God created one final thing. God created man. God formed the man from the dust of the ground. Then, God did something He did not do with any of the other creatures that He created. God breathed life into the man. God created Adam in His own image. This is important because it shows us that God created people to be special, different from any other part of creation. God named the man Adam and put him in a garden called Eden. God gave the man the job of being caretaker of the garden.

God saw that it was NOT GOOD for Adam to be alone. God knew that Adam needed a helper. So God created Eve, the first woman, to be Adam's helper. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect garden. There was plenty of food for Adam and Eve as well as the animals. Adam and Eve were friends with God. God loved Adam and Eve very much. It was all VERY GOOD!

Day Seven:

God rested. God does not get tired and need sleep like we do. God rested to enjoy His creation. He knew that people would need rest. God wanted to teach us that rest is important.

God is so powerful that He created everything by simply speaking. How amazing God is!

Let's say our verse one more time: *"God created the heavens and the earth."* - Genesis 1:1

TEACHER: End in prayer, thanking God for how powerful He is!