

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week One - Creation: Heaven & Earth

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

This week kicks off our yearlong series of navigating through all of Scripture. Though we believe Scripture is telling one large story - the True Story of the world - it is also a story made up of smaller stories within it. Each bit is helpful in understanding God's larger goal in His world. First, we start at how He made all things - Creation!

- **Big Idea:** There is a Creator of all things - and He is good!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **PlayDoh**

Give the kids some PlayDoh and ask them to make something God made at the beginning of Creation.

Sing Together

God of Wonders - <https://youtu.be/-5Vg4A6fgWA>

Story - from Genesis 1

First: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning—Day One.

God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: he named sky the Heavens.

It was evening, it was morning—Day Two.

God spoke: "Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!" And there it was. God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, every sort of fruit-bearing tree." And there it was. Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, and fruit bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning—Day Three.

God spoke: "Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven's sky! Separate Day from Night. Mark seasons and days and years, lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth." And there it was. God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, the smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars. God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth and oversee Day and Night, to separate light and dark.

God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning—Day Four.

God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!" God created the huge whales, all the swarm of life in the waters, And every kind and species of flying birds. God saw that it was good.

God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean! Birds, reproduce on Earth!" It was evening, it was morning—Day Five.

God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds." And there it was: wild animals of every kind, cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." Then God said, "I've given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food. To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food." And there it was. God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning—Day Six.

Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail. By the seventh day God had finished his work. On the seventh day he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day. He made it a Holy Day because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done. This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think God created everything? Why do you think he created humans?
- What do you think the world was like at the very beginning?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, you are the Maker of all things and you've made all things good! Thank you! Help us to care for your good world. Amen!
- **Craft:**
Use the attached sheets to create a wheel showing the different days of creation.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. As you enjoy a meal, take time with your family to thank God for what he made and how good it is. Invite someone who doesn't know God to eat with you as you talk about God's goodness.



