



## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love

# The Creation Story

## Genesis 1:1–2:9

### Materials

- 🔗 Bibles and/or Bible app for smartphone/tablet
- 🔗 Storyteller costume – Could be a “lighthouse keeper” uniform – navy blue coat with brass buttons and a navy blue hat to keep with the theme. OR it could be a basic black shirt and black pants. This more neutral option would allow the Storyteller to quickly throw on a tunic to fill in as a drama character if needed.
- 🔗 Flashlight for Light
- 🔗 Umbrella for Sky (bonus points if it’s sky-blue)
- 🔗 Paper leaves or faux branches from a craft store’s floral department for Tree
- 🔗 A crescent cut out of posterboard for Moon (could be yellow or wrapped in aluminum foil)
- 🔗 A bird puppet or doll for Bird
- 🔗 Bible-time attire for Person – tunic or robe, rope belt, sandals
- 🔗 Lantern (optional)
- 🔗 Discovery on Adventure Island **Complete Music CD or MP3 files**
- 🔗 **Bible Storytelling Props**
- 🔗 CD Player or device to play downloaded music

### Setting the Scene

- 🔗 Designate one wall to be the focal wall, serving as the backdrop for the action.
- 🔗 The wall could be decorated to look like a night sky with stars (The “Cosmos”).
- 🔗 The Storyteller’s area could be to the side. It could be a stool, decorated to look like a lighthouse (the shapes are similar enough that it could work). Perhaps right beside the stool could be a table with a lit lantern, a Bible, and the CD player playing one of the VBS songs as the Explorers enter.
- 🔗 Fade the music once it’s time to begin the story.
- 🔗 Additionally, there could be space on a wall where the Signal Verse and each day’s Pathfinder can be posted.

# Bible Background

## Genesis 1:1–2:9

**Main Idea: We can shine God’s light of love on all creation!**

“When God began to create the heavens and the earth—the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters” (Genesis 1:1-2). These are the first words we read in the Bible. Close your eyes for 30 seconds. Now open them. What do you see?

In the beginning, the Spirit of God swept over the sea and said, “Let there be light!” Light touches everything we see around us. Science tells us that light includes the visible and invisible electromagnetic spectrum, but we usually think of light as something we see with our eyes. This is what the Bible means by light. But why did God make light (or anything else)?

After God created light, we read, “God saw how good the light was” (Genesis 1:4). This is why God created light, the sky, the sea, and the land. It was good for God to create it. Like a painter who steps back from a canvas and is satisfied by the painting, God created and said it was good. It was important for people living in ancient times to understand the meaning and purpose behind creation. Knowing that the world around them was created for their good reminded them that the Creator was a loving God who provided for their daily needs.

After the days of creation, the story turns to the beginning of God’s special relationship with human beings. Adam and Eve were the residents of a special garden that God had given them as a kind of natural temple. In this garden, Adam and Eve communed with God. Additionally, the man and woman were given work to do: taking care of the created world alongside God. The creation story helped ancient Israel find meaning in their own relationship with God. They communed with God, raised their own families, and worked the land just as Adam and Eve had done.

But are the words of Genesis 1 and 2 just for ancient people? Now more than ever, the creation story needs to be told to a new generation. As our world faces many challenges, modern people need to be reminded that God’s purpose in creation is for good. It is also for people to be doers of good in God’s world. As you share the story of creation with children at Discovery on Adventure Island, help them understand that we are meant to shine God’s light of love in the world. Not only should we strive to take care of the environment God has provided, but we should also care about the people around us. This world is the garden where we have been placed. Like the man and woman in the creation account, our job is to tend this garden and to reflect God’s light as we love one another.



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### Teacher Tip

This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided for you, the Storyteller, to give context for each session’s story before you teach on it. ***You may share this information with your Explorers, if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.***

### Additional Bible Reading

-  Psalm 24:1-2
-  Job 38



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### Teacher Tip

If time permits, it may be helpful to explain to Explorers that the Book of Genesis is the very first book of the Old Testament, sometimes referred to as the Law or Pentateuch, which means “five books.” For short, child-friendly explanations of various sections of the Bible, check out the Deep Blue Kids Bible pages iii–ix.

# Story Starter

Good Day, Explorers. Welcome to the Story Station here on Adventure Island!

Each day we'll set out on a quest for God's Great Light! Some of it is light we can see with our eyes. But some of the brightest light of all is the light we will feel deep in our hearts.

Our quest for God's Great Light will take us to amazing places as we encounter people who have truly lived their faith. Before we set out on today's quest – let's prepare ourselves. I can think of no better way to do that than with the word of the Lord in our Signal Verse for the week.

Our Signal Verse comes from Isaiah, chapter 60, verse one.

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah:

**“Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you!”**

**Repeat after me – Arise! Shine!**

*(Have the Explorers echo.)*

**Your light has come;**

*(Have the Explorers echo.)*

**The Lord's glory has shone upon you!**

*(Have the Explorers echo.)*

**Now let's all say our whole Theme Verse together.**

*(Have the Explorers join. You may need to repeat it a time or two.)*

**“Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you!”**

**Brilliant!**

Today's Bible story takes us to the very beginning before there was anything, before there was even any light...except the light of God's love.

# Bible Story Option 1

## Drama

### Cast

- ☞ Storyteller
- ☞ Light
- ☞ Sky
- ☞ Tree
- ☞ Moon
- ☞ Bird (*May be portrayed by a puppet*)
- ☞ Person

### Materials

- ☞ Storyteller costume – Could be a “lighthouse keeper” uniform – navy blue coat with brass buttons and a navy blue hat to keep with the theme. OR it could be a basic black shirt and black pants. This more neutral option would allow the Storyteller to quickly throw on a tunic to fill in as a drama character if needed.
- ☞ Flashlight for Light
- ☞ Umbrella for Sky (bonus points if it’s sky-blue)
- ☞ Paper leaves or faux branches from a craft store’s floral department for Tree
- ☞ A crescent cut out of posterboard for Moon (could be yellow or wrapped in aluminum foil)
- ☞ A bird puppet or doll for Bird
- ☞ Bible-time attire for Person – tunic or robe, rope belt, sandals

Storyteller: **When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was without shape. It was all dark. Then God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. God saw that the light was good.**

Light (*entering excitedly*): **Hi everyone! I’m here! I’ve just been created, and God sees that I am good! [bursts into song] This little light of mine – I’m gonna let it shine.**

Storyteller: **Welcome Light, we’re...**

Light (*continues singing*): **This little light of mine – I’m gonna let it shine.**

Storyteller: **Um...Light?**

Light (*still oblivious*): **This little light of mine...**

Storyteller (*finally breaking through*): **Light! [pause] You are definitely letting your light shine, and that’s a good thing. But we still have to get through six more days of creation.**



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Light: **Oops. Sorry.**

Storyteller: **Not a problem. We're all glad you are here. Now, after God saw that you are good, God divided you from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness Night.**

Light (*joyfully*): **God has named me Day?! I LOVE it. [starts singing again] This little light of mine...**

Storyteller: **Light?**

Light: **Sorry.**

Storyteller: **On the second day, God made a dome to separate the waters above the dome from waters below the dome. God named the dome Sky.**

Sky (*enters, introducing self to Light*): **Happy Day Two, everyone. I'm Sky.**

Light: **Nice to meet you. I'm Light, but some call me "Day." What's the deal with the dome?**

Sky: **Long ago, people believed the sky was a solid dome that held the sun and moon, the stars, and clouds.**

Light: **Cool. Wait, what are people? What's a sun? What's a...**

Storyteller: **None of that has been created yet. But we're getting to it. On Day Three, God made all the water under the dome gather so that dry land could appear. God named the dry land Earth and the waters Seas. God saw how good it was. Then God made all kinds of plants and flowers and trees.**

Tree (*enters*): **Happy Day Tree, everybody. I'm a three!**

Sky (*whispers to Tree*)

Tree: **Right! Happy Day Three, everybody. I'm a tree!**

Light: **I'm Light, and this is Sky. Welcome to Creation.**

Tree: **It feels good to be here, with this wonderful light and big sky – I can really breathe. In with carbon dioxide [*inhales big*] out with the oxygen. [*big, warm sigh*]**

Storyteller: **On the fourth day, God created lights for the sky.**

Light: **Wait! Time out! What do you mean God created lights for the sky?! God already created light – me!**

Storyteller: **You're exactly right. And on that first day, God made Day and Night. Now God is creating lights, like the sun, to put in the Day, and lights like the moon and stars for the Night.**

Light: **So, I'm not being replaced?**

Sky: **Of course not, Light. God sees that you are good.**



Light (*touched*): **Thank you, Sky. That was a very nice thing to say.**

Tree: **Hey, look! Here comes a beautiful silver glow-y thing.**

Moon (*serenely*): **I'm the moon.**

Light, Sky, Tree (*awestruck*): **The moon. Ooh.**

Tree: **You're like the world's night light.**

Storyteller: **God saw that the sun, moon, and stars were good. On the fifth day, God created fish, whales, and squid to swim in the waters. And God created birds to fly up in the sky.**

Bird (*exuberantly*): **Wheee! It's a great day to be alive. Day Five! Whee! (*flies over to, and all around, Sky*)**

Sky (*laughing*): **Ha-ha! Careful. I'm a little ticklish!**

Bird (*still flying around Sky*): **But this is so much fun! I've never flown before! Whee!**

Moon: **That's understandable. There's only been a sky for three days.**

Sky (*trying not to sound irritated*): **Why don't you go explore Tree? Maybe build a nest?**

Bird: **Great idea! (*flies over to Tree*) Whee!**

Storyteller: **God saw that all the creatures in the seas and sky were good. On the sixth day, God made all the creatures that live on land – elephants and giraffes, sheep and cattle, even bugs.**

Light: **Ew!**

Tree: **How do you even know what bugs are yet?**

Light: **I don't. They just sound gross.**

Sky: **But God made them.**

Moon: **And calls them good.**

Light (*sighs*): **Okay. I guess you're right.**

Storyteller: **Then God made people.**

Bird: **Hey, look! Here comes one of the land creatures right now.**



*(Person enters)*

Light *(squeamish)*: **Is it...a bug?!**

Tree: **Nah, it's too big to be a bug. I think it's a kangaroo!**

Person: **I'm a person.**

Tree: **Person? Is that like a hamster?**

Person: **God created people like me to take care of all this big, beautiful, amazing creation...because all of it is good.**

Storyteller: **God loved all that God had made and saw that it was very good. On the seventh day, God rested.**

Light: **A little rest sounds pretty good right now. I've been around since Day One, and I'm getting a little sleepy.**

Moon: **I'll be a soothing night light while we sleep. Anyone know a good lullaby?**

*All (sing softly as they fall asleep):*

**This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine, (getting slower and sleepier)**

**Let it shine, (slower and sleepier)**

**Let it shine.**

*(snoring)* **Zzzz.**

Storyteller *(quietly)*: **All of creation rested. And it was good.**

# Bible Story Option 2

## Single Storyteller

Our Bible story today starts at the beginning...a good place to start. Be ready as I lead you to do some different things for each of the days of creation. I'm going to teach you a call and response we'll do after each of the days of creation. When you hear me chant, "God made the sky, God made the sea," you respond with "God made you and God made me."

Let's practice that.

*Lead the Explorers through the call and response.*

**Great job, Explorers. You're ready. Here we go!**

**Day 1 – In the beginning, God made the heavens and earth. And the earth was dark and shapeless. Then God said, "Let there be light." And there was...**

*Lead the Explorers to shout "Light!"*

**God separated the light from the darkness, called the light day and the darkness night.**

**God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

**Day 2 – God said, "Let there be a dome to separate the water on the ground from the water in the sky." That way there can be snow and rain.**

**Let's pretend to catch snowflakes on our tongues.**

*Lead the Explorers to do this.*

**God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

**Day 3 – God said, "Let the water on the ground be gathered together. And let the dry land appear." God called the dry land "earth" and the water "sea."**  
*Lead the Explorers in doing "The Wave."*

**Then God covered the earth with flowers, trees, carrots, and asparagus.**

**Say your favorite vegetable on the count of three. 1-2-3!**

*Have the Explorers say their favorite vegetable all at once.*

**What a tasty day!**

**God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

**Day 4 – God said, "Let there be all kinds of light in the sky."**

**Sun – Have Explorers place hands on side of face.**

**Moon – Have Explorers hold arms overhead in a circle.**

**Even spiral galaxies – Have Explorers spin around.**

**God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

**Day 5 – God said, "Let the seas be filled with swimming creatures." And God made the:**

**Fish – Have Explorers make bubble sounds.**



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**And the Jellyfish** – *Have Explorers wiggle arms like tentacles.*

**And God said, “Let the sky be filled with flying creatures.”**

**God made the:**

**Owl** – *Have Explorers say, “Who.”*

**And the Rooster** – *Have Explorers “Cock-a-doodle-doo.”*

**God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

**Day 6** – **God said, “Let the earth be filled with all kinds of creatures.”**

**And God made the:**

**Snake** – *Have Explorers hiss.*

**And the Kangaroo** – *Have Explorers hop.*

**And God made people like you and me to care for this big, beautiful world.**

**God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

**Day 7** – **God rested.**

*Have Explorers snore.*

*(whisper)* **God made the sky, God made the sea.**

**God made you and God made me.**

# Life Application

**What was the first thing God created?**

*Invite the Explorers to respond.*

**Light! That's right, Explorers. And it's our job to be keepers of the light by taking care of all God's creation. God didn't just stop with light. God made everything from sleet to slugs and saw that it was...Leave a pause for Explorers to say, "Good!"**

**All of it was good.**

*Give each Explorer a sheet of paper and access to an assortment of colored pencils or markers.*

**At the top of the page, draw something in God's creation that you really like.**

*Allow a few minutes for this. Those who finish early can write about why they like the part of God's creation they drew.*

**At the bottom of the page, draw something in God's creation that you may not like, but trust that God sees as good.**

*Allow a couple of minutes for this.*

**It can be hard sometimes to see certain things in God's creation as good. For example, how can God see that mosquitoes are good? They bite people and spread disease. Can something be good for God's creation even if it's not good for me personally? But imagine you're a hungry frog or bat. A mosquito snack would sound very tasty!**

**What if we really challenged ourselves to find the good in things, even when it's difficult? What if we really tried to look at the world through the light of love, the way God sees it?**

**And that brings me to today's Pathfinder – Arise! Shine with Love!**

**Let's all say that together with the brightness of the first light ever.**

*Lead the Explorers to say, "Arise! Shine with Love!"*



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## Materials

- 📄 Paper
- 🖍 Colored pencils, markers, or crayons

## Scripture Treasure Lanyard Sets

Take time to hand out the Scripture Treasure Lanyards Sets and lantern stickers with this session's Pathfinder when you've completed the "Life Application" discussion.

# SESSION 1

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### Teacher Tip

\* A puppet doesn't have to have a mouth. Just holding up something, i.e. the dryer hose, and saying, "This is an elephant" isn't puppetry. It's barely sculpture. Challenge the Explorers to move the objects – give them action so that the audience can see what the puppeteer is trying to make the object be.

It's okay to combine objects together. One object can be many different puppets. Just because one Explorer came up and turned the length of hose into a snake doesn't mean the hose is now off-limits. *(It could also be an elephant's trunk, or even rolled up into a spiral shell as a snail puppet.)*

### Materials

- ☑ Legos (7 or more per group)
- ☑ Bible

# Active Learning

## Found Object Puppets

Gather props into a prop bin.

A potential list could include:

- ☑ An orange plate and a yellow plate
- ☑ An umbrella
- ☑ A length of garden hose
- ☑ A large piece of light blue fabric
- ☑ A dryer hose
- ☑ A whiffle ball
- ☑ A large and a small colander
- ☑ Tongs
- ☑ An oven mitt
- ☑ An old necktie
- ☑ A computer mouse
- ☑ A pair of black combs
- ☑ Other stuff – The sky's the limit!

Object puppetry is a form in which everyday objects are manipulated. You don't need glue, thread, or welding equipment for this kind of puppetry, just a keen eye for seeing an object's potential as a puppet. *(The reuse, recycle, repurpose thread is solid.)*

**God created the heavens and earth, and everything in them. And God created each one of us in God's image. That means we have the spark of creativity within us! Here are all kinds of found objects. Look closely. Together let's see if we can make puppets or moving objects to represent all the days of creation.**

Spread out the objects on a table where all the Explorers can see them. Invite an Explorer(s) to come up and turn an object into a puppet.

# Active Learning (Alternate)

## Seven Days/Seven Pieces

- ☑ Divide the class into groups (seven if possible).
- ☑ Read (paraphrase) Genesis 1:1-2:9 - The Creation.
- ☑ Assign each group a different day of creation.
- ☑ Allow each group to select seven (and ONLY seven) Lego pieces and create a depiction of their assigned day of creation using those pieces. *(Allow 5-7 minutes.)*
- ☑ Allow the Explorers an opportunity to show and tell about their creations.
- ☑ Put the creations in order according to the Genesis text.

# Closing Prayer

## Everything that Breathes

Let's close with a prayer as we glorify God who fills all of creation with the light of God's love. I will say part, and then you will breathe life into the prayer. Let us pray.

*Say the words to the following prayer and lead the Explorers to breathe in the different ways indicated below.*

**Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.**

*[deep inhale and exhale]*

**Let the busy bee, with its  
Busy buzzing breath praise the Lord.**

*[buzz]*

**Let the slithery snake, with its  
Slow slinky breath praise the Lord.**

*[hiss]*

**Let the cuddly kitten, with its  
Curly, purr-ly breath praise the Lord.**

*[purr]*

**Let the playful puppy, with its  
Playful panting breath praise the Lord.**

*[pant]*

**Let everything...**

*[inhale a little]*

**Everything...**

*[inhale a little more]*

**Everything that breathes...**

*[inhale a little more]*

**Praise the Lord!**

*[EXHALE]*

**Amen.**



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