

# THE BEGINNING OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1:1–3:24

**Key Verse:** So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. —Genesis 1:27, NIRV

**Bible Point:** God made everything there is. He made me to know him.

**Resource:** *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 1: “The Beginning of Life As We Know It”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff You Need:** Optional: PowerPoint slide entitled Space View, computer and projection equipment

Say, **Let me ask you some challenging questions and see what you know.** Display the Space View slide and invite kids to tell you what they see. Then ask these questions. (If you’re not using the slide, go straight to the questions.)

- **What is the speed of light?** (186,286 miles per second)
- **Which planets can you see without a telescope?** (Depending on the time of year—Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.)
- **What is the largest object in the universe?** (Abell 3266, a comet-like ball of gas that is a thousand million times bigger than the sun.)
- **How many stars do scientists think there are?** (70 sextillion; for added effect, write the number on the board—70,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.)

After the questions, wrap up with a brief discussion:

- **How do you feel when you think about how huge and amazing the universe is?**
- **What’s the most amazing fact about the universe that you know?**

Say, **We are such a small part of the universe God created, but we are the part he cares about the most. He created us to know him and be like him.**

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

**Stuff You Need:** copies of *The Story for Kids*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 1*

Tell the story from *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 1. You can also have the children find Genesis 1 and mark it in their Bible. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

## In the Beginning

The Bible story has three parts, each with a different interaction from the children. Begin the Bible story by explaining that the children will do an “anti-echo.” You will whisper a word, and they will shout it back to you. Practice with any word you choose, then begin the story.

**God made the world in six days. He made the *(whisper)* light and darkness. *(Pause for kids to echo.)* He made the *(whisper)* seas and the sky. *(Echo.)* He made the *(whisper)* dry ground and plants. *(Echo.)* He made the *(whisper)* stars and sun and moon. *(Echo.)* He filled the water and the sky with *(whisper)* living things. *(Echo.)* God made every kind of creature on the Earth. But he had one more thing to create.**

In the second part of the story, children will mirror your actions.

Stand facing the children. If you move your right arm, they will move their left. If you turn to your right, they will turn to their left. Choose any actions you like for kids to reflect. Have a child read *Genesis 1:26–27*.

**He created Adam and Eve and gave them the Garden of Eden to live in. God wanted people—us—to reflect his glory. We can have many of the same qualities God has—like love, kindness, creativity, and generosity. Let’s practice being mirrors to remember that we are made in God’s image and reflect God’s glory.**

In the final story section, the children will respond to cue words by saying, “Oh no!”

**The time came when Adam and Eve had to make some choices. When I say, “Was that a good choice?” You answer, “Oh no!”**

**God told Adam and Eve they could eat from anything in the garden except one tree. But the serpent hated God and wanted Adam and Eve to think God lied. He told Eve she could eat from that tree and she did. Was that a good choice? *(Oh no!)* Then Eve offered Adam some fruit. Was that a good choice? *(Oh no!)* Then Adam ate the fruit. Was that a good choice? *(Oh no!)* Then Adam and Eve tried to hide from God because they knew they had disobeyed. Was that a good choice? *(Oh no!)***

**God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden after that. But he never stopped loving them, and he never wanted them to stop reflecting his glory. Even now, we still reflect God’s glory, and every day we can choose to be more like him.**

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 1*. Ask children to describe the picture on the card and tell what part of the story the picture shows. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- **How did God feel about Adam and Eve?**
- **What does it mean that God made us in his own image?** *(We reflect his glory; we have the ability to be like God in our characteristics.)*

Collect the cards for now. You’ll send them home with the children later.

## STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose any or all of these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

### OPTION 1: RIGHT AND WRONG

**Stuff You Need:** index cards

Before class, write one true or false sentence about today's lesson on each card, or you can have children write their own true or false sentences in class.

In class, have the children stand in the middle of the room. Explain to the children that you will read one card at a time. If they think the statement is true, they should move to the right. If they think the statement is false, they should go to the left. If children get the answer incorrect, take time to look up the answer in the Bible. For more of a challenge, add sentences about the Bible passages covered in *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 1.

### OPTION 2: GARDEN OF EDEN

**Stuff You Need:** construction paper in a variety of colors, paper plates, glue, tape, scissors.

Optional: toothpicks, paper clips, other small tactile items

Say, **God created the Garden of Eden as the perfect place for Adam and Eve to live. Let's make our own 3-D versions of the Garden of Eden.** Give each child a paper plate. Challenge them to cut shapes from paper to represent items in the Garden of Eden and stand them up in a three-dimensional picture on the plate. One method is to fold paper and cut the shape out of two layers at once, leaving the fold uncut at the top of the shape. Bend the bottoms into short tabs that can be taped to the plate to make the figure stand sort of like a pyramid. As the group works, engage them in discussion.

- How do you think the world might have been different if Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God?
- What will you remember most about today's Bible story?

As you wrap up, say, **Our God created an exciting world for us to live in. He made us to be like him in many ways. No matter how many stars are in the universe, they can't know God the way we can.**

### OPTION 3: MY GARDEN OF EDEN

**Stuff You Need:** My Garden of Eden Activity Sheet, crayons

**Optional:** poster board, art supplies, markers

Give an activity sheet to each child. Talk about the idea of a perfect world. Brainstorm the types of things that might be in a perfect world. Have the children draw a version of their perfect world, created by God, not man! Send home to share with their family.

**OPTION 4: CARING FOR CREATION**

**Stuff You Need:** poster board, art supplies

God gave the world and all creation to us to use and care for the best we can. What are some parts of creation that you use daily, that you feel you cannot live without?

How do you care for that creation?

How do you show God your appreciation?

Can one or two people make a difference?

Break the group into smaller groups of three or four students. Have each group choose one part of God's creation that needs more of humanity's care and concern. Challenge each group to write up a plan to present to God—showing him how they would protect creation.

Direct the group to describe the creation, name how and why it might need our attention, and three to four ways they plan to carry out their plan.

Use poster board, markers, or other art supplies if needed to help illustrate their project. Present the projects to the larger group.

**STEP 4: GOING HOME**

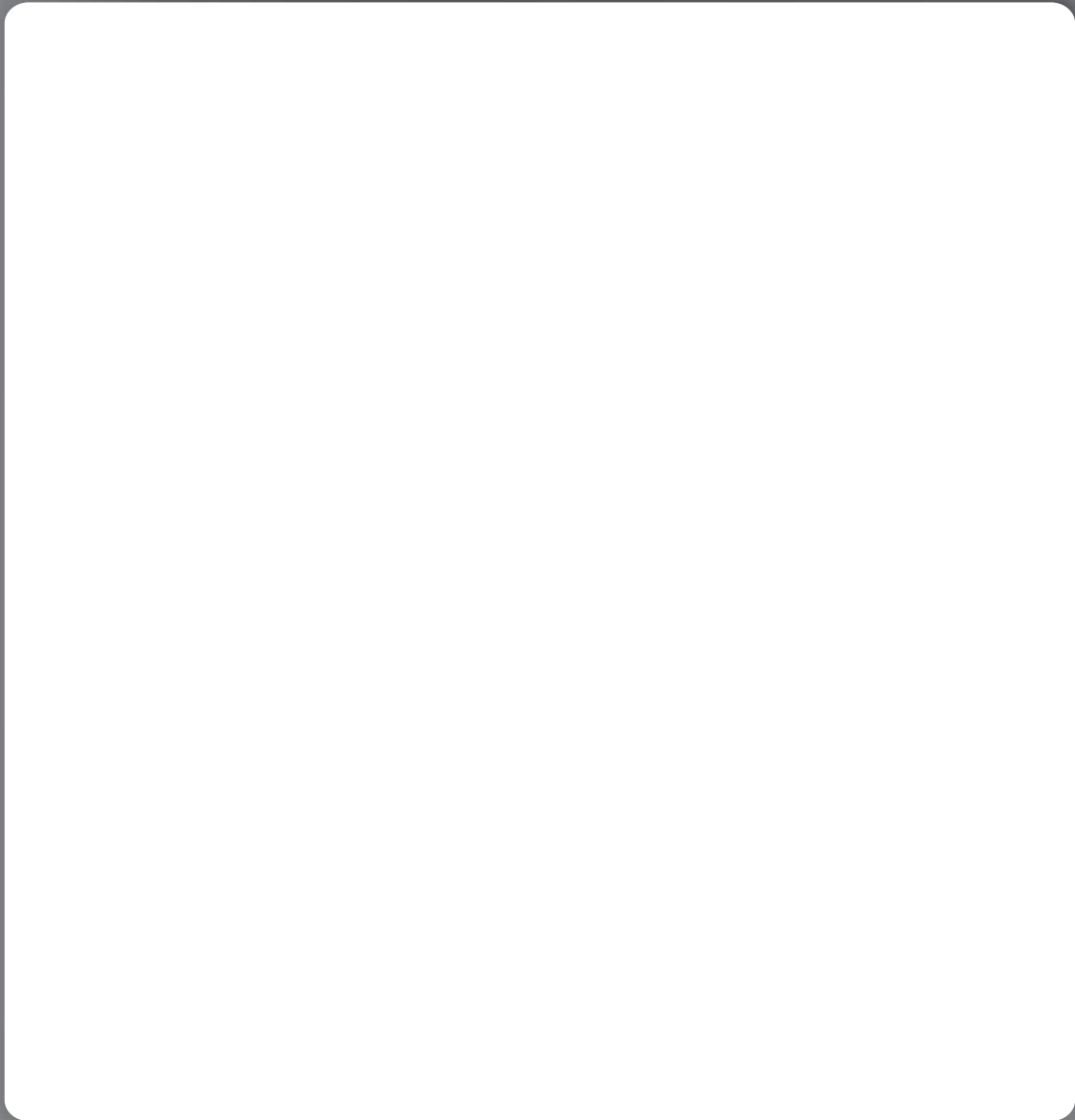
At the end of the lesson, pray together, praising God for his creation and asking God to help you know him more. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 1*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.





# MY GARDEN OF EDEN

Think about the gift of a perfect world from God. What would be a part of your perfect world? Draw and color a picture of this world. Share with your family.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# CHOICES

[Scooter is sitting on a chair looking discouraged. Beth enters.]

**Beth:** Hey, Scooter! I've been looking all over for you. We were supposed to ride bikes. Remember?

**Scooter:** Oh, yeah. Sorry, Beth. I forgot.

**Beth:** That's OK. What's up?

**Scooter:** Well, I have a choice to make. You know my birthday is next Wednesday?

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Scooter:** Well, Mom said I could have my birthday party at our house or at the bowling alley.

**Beth:** Cool! Which one did you choose?

**Scooter:** That's the thing. I REALLY want to have my party at MR. PARTY'S, but Mom said no.

**Beth:** Oh. Those parties are really expensive.

**Scooter:** I know. But Jake and Ben and everyone cool has their party at MR. PARTY'S. I think my mom is just being mean.

**Beth:** Do you really think your mom doesn't want you to have fun on your birthday?

**Scooter:** No, I guess not. [pause] She just doesn't understand.

**Beth:** Maybe she understands better than you think. After all, she's known you for almost 12 years!

**Scooter:** Yeah.

**Beth:** Remember how she surprised you with laser tag for your birthday last year?

**Scooter:** Yeah! That was awesome! [Scooter jumps up and relives his stealth laser tag tactics] Jake didn't even see me coming! I was the terminator! I was like [mimes sneaking around a corner] and he was like [mimes putting hands in the air and running for cover]. It was awesome!

**Beth:** See?!

**Scooter:** I guess my mom really does know what I like.

**Beth:** You know, Scooter, it's the same thing with God. He knows us best and wants only good things for us.

**Scooter:** Yeah, but sometimes it doesn't seem like it. Like when I sit on the bench in basketball.

**Beth:** [smiling] Or your mom doesn't give you the party you want?

**Scooter:** You make a good point, Beth. Let's go ride bikes!

[Both exit.]



# THE BEGINNING OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

**Timeless Truth:** Humans are God's crowning creation.

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1–3:24

**Key Verse:** When God created man, he made him in his own likeness. —Genesis 5:1, NIV

**Resource:** *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 1: "The Beginning of Life As We Know It"

## PARENT TIPS

Read and discuss the key point from the class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child know that he's perfectly created by God. The Extra Mile idea will help your family spread God's love in the community.

## GET THE POINT

God made everything there is. He made me to know him.

## TABLE TALK

- **What are some things you really like about yourself?** (Encourage your family to list more than just physical attributes.)
- **Hollywood actors and models always talk about how they'd like to change their appearance, yet they're considered the pretty people. Is there anything you'd change about yourself?**
- **Do you think God would change anything about you? Why?**
- **Why do you think culture is so consumed with looks and fame?**

## LIVING FAITH

Spend some time going on a walk in your neighborhood or nearby park. As you walk, point out and talk about the things God created. Challenge your family to see if they can find one thing God created for each letter of the alphabet.

- **What do you know about each of these things that God created?**
- **Why do you think God created it?**
- **What is your favorite part of God's creation? Why?**

End your walk at a mirror or a place where you can see your reflection. What you see is God's crowning creation. Remind your children that they are created in God's image. Let them know how proud of them you are. Talk about some of the things you appreciate about them and tie that into how those characteristics are from God. Tell them you expect a lot from them and have high standards because they are God's perfect creation. Encourage them to always follow God and his will for their lives.

## EXTRA MILE

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try one of these activities.

1. Grab a family photo album that has some shots of the family enjoying the outdoors. Ask:

- **What do you remember most about this experience?**
- **What are some of your favorite things about God's creation?**
- **How can you see God's handiwork in the outdoors?**
- **Where are some places you'd like to visit?**

If the conversation leads, plan a fun family outing or your next family vacation.

2. Remind your children that all people are important to God by taking some food to a local food bank or going through your closets and making a donation to a homeless shelter. Remind your kids that helping the less fortunate shows them God's love.



