

SPACE MISSION BIBLE LESSON CURRICULUM

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**“By FAITH we understand
that the UNIVERSE
was created by the
WORD OF GOD,
so that WHAT IS SEEN
was not made out of things
THAT ARE VISIBLE.”**

Hebrews 11:3



SPACE MISSION BIBLE LESSON CURRICULUM

Blast off for a deep exploration of the majesty of God! When we think of God's magnificence, we often think of the wonders of creation, and rightly so! The stories of Genesis 1-9, however, admonish us that to stop there is to barely skim the edge of universe of God's greatness.

As the Creation story opens, we are awe-struck by the power and creativity of God who spoke, cultivated, and crafted all things visible and invisible by the power of His word. We are further invited to wonder at the special way he fashioned mankind to know Him and extend His gracious rule throughout the created world.

Then the unthinkable happens as Adam and Eve reject their unique relationship with God and their own glorious calling to pursue their own foolishness (Rom. 1:22). But God, who is rich in mercy will not so easily relinquish the works of His hand that he fashioned in His steadfast love (Ps. 136:5). The conflict that emerges will shape the rest of history between the "seed of the serpent" and the "seed of the woman". Those seeds, or descendants, come head-to-head in the story of Cain and Abel where we see that it is not one's family tree, but one's faith in the Creator God that determines who pleases Him. Finally in Noah's story, God Himself provides a way of escape from His just wrath and an invitation to redemption for all who will place their faith in Him.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!



INTRODUCTION

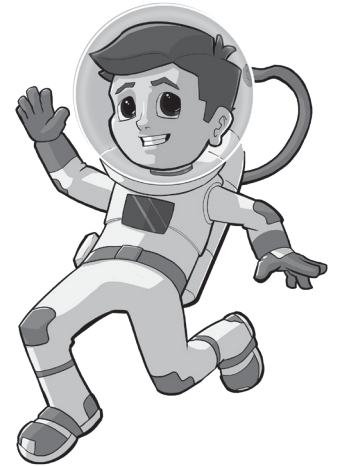
It is impossible for us to talk about God's creation of the world in terms equal to its dignity. Yet God has always condescended to talk to man in order that man might properly understand himself and his relationship to the world in which he lives. In the straightforward simplicity and yet profound depth of Genesis, we see the Creator's explanation of His creation for all mankind.

We often approach Genesis 1-9 like a scientific textbook asking *how* and *when* all things were created. Instead, Genesis emphasizes *who* created all things and *why*. In the Genesis account we are told everything we need to know concerning the essence of what life is all about. It does not give all the details—it does not intend to. Moses' original audience, Israel, was coming out of 400 years of slavery in polytheistic Egypt and 40 years wandering in the desert. They had forgotten God's call of Abraham, his provision for Isaac, and his grace to Jacob. More than that, they had forgotten the very name and nature of God Himself. Who was this God who brought them out of Egypt and why should they give their lives to Him? They needed to be reminded of their family story and purpose.

And so, as a master storyteller, Moses takes his original audience back to the very beginning. Like them, we must also begin at the beginning allowing the text itself to direct our storytelling. In this way, we will keep the core truths of the passage central without straying into secondary areas of discussion. While there is certainly debate within the Christian community regarding creation, the text set in its original form and context reveals the primary truths essential to a faithful foundational understanding.

We believe that Genesis 1-9 is not an allegory, but a narrative of actual historical events. Although there continues to be discussion over the length of the days of creation, the fact remains that we believe the witness of the Scriptures that God created the world in human history by the power of His word. The text and wider biblical context proclaim God's sovereignty and providence over every particular of creation. Furthermore, the creation of Adam and Eve sets them apart from the rest of creation. Not only is Adam designated the covenant head for all mankind, but he and Eve are given a special relationship to God and a unique role within the created order. As such, their fall in the garden triggers a corruption that extends over the entire created world. This corruption can only be reversed through the power and creativity of the God who created all things, announcing the coming redemption even as He pronounces the curse.

For a more detailed exploration of this, see the PCA Creation Study Committee Report (2000) found at <https://www.pcahistory.org/pca/studies/creation/report.pdf>. *ByFaith* Magazine also published an excellent summary and explanation of the committee's findings by Ransom Poythress on the 25th Anniversary of the study report (July 3, 2025).



FOUNDATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

It is our commitment, as much as possible, to teach the whole counsel of God. It is neither necessary nor appropriate to unduly simplify or neglect certain truths of the Scripture with children. Rather, in a straightforward manner, the deeper doctrines should be presented also. The venerable Bishop J.C. Ryle spoke to this issue in his discourse on the duties of parents:

- See that they read it all (the Bible). You need not shrink from bringing any doctrine before them. You need not fancy that the leading doctrines of Christianity are things which children cannot understand. Children understand far more of the Bible than we are apt to suppose.
- Tell them of sin, its guilt, its consequences, its power, its vileness: you will find they can comprehend something of this.
- Tell them of the Lord Jesus Christ and His work for our salvation—the atonement, the cross, the blood, the sacrifice, the intercession: you will discover there is something not beyond them in all this.
- Tell them of the work of the Holy Spirit in man’s heart, how He changes, and renews, and sanctifies, and purifies: you will soon see they can go along with you in some measure in this. In short, I suspect we have no idea how much a little child can take in of the length and breadth of the glorious Gospel. They see far more of these things than we suppose.
- Fill their minds with Scripture. Let the Word dwell in them richly. Give them the Bible, the whole Bible, even while they are young.

Finally, it is important to emphasize the significance of the role of the Bible Lesson Storyteller in tying together all of Space Mission, its overall themes and truths. As stated in the Teacher Guide, the Bible Lesson Curriculum is the single most important aspect of Space Mission and its central focus. Its themes are woven through each aspect of the VBS day, bringing meaning and purpose to every activity. May the young Astronauts of Space Mission be taught of Jesus Christ as they are taught the profound truths of these lessons from His life.

As you prepare to teach, remember that this is *God’s Word*, not yours or mine. May our prayer be that our message will be a “demonstration of the Spirit and of power [...] that [their] faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).”

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Set aside a specific period of time to read through all of the Scripture passages and Bible lesson material, preferably in one sitting. Such an overview provides an invaluable sense of the curriculum’s total picture and establishes a clear framework from which to teach.



Prayer

The importance of prayer cannot be overstated. The Lord is eager to give the ability to teach, the enthusiasm and creativity to teach well, and even the words that will be on the tongue. But He is also eager that His children faithfully ask Him for His presence and help.

Lesson Format

For each lesson you will find: 1) the title; 2) the storytelling character; 3) the Scripture reference; 4) the main theme; 5) a story summary and outline; 6) teacher notes; 7) story.

Though the lessons are provided in a word-for-word format, it will be important for you to gear your presentation to your audience, both in your choice of the amount of content to cover, and in making specific lesson applications.

Lesson Material

The more fully something is understood, the more easily it can be put into profound terms while being simply and briefly taught. With that in mind, additional material has been included with each lesson to aid you in your understanding and portrayal of the story.

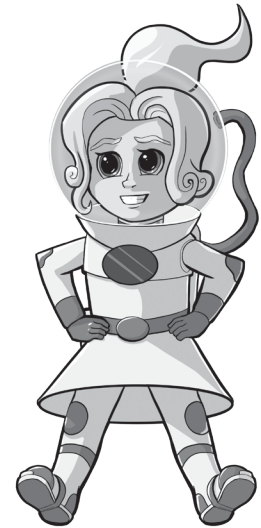
Storytelling Character

History comes alive for children as they listen to an imaginary eyewitness account. As a Storyteller, you will increase the children's anticipation, excitement, and interest in the lessons as you capture their imagination and help them realize that these events took place in real history with real people. Have a Bible with you for each lesson in order to emphasize that the story you're telling comes from the true Word of God. Children are quite able to understand that an imaginary character is telling them an absolutely true story. Try to take on the character of the Storyteller, telling the events of the story in the first person, according to his or her personality and life-context.

In some settings, especially with older children, it can be helpful to spend a moment discussing why we use characters to tell the Bible stories at Space Mission before the actual story begins. This can be done by a different volunteer or by the storyteller themselves before being fully in costume. Acknowledging that the storyteller is pretending, but pretending with a purpose, can help reduce the distracting comments of children trying to catch the storyteller out of character. It becomes an invitation to the children to consciously use all of their God-given abilities to understand His word.

Lesson Application

Though application ideas are provided with each lesson, the job of making practical application specific to the lives of the children you teach rests with you. It will be very important to think carefully about the personal issues and questions facing each different class and to prepare your lessons accordingly. Age-appropriate lesson applications are also very important. Though the main body of each lesson is essentially the same for all grade levels, the concerns of a 4-year-old are different than



an 11-year-old. You will want to give prayerful consideration to how to best speak to the different ages you will teach.

It is also important to keep in mind that the children attending VBS are all at different points in their spiritual development regardless of whether or not they come from Christian homes. This knowledge will enable you to choose your words carefully as you present these stories and speak about the Gospel. You will want to help children who have professed faith to understand that believing the Gospel is not only necessary for salvation, but is needed moment by moment in our journey of faith. Likewise, children who have not yet believed need to understand that they must put their faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross, confessing Him as Lord so that they too can be part of His family.

Finally, you will notice the potential for you to give the Gospel message every day and an invitation to the children to trust in Jesus Christ. You will, therefore, need to be particularly sensitive to the specific children you are teaching. Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading and discernment of their spiritual condition and responsiveness to the truth, to know when the Spirit wants you to present the Gospel more fully and to invite their response. You do not need to belabor the invitation of the Gospel to the point that the children tire of it early in the week; the message is meant to be laid out in fuller detail with each successive day. Trust the Spirit's leading.



**SPACE MISSION
STORYTELLERS**

Commanders Cosmos/Corona are time-traveling astronauts assigned to enter Space Mission's Time Warp Module to observe the events recorded in Genesis 1-9. They return to VBS each day to share their amazing eyewitness accounts. Your VBS may wish to add additional astronauts to the lineup. Just give them an astronomical name and you are ready for takeoff!

Storytelling Character Costume Suggestions

Commander Cosmos (or Corona if the Storyteller is a woman) is a time-traveling astronaut assigned to enter Space Mission's Time Warp Module to observe the events recorded in Genesis 1-9. He returns to VBS each day to share his amazing eyewitness accounts. Each day, attired in a spacesuit or futuristic costume, Commander Cosmos will immediately capture the attention of the children. The spacesuit will serve as an ongoing prop. With a few minor adaptations, it can stimulate new interest each day.

Your VBS may choose to have the same astronaut return each day or you may wish to add additional astronauts from the same crew to the lineup. Just give them an astronomical name and you are ready for takeoff!



LESSON 1

YOUR GLORY FILLS THE SKIES

What does it mean that God is the Creator?



MAIN THEME:

God created all things out of nothing by the power of His word. Because of that we need to listen to Him, we can know that He made the world to work following His rules, and we can know for sure that what God has declared “good” is valuable.



SCRIPTURE

• **Genesis 1:1-25**

RELATED SCRIPTURE

**Psalm 8:1, 33:7-9; Job 38:4-7;
Proverbs 8:27-29; Hebrews 11:3,
1 Timothy 4:4**



STORY SUMMARY:

Commander Cosmos gives the Space Mission Astronauts their mission-to seek and meet God. He then goes on to tell them about traveling back in time in his Time Warp Module to watch as God took the world from being formless and void to being filled with his abundant creation in the first 5 ½ days of creation.



STORY OUTLINE:

Introduction

- Your Space Mission assignment is to seek and meet God.

Consider the amazing world around us:

- The world is filled with vast oceans, snow-covered mountains, perfect little flowers, and huge variety of animals.
- You have to ask yourself how all of this got here.
- The answer is that Someone powerful and creative must have made it.

Before the world began, God was already there.

- The earth was formless and void before God created anything.
- His Spirit hovered over the face of the waters (Gen. 1:2).

The first day of Creation set the pattern for how God worked.

- God said, “Let there be light” and the light appeared.
- All God had to do was speak and it happened.





A helpful resource here would be C.S. Lewis' chapter on "The Founding of Narnia" in *The Magician's Nephew* (Book 6 in the *Chronicles of Narnia*).

- At the end of the day, the Bible says, "There was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Gen. 1:5)"

God followed the same pattern as created everything in the world over the rest of the first week.

■ The Pattern:

- God would say, "Let there be _____".
- Then it would appear, "And it was so."
- God would look at what He had made and say, "It was good!"
- Then each day would close with the Bible saying, "There was evening and there was morning, the _____ day."

■ The Creation:

- And God said, Let there be...the sky, And it was so, And it was good! There was evening and there was morning, the 2nd day.
- And God said, Let there be...land, sea, and plants. And it was so. And it was good! There was evening and there was morning, the 3rd day.
- And God said, Let there be...the sun, moon, and stars. And it was so. And it was good! There was evening and there was morning, the 4th day.
- And God said, Let there be...fish and birds. And it was so. And it was good! There was evening and there was morning, the 5th day.
- And God said, Let there be...animals. And it was so. And it was good! There was evening and there was morning, the 6th day.
- Note: Stop the narrative after the creation of animals. Days 6-7 of creation will be discussed in tomorrow's story.

Application

- God created everything using only His Word. God's Word is so powerful that we need to listen to it.
- He made the world to work following His rules. We can trust God and know that things will work the way He made them to work.
- After God made each thing, He said it was good. When God says what He makes is good, we can know for sure that it is valuable.



SPACE MISSION TEACHER NOTES

In what is undoubtedly the best opening line, Genesis 1 immediately draws the reader's attention to *who* created and *what* was created. As the narrative unfolds, the Creator's power, craftsmanship, and order are put on full display as we learn that He did all of this simply by "the word of His power." As Psalm 33 goes on to say, "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm." The reader is called forth to awe and wonder.

