

=THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 1

Genesis

Objects to have:

One posterboard backed with another posterboard. The top posterboard: prepared with six doors (that can be different sizes) that will open down and are fastened at the top by slipping a hole in the top of each door around the head of a brass fastener. Number the doors one through six. When the doors are opened, they will hang down and reveal a picture that has been taped to the back posterboard across the opening. These pictures are to be taped behind the doors: Door #1—Half the picture is to be solid white, the other half solid black; Door #2—Solid blue; Door #3—Ground with trees and flowers with a river; Door #4—Sun, moon and stars on solid blue; Door #5—Birds above and fish below on solid blue; Door #6—Some animals and a man and a lady.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up your closed Bible.) You see one book, the Bible; this is God's Word. God the Holy Spirit told men what words to write as He gave the Bible to all the people. (Open your Bible to the division between the Old Testament and the New Testament while saying the following.) This is one book; it is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament comes first; the New Testament comes last. The Old Testament is divided into books, and the New Testament is divided into books.

In Sunday school each Sunday, for a while, we are going to hear about each of the books of the Bible. (Open your Bible to Genesis.) Here is the first book of the Bible. It is called Genesis. Genesis is, "the book of beginnings." There are many, many stories in the book of Genesis. I'll tell you one story from the book of Genesis, "the book of beginnings." (Put up your prepared posterboard, which has all the doors closed.)

Telling the story:

It was dark. There was no light at all. If there had been light, there would have been nothing to see but water. There were no trees. There were no flowers. There was no sun. There was no moon. There were no animals. There were no people. There was only darkness, and in the darkness there was only water.

Then God spoke. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." (Genesis 1:3) God saw the light, and He saw that it was good. God named the light; He named the light Day. God divided the light from the darkness. That means that during every day from then on, part of the day would be light and part of the day would be dark. God called the darkness Night. There was night, and there was day. That evening and that morning were the first day.

(Point to the first door. Tell the children that there is a number one on the door to remind us of the first day of creation. Open the door. Talk with the children about the fact that on the first day of creation God made light. God divided the light from the darkness. He called the light Day and the darkness Night, and the evening and the morning were the first day.)

Then God said, "...Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters..." (Genesis 1:6) The firmament is space; God made space. He made space to divide the waters from above from the waters below. There are waters in the sky. When we have rain, where does the water come from? Yes, it comes from the sky above. When we see lakes or rivers or oceans, where is that water? Yes, that water is below. God made a firmament—space—to divide the waters from above from the waters beneath. God named the firmament. He named the firmament Heaven. God's work for the second day of creation was finished. The evening and the morning were the second day. (Show the second day on the poster.) On the first day, God made light. On the second day, God made the firmament or the heavens.

Then God said, "...Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear..." (Genesis 1:9) That is what happened; the dry land appeared. God saw the dry land. He named the dry land Earth. He named the gathering together of the waters Seas. God looked at the earth, and He looked at the seas, and He saw that they were good.

God looked at the dry land. There were no trees nor grass nor flowers growing. There was just the dry land. The third day had not ended yet. "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." (Genesis 1:11) God made these things; in the book of Genesis we are told exactly how He did it. God did not plant seeds. God made the grass and put it into the ground. He made the trees and put them into the ground. He made the plants that are good for food and put them into the ground. The trees and flowers and plants could not grow from seeds because God had not yet caused rain to fall on the earth.

After God made the dry land and after He gathered waters together and made the flowers and the trees and the plants, then came the end of the third day. (Open door #3.) On the third day of creation, God made the dry land to appear through the waters, and He planted on the earth all the growing things.

God spoke again. He said, "...Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven..." (Genesis 1:14) He was saying, "These lights need to divide the day from the night. The lights will also show what time of the year it is. These lights will be for light upon the earth." God did this work on the fourth day of creation. He made two great lights. The bigger light was to rule the day and the smaller light was to rule the night. We know what those two lights were: the sun and the moon. Jesus also made the stars and put them into the heavens. God looked at the sun and the moon and the stars, and He saw that they were very good. The evening and the morning were the fourth day.

(Open door #4. Review with the children the fact that light was made on the first day, the firmament was made on the second day, the earth and growing things were made on the third day, the sun and the moon and the stars were made on the fourth day.)

Then God said, "There is nothing living in the waters. Oh, there are plants in the seas and the lakes and rivers, but there is nothing else. Let the waters bring forth moving creatures that have life. Look into the heavens. There is nothing flying around in the sky. Make birds that can fly." Hundreds of different kinds of fish were made: little tiny fish, great big fish—fish plain brown in color, fish with all different colors, some fish good to eat, other fish that are not good to eat. God made all different kinds of birds, and He made them so that they could fly with their wings. God also made the chickens and the turkeys and the ducks and the geese. On that fifth day of creation God made fish and birds.

(Open door #5.) That evening and morning were the fifth day. (Review the first five days of creation.) God saw that everything that had been made so far was very good.

There was something else missing from the earth. After all these things were made, there was still something missing. We can guess what was missing: there were no animals on the earth, and there were no people on the earth. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature..." (Genesis 1:24) God made the cows and the horses and the giraffes and the bears—every kind of animal we could think of. God also made all the bugs. Something that is very interesting: when God made all these things on these different days, everything was good! When lions and tigers were first made, they were not fierce animals. When mosquitoes were first made, they did not bite. Everything was good when God first made it.

Then God said, "There are animals and growing things on the earth, but I want to be able to talk with someone." So God said, "...Let us make man..." (Genesis 1:26) God made the first man. From the dust of the ground God made man. Then God breathed into that man, and man became a living soul. The man could talk and think and work and play. Man was not like any animal; man was a living soul. Man did not come from any animal; God created man from the dust of the ground. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18) God said, "Let Us make a lady to live with him." God caused that man to

fall sound asleep—so sound asleep that he would not feel anything. God took a rib from the chest of Adam, that first man. From that rib God made a lady. When Adam woke up, he named the lady Eve. So Adam and Eve were the first man and the first lady to live on earth. God did a lot of work on that sixth day!

(Open #6. Review each day of creation. Stress the fact that God made it all.) God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had done a terrific work! God saw everything that He had made, and saw that it was all good. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” In this book, the book of the beginnings—Genesis—we read all about how God made everything. In six days, the universe and the world and everything in them, were created.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”