

SESSION 1

IN THE BEGINNING



GENESIS 1:1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God wants us to know the true story about how things began. So he started his story with *in the beginning*. His story starts at the very beginning of time.

It says that *in the beginning* God was already there. So that means God was there before the beginning of time.

Then God's story says that *God created the heavens and the earth*. The word *create* means to make something out of nothing. Only God can make something out of nothing. Nobody else can do that. When people make things, they have to make them out of something. But God can make new things out of nothing. He didn't need anything else to exist³ so he could make the heavens and the earth. He could do that because he is God. Only God can make something out of nothing.

God knows more than can be found in all the books and on all the websites in the world. God's power is much greater than all the power in the world that people use. God is not just a little bit more powerful, he is much more powerful. All the knowledge⁴ and all the power in the world could not create something when there was nothing before. But God can do that. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth when there was nothing before.

3. **exist** - for something to be there

4. **knowledge** - all the things that people know

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE



GENESIS 1:2

² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

God's story tells us what the earth was like when God first made it. It says that the earth was *formless and empty*. Formless means that it didn't have a shape and it was not in order. It also says that the earth was empty. It says the earth was empty because there was no life there yet – no people, plants, or animals. Deep water covered⁵ the whole world and it was dark. So God had made the earth, but it was not a place where anyone or anything could live.

Then God's story says that the Spirit of God was there. It says *the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters*. Hovering means that he was waiting⁶ there. He was waiting above the deep water.

But who or what is the Spirit of God? God's story tells us much more about the Spirit later. He is a real person who is part of God. He is not a different person or another person. God is one person but he is made up of three - the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Sometimes people call God the 'Trinity'. Trinity means 'three in one'. Later in the story, you will hear more about the Father, the Son and the Spirit and find out more about them.

So God's Spirit was waiting over the waters of the dark, empty earth. He was waiting to do something.



GENESIS 1:3

³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Now God's story tells us what God did next. It tells us that God said something. He said "*Let there be light.*" The very next thing it says is that *there was light*. So God made light just by speaking. He did not have to go to get anything or go and do anything. All he did was say what he wanted. He said it and then it happened. He wanted to make light so he just said that there should be light and then light was there.

Light is the first thing God made after he made the heavens and the earth. At first, the earth was dark, but then God made light. Light brings energy⁷ and helps things to live and to grow. God made light because he was going to make things later that would need light. God knew he would make things that would need light to see, and to get warm, and to live and to grow.



GENESIS 1:4

⁴ And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

5. **covered** - the water was on top of all the earth

6. **waiting** - to stay somewhere until a later time

7. **energy** - power that makes things happen

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God tells us in his story that he saw that the light that he had made *was good*. Everything God makes is good. When God says something is good, it means that there is nothing bad in it at all. It is perfect. Perfect means that there is nothing bad or wrong with it. God makes things perfect every time. Everything that God does is perfect.

The next thing God did was to separate⁸ the light from the darkness. He moved the darkness and light away from one another. There was no sun or moon or stars. But God made light and he put it in the place he wanted it. Part of the earth was dark and part of the earth was light. God made light without a sun or moon or anything that the light came from. Only God can do that.



GENESIS 1:5

⁵ God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

God had separated the darkness from the light. He was making things the way he wanted them. He was bringing order to the earth. He was fixing it up so it was the way he wanted it to be. He was putting everything in its place. He named the light *day* and the darkness *night*. He had made the first day. We can still see the days passing now, going from morning to night. God started that at the very beginning of time.



GENESIS 1:6-8

⁶ Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” ⁷ And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸ God called the space “sky.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

God was putting things in order on the earth. The next thing he did was to put *a space between the waters*. God said that there would be a space between these waters and that is what happened. There was water below that covered the earth, and a layer⁹ of water above. So there were waters above the earth and waters on the earth. God named the space he had made *sky*. That is what he did on the second day.



GENESIS 1:9,10

⁹ Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

On the third day, he put the waters on the earth into place. He just said he wanted this to happen and it happened. He said it and then the water moved into the place God wanted it to be. The water

8. **separate** - to move one thing away from another thing

9. **layer** - a sheet of something that can be thick or thin

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE

moved into its place and so there was dry land where some of the water had been. God named the dry ground *land* and the waters on the earth he named *seas*.

Now the earth was starting to look more like a place where people or animals could live. There were seas and there was dry ground and there was sky. And there was day and night. God said that everything was good. Everything was perfect just like God wanted it to be.



GENESIS 1:11-13

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. ¹² The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

God said that the earth should *sprout with vegetation*. Vegetation is plants and trees. He said that every kind of plant and tree should grow. God said that it should happen, and then it did happen. The earth grew plants and trees, with flowers and fruit and seeds. All the kinds of plants and trees we see today grew up at the beginning when God said. God made many kinds of plants. He made each kind of tree or plant with its own kind of seed. He made it so that the seeds could grow into the same kind of tree or plant that they came from. God made each seed so that it had life in it and it could grow into another plant of the same kind. Only God could do that.

Only God can make life. He is the only one who could make plants with seeds that could grow into new plants. God makes things very carefully and he plans each thing that he makes. God saw all the plants with seeds and fruit that he had made, and he saw that it was all good. Everything that he had made was perfect. That is what he did on the third day.



GENESIS 1:14-19

¹⁴ Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵ Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

On the fourth day, God made all the things in the sky that shine at night. He made the two great lights, which are the sun and the moon. He also made the stars. These things that God made on the fourth day are in the universe.¹⁰ The universe is so big that we cannot see the edge of it, even with

10. **universe** – all of outer space; all the stars and all the planets

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very big telescopes.¹¹ God made so many stars that we cannot see them all. We could never count them all. The universe is huge¹². But God made all the stars and the sun and moon. He knows each one because he made them all.

God said that he made the sun and moon and stars and put them in the sky. The sky is the space between the waters above and the waters below that God made on the second day. His story says that he put the sun, moon and stars in the sky to light the earth. The earth was a special place in the universe that God wanted to light. God was getting the earth ready for people. He wanted to make a place for people to live. He wanted it to be a perfect home for us to live in.



GENESIS 1:20-23

²⁰ Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

On the fifth day, God filled the oceans and rivers and lakes with fish and all the creatures¹³ that live in the water. He also made birds that fly above the earth. He made every different kind of bird and every different kind of fish and water creature. He made them like he made everything else – he just spoke and then it happened. And he made them so that they could have young¹⁴ that would grow to be the same type of bird or fish. He said that they should have young and fill the seas.



GENESIS 1:24,25

²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. ²⁵ God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

On the sixth day, God made all the animals just by speaking. He made every kind of animal that has ever been on the earth. He made them to have young that would grow to be the same kind of animal. God made a wonderful¹⁵ world of creatures that came in all shapes and sizes. And God saw that what he had made was perfect.

This first part of God’s story tells us the beginning of many of the things we can see around us today. We can see the seas, the sky, the sun, moon and stars. We can see the plants, trees, flowers, fruit, birds, fish and animals. God created them in the beginning. We can see all the things God

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11. **telescope** - a thing to look through so we can see very, very far away
 12. **huge** - very, very big
 13. **creatures** - living things that God made
 14. **young** - babies or offspring
 15. **wonderful** - something very good that makes us very happy when we see it

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made today. The morning still comes and the night still comes. The sun, moon and stars are in the sky. Plants and trees still grow from a seed of the same kind of plant or tree. And each kind of bird, fish, or animal still has young that grow to be the same kind. This happens all over the world. It happens where people can see it and it happens where there are no people. It is like a story being told each day around the world about the great knowledge and the amazing power of God.

God made all of these things on the earth. He did all of that to get ready for what he was going to do next. God was going to make people. And now the earth was ready for them.



1. Why did God make sure his story was written down in the Bible?
2. Have you ever studied the Bible before? Did you follow it through from the beginning?
3. Is God's story like a movie or like a made-up story in a book?
4. What are some things you can see that God made?
5. How did God make things?
6. What do the things that God made tell you about what God is like?



This lesson has been adapted from the book *His Story: The Rescue, The Bible message from Genesis to Christ in easy English* (ISBN: 978-0-9944270-4-5)

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