


GENESIS

Lesson 1: GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE**AIM AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To tell the story of creation and show that all things were made by God and are beautiful and good.
2. To explain the concept of 'days' in the story - meaning millions of years, and help the children to realize that the Bible is not a history or science book, but the story of God's love. They are in story form but contain the truth.
-  3. To lead the children to give thanks and praise to God for all creation, and especially for themselves.

REFERENCES: Genesis 1:1-2:4

MATERIALS NEEDED: Sprig flowering trees/shrubs-one per child; bible; 1drawing sheet per child; gum, scissors, coloured glazed paper, magazines, crayons/ sketch pens.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)

[Give out a flowering sprig to each child in the class – this could be from a tree like gulmohur. Encourage them to hold it silently for 2 -3 min and look at it through eyes and the heart. After some time, encourage them to share whatever crossed their mind while looking at it. Accept all comments and reflections and discuss.]

- As we see how carefully- made these flowers and leaves are... the beautiful colours...each one different... we realise someone has taken a lot of efforts and trouble over it. Who is that someone? [God] But then we begin to wonder: Why did God take so much trouble to make just a little flower? Let's think about that question as we read the story of creation.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Where will we find the story of creation? [In the Bible]
 - Which part of the Bible? [The very first book called Genesis, which means 'the beginning'.]
- [Let the children open their Bibles and find the chapter. Ask them to pay attention because you will ask them questions, so that they concentrate on the readings.]

Read Genesis 1:1-2:4

- First, can you tell me what sentence has been repeated 7 times? [And God was pleased with what He saw]
- What does this sentence tell us? [That God was happy with what he had made.. and everything he made was good.. He didn't make any mistakes.] Sometimes we make something and feel very happy with it.. We put it up for everyone to see and wait to see what people will say about it...God felt like that!
- In one place the sentence is a little different. God was very pleased.. when was this? Why do you think he was very pleased?[After he made Man and Woman – Human Beings.. we are the most special out of all creation.]
- Can you see anything different in the passage about the creation of man or woman? How are we different?[We were made in God's image – we are like him.(verse 26,27)]
- In what way are we like him and different from other things God made? [We have a soul, even after our body dies, our soul lives on.]
- Getting back to our first question: 'Why did God take so much trouble to make so many beautiful things?' What do you feel? [Accept different opinions.]

[He enjoys making beautiful things. He is beautiful, so he can't help making things well. God loves us so much that he surrounded us with beautiful things. God did everything to show us his LOVE!]

- One more question- As you read the story of creation, did you feel something was wrong or not true in it? Look at the Bible and check.

Some years ago people began to realise that the world could not have been created in 6 days, but actually took millions and billions of years to be formed. So they became upset. Could it be that the Bible is not true? Then it was explained: The Bible is not a science book, or a history book, but it is the story of God's love for us.

In the next three lessons we'll be hearing other stories which may not have happened exactly as it is written, and yet they are true. God's days are different from our days. God did make the world, but each 'day' was really millions of years.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- What is the best thing God made, that he was very happy with? *[People]*

When God made you, he was very happy. He said, "This is my child – how beautiful he/she is!" But sometimes we don't realise how good we are. We make God sad by saying, "I wish I was like Anjali...or Michael". Let's tell one another something good about each other.

[If the numbers are not too large, take one person at a time and one or two others say something they like about him/ her. If the numbers are large, let children sit in pairs and tell each other 2 good things. Encourage them to mention not only looks, but also nature, behaviour, talents etc.]

IV. ACTIVITY: (Poster Making)

[Give each child a foolscap sheet of drawing paper. Ask them to make a poster to tell others something of what they have learnt. Each poster should have a message and a picture. Make available- gum, scissors, coloured glazed paper, magazines, crayons/ felt pens.]

Plan out a few examples on the black board with the children's help. Before they begin, let each one share one thought that struck them during the lesson – they then think of how they will express that thought.]

HOME ASSIGNMENT:
