



How Do I Know God Exists?

8

Key Theme

- God's existence makes sense of the entire universe.

Key Passages

- Genesis 1:1; Revelation 1:8

Lesson Focus

- God is, God was, and He will be forever.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will play with puzzles and/or play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—We can know that God exists because He is the only eternal being, existing before the creation of the world. As Creator and Author of life, God's existence helps us understand this world and place hope in the truth of the Word of God.

Song—Students will clap their hands, do hand motions, and/or march around the room singing the song He Will Always Be!



Activity 1: Circle Up!

Students will walk in a line with someone at the “front—beginning” and at the “back—end” of the line. Then they will join hands to form a circle to indicate that God has no beginning or end.



Activity 2: God, the Creator

Students will “create” something of their own using various craft items. Just like they created their own craft, God created everything in the universe—the trees, rocks, sky, animals, stars, flowers. We know God exists because we see Him through His wonderful creation.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Set puzzles and/or play dough at each child's seat before class begins.

- Puzzles
- Play dough



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the "He Will Always Be" song on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Ring type object such as a hula hoop, bracelet, or swim ring
- Yardstick or ruler



CIRCLE UP!

- No special preparation necessary.

- No special supplies needed



GOD, THE CREATOR

- Gather enough craft supplies so that each child can "create" his or her own craft.

- Craft sticks
- Yarn
- Paper, paper plates, paper bags
- Glue or stapler
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Stickers, glitter, other decorations, etc. Enough that each child can create his or her own craft



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

As you prepare to approach this very important lesson, read and reflect on the following Scriptures: Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13–15; Romans 1:18–21; Psalm 19:1–6.

“How do I know God exists?” This is a question that has been and will be debated as long as sinners occupy the earth. First of all, as Christians who walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), we do not need to prove the existence of God. The Bible says that we accept God by faith—that we *believe* that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). Because the Bible is our basis for all we believe, we believe in God as presented in the Bible.

God’s Word begins with the proclamation that He and He alone existed from eternity past: “In the beginning God . . .” (Genesis 1:1). If He had wanted to prove Himself to the world in a way our minds could grasp, He could have done that. God saw no need to explain further. Belief in Him as the one true God comes by faith and trust in Him and His Word.

Genesis 1 continues to describe this God who spoke the entire universe into existence. The order we see in creation—from the stars, solar systems, animal and plant life, to the natural laws of gravity, motion, and thermodynamics—gives evidence of an omnipotent Creator. There is no other explanation. The universe is not a result of random chance. It was created by one who was not created. There had to be someone who never came into being. There had to be a Creator. God—the one true God—is that Creator, who was and is and is to come (Revelation 4:8).

As we look to the Scriptures, we see that God described Himself to Moses as “I AM WHO I AM,” which essentially means: *the one who is and will be* (Exodus 3:13–14). The eternal, self-existent nature of God is revealed through His Word and simply assumed. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit John again records that the Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8). What more do we need? This describes the only, holy, omnipotent, omniscient God of the universe—who was and is and always will be. He is not bound by time as we know it. He created time in the beginning (Genesis 1:1).

God in His mercy has also specifically revealed Himself through His incredible creation. “The heavens

declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). And the Apostle Paul tells us that since the creation of the world, God’s invisible attributes have been seen through creation, revealing His eternal power and Godhead—leaving those who do not believe in Him without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). God does indeed exist. His existence is confirmed in Scripture and through His creation—and the wrath of God will be revealed from heaven against all who suppress the truth of His existence in unrighteousness.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Look around you; what do you see? An amazingly designed universe—from the single cell to the vast and immeasurable solar system. And yet the debate for a Creator of such things rages. We can rest in God’s Word, “In the beginning God . . .” (Genesis 1:1). We know that if something exists, it was somehow created into being. And as Christians we know who that Creator was. But what of folks who state there was no Creator—it all began with a bang, a very “big bang,” one that allegedly occurred billions of years ago in one tiny speck of mass and energy, a speck that would one day become everything we see today?

This story of the big bang originated with an attempt to completely discount the Bible and its account of our Creator God. Christians who buy into it need to understand the atheistic beginnings of this secular story and why it cannot be “added” to the biblical account of Genesis 1 without destroying the Bible’s integrity.

From a practical standpoint, have you ever blown something up and then observed the pieces re-assembling into a complex . . . anything? No, when buildings are demolished they pretty much end up in a heap of debris with no order or design. And yet, the big bang proposed by some has produced intricate life and more. In fact, this notion claims that out of a random explosion and expansion of matter billions of years ago, everything in its complexity and beauty—from the human body to the ant, from the wonder of the solar system to the universe beyond—has been organized and arranged into the complex world we live in today by nothing more than random, natural processes.

But, we know that the very existence of design, order, natural laws, and principles in the universe demands that there was a Creator—an Organizer, a Designer—not a big bang. That Creator can only be the one true Creator God. The only one who has declared Himself the Creator (Genesis 1), and the only

one who proclaims that He Himself is sustaining the universe—personally maintaining life and upholding all things by the word of His power (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). This Creator, our God, is truly worthy to receive glory and honor and power—for He created all things, and by His will they exist and were created (Revelation 4:11)!

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The serpent asked, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1). And when Adam and Eve succumbed to this deception, that’s when sin, deceit, pride, evil, hatred, death, and suffering entered the world. From the very beginning, people have wanted to be their own gods—and Satan is the primary encourager of this. The God of the Bible demands obedience, reverence, and accountability. God will one day judge the world in righteousness (Psalm 96:13).

Those who believe God’s Word know this to be true—we believe God exists. However, many doubt the very existence of God. These atheists boldly turn from the greatest commandment—“You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3)—to pursue the imaginings of their own minds. Our culture has been shaped by these people who claim there is no God. We’ll look at a few of them here.

Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, although not a proclaimed atheist, was influenced immensely by his atheist grandfather Erasmus. Darwin’s idea of evolution has changed the course of human history and is one of the greatest attacks on the Word of God in our modern time.

Karl Marx, referred to by some as the greatest thinker in all of history, once stated that religion is the opiate of the masses—impotence of the human mind to deal with occurrences it cannot understand.

Sigmund Freud, considered by some as psychology’s most famous figure, believed that religion was nothing more than an expression of underlying psychological neuroses and distress.

More recently, Madalyn Murray O’Hair was instrumental in removing prayer from the public schools in 1963. She believed that religion has caused more misery to all of mankind in every stage of human history than any other single idea.

And today we have those who are referred to as the “new atheists”—men such as Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris—and they are aggressively going after your children, your liberties, and your faith! Dawkins, a scientist and an active leader in this movement, believes that one of the things wrong with religion is that it teaches us to be satisfied with answers which are not answers at all. These men and others have accused Christians of “child abuse” for teaching their children the Bible and passing on their faith.

The worldview of these atheists is dangerous to our culture. However, as Christians we are confident in the promises of the Word of God. We must not lose heart. We must be committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and enthused about keeping God on His throne as Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all (Colossians 1:17). God has assured us that His Word is settled forever and His faithfulness will endure to all generations (Psalm 119:89–90).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear God, I cannot begin to convey the message of this lesson without your help. How do I know you exist? It is by faith alone that you have opened my eyes to see and my ears to hear the truth, power, beauty, and wonder of who you are. Your creation screams out for all to notice that you are the omnipotent one—but without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we cannot begin to comprehend any of it. Lord, give me wisdom as I try to convey to these precious children that you truly do exist. Open their eyes to your truth—just as you have opened mine. Help them to walk by faith in who you are and not by sight. Allow them to see you clearly—and to one day grasp the love and grace you poured out through the gospel of our redeemer Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord, for this amazing privilege.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will play with puzzles and/or play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, one or more ring items, hula hoop, swim ring, bracelet, ring, etc., and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

After the children are situated in the circle, say:

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and tell God how thankful we are to Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, everything I see outside is a gift from you. Help me to be grateful every day. I want to especially thank you today for *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of thanksgiving.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? **Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? **What is in this Bible?** *God's Holy Word!*

? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*

? **And all God's words in this Bible are what?** *True!*

Today's lesson starts at the very beginning of the Bible! Genesis 1:1 is the first verse in the first book of the whole Bible! These are God's first words to us! Listen while I read them. *Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1. Read it out loud to the students.*

The first four words in the whole Bible are, "In the beginning God . . ."

? **Who was in the beginning?** *God.*

That's right, the Bible says that God was in the beginning. And we know that God's Word is always true. God was there before time began. God created time. Before anything was ever here, God was here. And He created EVERYTHING from nothing!

? **Do you know who created God?** *Allow discussion. No one.*

No one created God because God always was! God has no beginning! God has always been. God has always been God! And we know God exists. He was the one who created everything.

Hold up a yardstick or ruler. This is a yardstick. I use this to measure things.

? **Where is the beginning and end of this yardstick?** *Walk around your class. Allow children to show you where the beginning and end of the yardstick is.*

Bring out the hula hoop, bracelet, ring, or another appropriate "ring" prop. This item forms a ring.

? **Where is the beginning of this?** *Pass the item around if appropriate. Let the children try to figure out where the beginning might be. There is no beginning on a "ring" item.*

There is no beginning of the ring. Just like this ring, God has no beginning. He has always been.

? *Continue to pass the "ring" item around. Where is the end of this ring? Allow discussion. There is no end.*

That's right. It just goes round and round and round. There is no beginning and no end to this ring. And this is what I am saying about God. God never

Genesis 1:1

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

had a beginning. He always was. When the Bible talks about the beginning, it tells us God was already there. And God will never have an end. He will always be. We believe this because it is what God's Word tells us to be true!

When we say that God has always been—that God never had a beginning—and God will never have an end, we say He is eternal.

? Can you say eternal? *Repeat the word several times.*

? What does eternal mean? Look at the "ring." *God has no beginning and no end.*

Listen while I read from the very last book of the Bible. It is in Revelation.

Can you say that? *Have children repeat the word. Open your Bible to Revelation and show them. Read Revelation 1:8 out loud to the students.*

Revelation 1:8

This says that God is the Alpha and Omega. That means He is the Beginning and the End. The Bible is telling us that God is eternal. God is here today, He always was, and He always will be. He is God Almighty! God has always lived. No one had to make Him. He has always been here and He will always be . . . forever! He is eternal.

? Who can tell me what God created? *Everything!*

That's right. God created everything out of nothing. The Bible says that God was the one who created all the animals, plants, stars, oceans. And God created the very first people, Adam and Eve. God was the one who was here in the very beginning. He was the one who created EVERYTHING. God could create everything because He always was! He is eternal.

When you look around outside, what is something you just love? It could be a dog, cat, snowflake, rainbow, lightning, flower, bumble bee, sun, moon, stars, clouds, river, ocean seashell . . . all of these things God created.

? What is one of God's creations you really like? *Allow for answers.*

Everything God created is so amazing! So beautiful, so unique. You know, everything we see had to have a Creator. Your chair was made by someone. Someone built this building we are in. Someone built or created the house you live in. Someone had to have created the universe, the animals, the plants, too.

? Who was that who created everything? *God!*

That's right. In the beginning, God created everything. God is eternal. He is the only one who could have created it all. He was the only one there at the beginning. When we look around at all the wonderful things God created . . . we realize that there is a God. There is a God who created everything! Nothing had to create Him. He always was and He always will be. He is eternal.

? So tell me, when did God begin? *God has no beginning.*

? When did God end? *God has no end.*

- ? Who created God? *No one!*
- ? What did God create? *Everything!*

God is, God was, and God will always be! Let's all say that together!

God is, God was, and God will always be! *Repeat several times.*

SONG

We know God exists. God was the one who created everything. God is today, God was in the past, and God will be forever. Let's sing a new song called "He Will Always Be." *Lyrics to the song can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide. and on the Flip Chart song page.*



Circle Up!

Let's see if we can try to understand this better. Everyone get in a straight line and hold hands.

INSTRUCTIONS

Direct the students to an open space in the room and instruct them to join hands and make a straight line. Begin to march the children around the room.

- ? Who is at the front or beginning of the line?
Who is at the end of the line? *Allow children to answer.*
- ? Our line has a beginning and an end. Does God have a beginning or an end? *No!*
- ? *Now have the children join hands and make a circle.*
Now who is at the beginning of the line?
Who is at the end? *Allow children to answer.*

There is no beginning or ending when we get into a circle. That's what we want to remember about God. He did not have a beginning and He will not ever have an end. He is eternal! *Have the children walk in their lines and turn around in their circle. You can repeat this as time allows letting different children be the "beginning" of the line and the "end." Again, children will form a circle to illustrate that God is eternal with NO beginning and NO ending.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God is, God was, and God will be forever. God is eternal. The Bible tells us He always was and always will be. We know He exists because we believe the Bible!



God, the Creator

MATERIALS

- Craft Sticks
- Yarn
- Paper, paper plates, paper bags
- Glue or stapler
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Stickers, glitter, other decorations, etc. Enough that each child can create his or her own craft

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will “create” something of their own using the various craft items you brought in.

Today you are going to use these items to make your own creation. You can use whatever you want and you can make whatever you want. We’ll help you. Let’s

start creating! *You could have them draw their very own picture—a picture they create—if the craft idea won’t work.*

Have the children show their creations and explain what they are. Hold up one of the “creations.” Who made this? Allow answers. Show the creations.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

You each made your own creation. And we KNOW who made each one. In the same way, we know that God made the trees, rocks, sky, animals, stars, flowers. We know that GOD made these things. God is the Creator. We know God exists because we see Him through His creation. And the Bible tells us that He created the entire universe. He was here at the beginning. He is eternal. He is the Creator.



Memory Verse/Snack

Psalms 119:89 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The first four words of the Bible are “In the beginning, God.” According to Scripture, God was there in the beginning, before time began. He was there before heaven and earth were created. In fact, God created the heavens and the earth! The Bible also tells us that God will always be. He has no beginning and He has no end. God is eternal. He was, He is, and He will be forever! We know God exists because of what we see in creation and what we read in God's Word.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

So, where did God come from? Well, according to the Bible, God didn't come from anywhere because God always was. We know He exists because everything must have a Creator. Just like we know that our clothes were made by someone, our toys were made by people, and we made our very own creations today—when we look around at creation, the animals, plants, sea, sky, stars, we KNOW they must have been created by someone. That someone was God!

I had a great time with you today! Let's end our day together with prayer.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Ask God for faith to believe the deep truths of His Word including His eternity.
- Praise God that He is the eternal Creator of the universe.

Do you still have more time? Review the past lessons using the Flip Chart, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

HE WILL ALWAYS BE

(To the tune "Ten Little Indians")

In the beginning God was the-re.

(One little, two little, three little Indians.)

In the beginning God was the-re.

(Four little, five little, six little Indians.)

In the beginning God was the-re.

(Seven little, eight little, nine little Indians.)

God created the world!

(Ten little Indian boys.)

God has always been today.

God will always be tomorrow.

God was always in the past.

He will always be!

