

Lesson Introduction

Look up a picture of the sun and the planets that orbit (circle around it). The earth is one of the planets that orbit the sun. Earth is a special planet. It is the only planet where there are living things.

What do living things need to live? Living things need air, water and light. They also need ground to live on. The other planets are part of God's design but they don't have the things needed for life.

God loves the earth and made it as a special place for people and animals to live.

Discussion Questions

Day 1: What makes the earth a planet? How many planets are there in our solar system?

Day 2: What do we have to use to learn about the planets? Why? What is the relationship between the planets and the sun? What keeps the planets orbiting around the sun?



Day 3: Why is earth the only planet where there is life? Why can't people live on other planets?

Day 4: Why does the earth stay at the right temperature for there to be life?

Day 5: What shows that God loves the earth? What shows that God loves people?

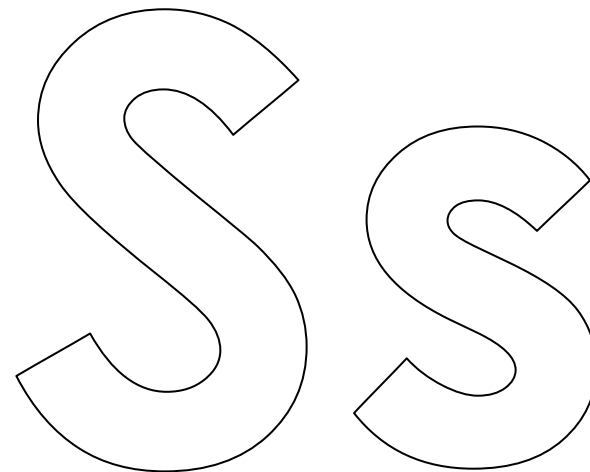
Day 6: How has God shown his love to all people? Who is Jesus? What does it mean that God is the one and only? What does it mean that God is the beginning and the end?

Lesson Rhyme

S—S	Make sign of "S"	
Solar System	Make "S" with L hand. Circle L with R "S"	
Planets	Make "P" with both L & R hands	
circle round the sun	Circle "P"s over & around head	
S—S—Solar System	Same as above	
Earth is the	Join hands together in circle over head	
special one	Put up R index finger & smile	

In the Beginning 11

What is the solar system?



S—S—Solar System

Planets circle round the sun

S—S—Solar System

Earth is the special one

Day 1

Earth is called a planet.

It orbits round the sun.

But there are other planets.

Earth's not the only one.

Some planets are quite big,
others rather small.

In our solar system,
there are eight in all.

Draw a picture of the planets orbiting the sun.

Day 6

To show the love God has for us
he sent his Son to earth.

The God of all the universe
as a baby given birth.

God is the one and only,
the beginning and the end.

Isn't it amazing
that he wants to be our friend?

Draw a picture of Jesus in the manger.

Psalm 148:4-6: ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Psalm 8:3-4: ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Day 5

God loves the earth and made it
as a place for us to dwell.

And everything God does,
he does it very well.

He is the Lord Almighty
who put earth in a perfect place,

Who created every planet
and every star in space.

Draw a picture of people on the earth.

Day 2

You have to use a telescope
to see where planets are.

And do not get confused
'cause a planet's not a star.

Planets orbit round the sun;
the sun holds them in place.

The force of gravity attracts
so they don't spin off in space.

Draw a picture of a telescope.

Psalm 113:4-6: ⁴ The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, ⁶ who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

Job 38:4-7: ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted

Day 3

Earth is the only planet
where living things are found.
As it's the only planet
with water, air and ground.
It's surrounded by an atmosphere
with the oxygen we need.
On any other planet
there is nothing men can breathe.

Draw a picture of living things on the earth.

Day 4

Other planets get too cold;
some get way too hot.
But God placed planet earth
in just the perfect spot.
It's not too close to the sun,
nor is it far away.
So at the temperature life needs
earth does always stay.

Draw a picture of the sun and earth.

Job 38:33:³³ Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God's dominion over the earth?

Psalms 19:5-6

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,⁵ which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.