God Made Four Seasons

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1:14; Psalm 147:15-18; Song of Songs 2:11-13a

**Lesson Focus:** God made the four seasons.

**Memory Verse:** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

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**Teacher Devotional**

God made seasons by causing the sun, moon, and stars to mark time according to the order that God established in the heavens. The order God made defines the seasons, days, and years that give us pattern and rhythm in our lives.

With just a few words spoken by God, “Let them serve . . . ,” the powerful creativity of God brought about a world marked by time and the changing of the seasons. What season do you like best and why?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”

God is truly majestic. His power and might are visible every day in the timing and working of earth and the heavenly bodies. He created a world governed by time and said that it was good.

We should also see the goodness of what God made. It is the goodness that helps us enjoy and appreciate creation. Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”

Pick your least favorite season. It also is good in God’s eyes. What can you find that is beautiful in that season?

Every time you look at a clock or a calendar, shovel snow or rake leaves, think about the power of God in creation and thank Him for His goodness.
Understanding the Bible

The “clock” of nature is accurate. On the fourth day of Creation the Lord established the movement of the heavenly bodies to be consistent and precise. Because of this precision, we can chart the sunrise and sunset far in advance. An eclipse of the sun or moon can be forecast to the hour. A comet follows a set path and schedule, and the seasons come and go regularly.

We can predict the weather by looking at the sky (Matt. 16:2-3) and the heavenly bodies at times give signs of extraordinary events (Luke 21:25; 23:44-45). They also guided the wise men (Matt. 2:2). God made the sun, moon, and stars to be signs of time, seasons, and divine events. They are not signs in any astrological sense.

The Lord established the seasons and continues to control them. The elements continue to respond when His word is given (Ps. 147:15-18). Snow is rare in Palestine, but the psalmist must have experienced it and been impressed with its beauty, reminding him of a beautiful robe of spotless wool covering the earth.

Solomon referred to the signs of spring in the flowers, figs, and habits of the birds (S. of S. 2:11-13).

When Teaching the Bible to Early Elementary Students . . .

Most early-elementary students can name the seasons and talk about the different characteristics of each season. They understand that God made the earth, sun, moon, and stars. But they may not be able to make the connection between the heavenly bodies and the marking of time on earth. That’s okay. Here are some tips on ways to discuss with your students how God made the four seasons:

— The characteristics of the seasons can vary from region to region in our country. Give the children opportunity to tell you what they know about the seasons based on their own experiences.
— Children this age take comfort in knowing that someone bigger and wiser than them is in control. As you talk about the seasons, point out that God had a plan in everything He created. God also keeps everything under control.
— Remind the children that everything God made was good. Ask them to talk about what is good about each season.

Early Bird Options

Be prepared for the children who arrive early by planning to provide one or more of these activities.

Snowflakes – This lesson will teach the children about the four seasons. Get them thinking about snow in the winter season. Let the children fold, then cut designs in paper to make snowflakes.

The Best Season – The children will learn how God made all four of the seasons. Help the children to start thinking about the seasons by asking them to draw one of their favorite outdoor activities. Ask them to talk with each other about what they are drawing and the time of year when they do their activity.

Thanksgiving Decorations – A turkey can remind us to thank God for all He has done. The children will learn that they can thank God for making the four seasons. Let the children punch out the turkey and feathers from Make-It/Take-It, page 31. Let the children glue the feathers on the turkey, then color, or draw something they are thankful for on the turkey.

Link to Last Week

The children planned to tell others that God made the sky, water, and land. Ask them who they told and how it went. Affirm their experiences.
Through a guided acting experience and a discussion on what the children know about the seasons, your class will get ready to learn that God made the four seasons.

**MATERIALS:** None needed

This Bible lesson teaches the children that God made the four seasons. It will encourage the children to praise God for the seasons by enjoying and appreciating them. This opening activity will help the children begin thinking about some of the things they do during each of the four seasons.

In class, divide the children into four groups. If you have a small class, use two groups. Ask the children to name the four seasons. Give each group the name of one of the seasons. If you have only two groups, use only two seasons. Spread out the groups. Have each group talk together to name things that happen in their season that they can act out. Tell the children to plan what they will act. Explain that they can work together to act out one activity of their season, or they can let each member act out their own idea of an activity for their season.

Bring the groups back together. Let each group have a turn to act out one or more activities of their season. Announce the season for each group before they do their acting. Let the other children in your class guess what is being acted out. Here are some possible actions the children might perform. They will certainly have many of their own ideas too.

**SPRING**—planting seeds, digging in the soil, seed growing into a plant, baseball, sun shining, wind blowing, walking in the rain with an umbrella, kite flying, baby birds hatching, etc.

**SUMMER**—baseball, sidewalk skating, playing catch, camping out, picnic, lying under a shade tree, fireworks exploding, swimming, picking or smelling flowers, etc.

**FALL**—leaves falling, raking leaves, playing soccer or football, picking apples from a tree, pulling carrots in a garden, etc.

**WINTER**—snowflakes falling, making a snowman, throwing a snowball, shivering, ice skating, playing hockey, singing Christmas songs, pulling on a stocking cap, shoveling snow, etc.

If you used two groups and only two seasons, do the activity a second time and assign the other two seasons to your two groups.

There are a lot of different things you enjoy doing in each of the four seasons. Let’s talk more about the four seasons.

**Sharing Time**

- **What is your favorite season?** Encourage the children to take turns naming the season they like the best.

- **What do you like best about your favorite season?** Allow time for all the children to tell their thoughts and reasons. Some reasons might involve birthdays, holidays, weather, school vacations, sports, travel, places they go, and so on.

Today’s Bible story is about the four seasons. Let’s listen to learn more about the four seasons.
The children will learn that God made the four seasons.

MATERIALS:
▫ Bible
▫ Teaching Aid 14

Before class, study the Scripture passages for this Bible lesson. Read through the Bible story given below.

God Made the Seasons: Genesis 1:14; Psalm 147:15-18; Song of Songs 2:11-13a

God made the four seasons. What are the names of the four seasons? (Spring, summer, fall, winter.)

God made the spring. (Show Teaching Aid 14. Point to the spring picture.) During the spring the earth begins to point more toward the sun so the sun warms the earth. God sends the rain to water the earth so seeds begin to grow. Plants and trees grow new leaves. Flowers come up and bloom. Fruit and nut trees begin to grow their fruit. Many animals have babies during the spring. Baby birds hatch from their eggs.

God made the summer season to follow spring. (Show the teaching aid. Point to the summer picture.) During summer the sun shines most directly on the earth. This is how God made the summer weather the warmest so the plants and trees can grow. Fruit and plants that we eat grow to be full size and begin to get ripe. Animals that were born in the spring grow old enough to leave their mothers and find new homes. Many wild animals eat extra during the summer so they get fat. Then they have extra fat stored in their bodies so they can live through the winter, when food is harder to find.

What season follows summer? (Encourage the children to respond.) Yes, the fall season comes after summer. God made fall, too. Another name for this season is autumn. (Point to the fall picture on Teaching Aid 14.) Fall is the season we are having right now.

During the fall, what happens to the trees with leaves? (The children should say that trees lose their leaves.) The leaves die and turn many colors, then fall off the trees. Food that grows on plants and trees is fully ripe by fall, so we harvest the food.

Some animals, like squirrels, collect nuts during the fall to store for their winter food supply.

What do we call the fourth season God made? (Winter.) Winter comes after fall. (Point to the winter picture on Teaching Aid 14.) During winter many plants don’t grow. God sends snow to much of the earth during wintertime. Some animals go out to search for food, but then they return to their homes to keep warm.

God made the earth and the sun and put them in their places in the heavens. God made daytime and nighttime on the earth and the days, years, and seasons for the earth. God made the earth to spin around once each day. As it spins, half of the earth faces the sun so it gets the light of the sun. The other half of the earth faces away from the sun, so it is dark. Each day has some daylight and a nighttime as our part of the earth moves out of the sunshine into the darkness. God made the seasons by making the earth move around the sun once each year. The part of the earth that is closest to the sun and in the direct sunlight has summer. We have winter when our part of the earth is farther away and not in the direct sunlight.

God made the four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. God saw that the seasons are good. He wants us to appreciate and enjoy the seasons He made.
Bible Story Review Questions

- What are the four seasons? (The four seasons are spring, summer, fall, and winter.)
- What do plants and animals do during the spring? (Plants grow new leaves and bloom. Trees begin to grow their fruit. Many animals have babies. Young birds hatch.)
- What season follows spring? (Summer follows spring.)
- What happens to fruits and vegetables during the summer? (They become full size and ready to pick.)
- What do animals like squirrels do during the fall? (Squirrels collect nuts to store for their winter food supply.)
- What do plants and animals do during the winter? (Plants don’t grow, animals stay in their homes to keep warm, and so on.)
- What do you enjoy most about the seasons God made? Let the children think and talk. Encourage them to tell the class their ideas because you can learn from each other.
- Who made the seasons? (God made the seasons.)

Bible Story Review Activity

**MATERIALS:** Teaching Aid 14, tape

Separate the right and left halves of Teaching Aid 14, then tape them into a rolling tube with the pictures in order. There are also directions given on the back side of the teaching aid.

Have the children sit on the floor in a circle. Roll the four seasons cylinder across the circle to a student.

Ask the child to roll the cylinder across the circle to another child. Have the one who receives the cylinder name the season that comes up on top. Ask him or her to name the season, tell a fact about the season, and tell who made the season. For example, if the fall picture comes up on top, the child could say, “Fall, some animals collect food during the fall for the winter. God made the fall.”

The child who talked about a season then rolls the four seasons cylinder to another student across the circle. The student who receives the cylinder names the season that comes up on top, tells a fact about the season, and who made the season.

Continue rolling the cylinder and talking about the seasons so everyone has a turn. It’s okay if children repeat a fact about any season. Encourage them to try to tell something new about each season.

Memory Verse Practice

God made the seasons. When He was finished, He saw that the seasons were good. Our Bible memory verse teaches us the goodness of all that God made.

Have the children squat on the floor or sit on chairs in a circle. Say the verse together while you all alternate sitting and standing as you say each word.

**God** (sit) **saw** (stand) **all** (sit) **that** (stand) **he** (sit) **had** (stand) **made,** (sit) **and** (stand) **it** (sit) **was** (stand) **very** (sit) **good.** (stand) **Genesis** (sit) 1:31 (stand).

Repeat the verse. Encourage the children to go faster. Go the other way around the circle. You might have the children turn around or jump up once every time they stand to say a word. Ask the children to suggest more fun activities for each word of the verse.
The children will use activity choices to practice the Bible lesson about the seasons God made. Plan to provide your class with this variety of activities that they can choose from. The relay will get the children moving and remembering the four seasons God made. The poster will make a year-long reminder of the lesson. The puppets and background scenes will let the children make up stories about the different activities, weather, clothing, and events of each season.

**Stick Puppets and Backgrounds**

**MATERIALS:** *Bible Beginnings*, pages 47–50, scissors, tape or glue, craft sticks, crayons

Let the children make up stories about a puppet character and his or her activities each season to help them appreciate the seasons God made. Show *Bible Beginnings*, pages 47 and 48, as you explain how the children fold the background scenes to show only one season at a time. Show pages 49 and 50 and tell them to draw hair and faces on each of their puppets. They can make the puppets to be different people or the same person dressed for the different seasons. Then they cut and fold the page to make two-sided puppets. Children tape or glue craft stick handles inside their folded puppets and tape or glue together the three open edges of each puppet.

Let the children use their background scenes and puppets as a character (or characters) in stories they make up about the seasons God made and how we enjoy them changing from one season to another.

**Four Seasons Relay**

**MATERIALS:** oversized seasonal clothing (3-4 pieces for each season), 4 boxes or laundry baskets, slips of paper

Before class, gather 3-4 oversized pieces of clothing for each season, place each season’s clothing in a separate box, and label the box. Write or draw one season on each slip of paper. Make sure there is at least one slip of paper for each student. In class, divide your class in two to four equal teams. Give each player a slip of paper. At your signal, the first student in each line should open his piece of paper, run to the appropriate season box, put on at least one item, say, “God made (season),” take off the item, and run back to his line. The first team to complete the relay and sit down wins. For a relay without props, have students go to a designated spot and do an action for their assigned season (e.g. pretend to swim for summer).

**Four Seasons Poster**

**MATERIALS:** Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 12, paper fasteners, crayons, yarn, scissors, tape, (optional: colored paper, cotton, glue, flower stickers)

Let the children make a “Four Seasons” wall hanging.

Show the craft page as you explain how to punch out the pieces and attach the pointer with a paper fastener. Tell the children to color the four pictures and talk with each other about the differences between the four seasons God made. The children might hang their finished posters to remind them that God made the seasons. The arrow can be pointed to the current season.

★ Give the children time to clean up their activities before gathering back together as one group.

**LESSON 12 FOCUS:**

God made the four seasons.

**LEsson 12**

Lesson 12: Bible Basis – Genesis 1:14; Psalm 147:15-18; Song of Songs 2:11-13a
The Thanksgiving season reminds us to thank God for all of His good gifts. The seasons, and all of creation, are just a few of His blessings we enjoy all year long. Gather the children around to talk about Thanksgiving Day plans. Let the children tell about the people, food, and events they will enjoy. Help them remember to take time to thank God for all of His blessings, such as the seasons.

**Extra-Time Activity**

The Extra-Time Activity is a fun way to extend the lesson and encourage children to think about the seasons and how they enjoy them. The activity can be adapted to fit the needs of the group and can be used as a follow-up activity or a way to engage children who need a bit more stimulation. It can be used in a variety of settings, such as Sunday school, primary class, or home. The Extra-Time Activity can be found in the lesson plan or in a separate resource. It is a great way to help children connect the lesson to their own experiences and to deepen their understanding of the Bible story.