

UNIT 1 | SESSION 1

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GENESIS 1-2



CHRIST CONNECTION: By faith, we believe that God created the whole world by His word. (Hebrews 11:3) Jesus, the Word of God, is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together. (Colossians 1:16-17)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and the King of everything.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 104:24

EXPECTED RESPONSE: Awe



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

PLAN the Session

1. Read the Leader Bible Study and review the session plan.
2. Check out the session-by-session training available on Ministry Grid.
3. Pray for yourself, your group, and the other leaders and kids in your ministry.

LEADER Bible Study

Origin stories often captivate our imagination. We love to know where people came from and how they became who they are today. As we look back at the past, we gain insight into the present and hope for the future. From the first pages of Scripture, we discover the origin story of the universe, and ourselves. Knowing that we come from the creative mind of an infinite God gives us purpose in this life.

This week we begin an incredible journey through the Bible. We will uncover glorious truths about the God of the universe and how He is intimately connected to His creation. Our God cares deeply for the world He has made and is at work restoring and reconciling all things to Himself. Meditate on Genesis 1–2 and consider the following main ideas as you prepare to guide kids to understand more of God’s character.

God is Creator. God created everything by His word for His own glory. The psalmist reminds us of this in Psalm 19: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.” God’s creativity is clearly seen through what He has made, and as we gaze upon the wonders of creation, we can turn our eyes and our praise to the One who made it all.

God is Ruler. God rules over His creation with all authority and power. Everything that exists originated with God and belongs to Him. There is nothing that falls outside of God’s sovereignty. With God lies truth and from Him come wisdom and understanding. To be ruled by God is to bow to the One who loves perfectly and mercifully.

We are created in God’s image. In the early pages of the Bible, we learn that God has fashioned us in His image to reflect His character to the world. We were made to know and love God and to obey Him in response to the blessings He has poured out upon us.

This week, guide kids to understand that God is our Creator and King who invites us into a relationship with Him. Through the blood of His Son, Jesus, God redeemed this world which had been broken by sin and has reconciled all things to Himself. Help kids grasp the glorious truth that we are loved by God and invited to participate in His Kingdom for eternity when we join our hearts to Christ through faith.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



LEARN

20-30 MINUTES

Teach kids how and why we worship



LOVE

25-30 MINUTES

Lead kids to love God by worshipping Him



LIVE

10 MINUTES

Lead kids to live worshipful lives for God



FOR THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



LEARN

Countdown

- countdown video

Worship through Music

- "God of Everything," "God Created It All," or other high-energy worship songs of your choosing

Introduction and Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Tell the Bible Story

- "God Created the World" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Group Demonstration

- fork
- birthday candle
- recorder or kazoo
- bubble wand



LOVE

Respond in Worship

- "How Marvelous You Are," "My Father's World," or other slower worship songs of your choosing
- offering basket or collection box (optional)



LIVE

Key Passage

- Key Passage Poster
- "Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song

Additional Activity

- inflated balloons, 2



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN through Worship

1 COUNTDOWN

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

2 WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC (5–10 min.)

Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “God of Everything” or “God Created It All”—to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk the kids through any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

3 INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION (3 min.)

SAY “ Hello, everyone! I’m so glad to see each of you here today as we set off on an incredible adventure through God’s Word. The Bible comes from God, and it tells us what is true about Him and ourselves. If we want to know what God is like, we can turn to the Scriptures to see what He has revealed about Himself. The Bible is made up of 66 smaller books that were written by many different authors over a long stretch of time. We read stories, poems, prayers, prophecies, and letters in the Bible, and they all point us to the story God is telling of His great love for His creation.

What is your favorite story? **[Allow responses.]** People of all ages love to read and hear stories. In the Bible we read the greatest story of all time. It’s a story of love, betrayal, courage, sacrifice, mercy, and forgiveness. It’s a story of how God will save His people from sin. God’s story spans all of history, but today we will start at the beginning.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be answering a big picture question. Questions like this help us understand what is true about God and His creation. Our question for this week is, **Who is God?** What are some ways you might answer that question? **[Allow responses.]** Let’s say the answer together. **God is our Creator and the King of everything.** Today we’ll learn that God created the whole world. Nothing was made without Him, and He rules over everything. As we learn about who God is and what He is like, we will probably feel a sense of awe at how incredible He is. To feel a sense of awe is to have a deep respect or wonder about the glory and majesty of God. Let’s turn in our Bibles to Genesis 1 and get ready to be awed by our great God. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 TELL THE BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1–2. Tell the Bible story using the script provided, or flesh out the “Kids Sermon Outline” in the margin to teach a more in depth message. You may choose to play the Bible story video “God Created the World.” Use bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

“**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** The earth was formless and empty. Darkness covered the ocean, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. Then **God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.”** There was an evening, and there was a morning. **That was the first day.**”

God separated the waters that were on the surface of the earth from the waters that were above the earth. He called the space above the earth “sky.” Evening came and then morning: **that was the second day.**

God created dry land on the earth. He gathered the waters and called them “seas.” God commanded the earth to grow plants and trees. God saw that His creation was good. **That was the third day.**

Next, God put lights in the sky—a sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God saw that His creation was good. Evening came and then morning: **that was the fourth day.**

God created sea creatures and birds. This creation was good, too. God commanded them to multiply, to fill the seas and the earth. Evening came and then morning: **that was the fifth day.**

Then God created animals like livestock and wildlife. God saw that His creation was good.

Finally, God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.” God created people differently from everything else He created. People were God’s special creation because they were made in His image. **God took dust from the ground and made a man. God breathed His very own breath into the man, and the man became alive. God made a garden and put the man there. He grew trees to give food for the man, and He told the man to work in the garden and take care of it.**

Then God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper for him.” God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. **God took a rib from the man and created a woman to be the man’s helper and wife. God named the man and woman Adam and Eve.** He blessed them and commanded them to multiply, fill the earth, and rule over creation.

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came and then morning: that was the sixth day. Creation was complete, so God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy. **On that seventh day, God rested.**”

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

God is Creator (Gen. 1): God created everything by His word and for His glory.

God is Ruler (Gen. 2:1-9): God completely and perfectly rules over His creation.

We are created in God’s image (Gen. 1:26-31): God created men and women in His image to reflect Him.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “Wow! Isn’t God amazing? What did you hear God do in our story? [Allow responses.] Yes! God created the heavens and the earth, plants and animals, the sun, moon, and stars. God is incredible and His creation shows us His power. Do you remember our big picture question? **Who is God? God is our Creator and the King of everything.** When we look at the world and see evidence of God’s creativity and majesty, we experience a sense of awe. By faith, we believe that God created the whole world by His word. (Hebrews 11:3)

It’s true that the whole Bible points us to Jesus. But where is Jesus in Genesis 1? In Genesis 1:26, we see God say, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.’ This verse points to God the Son and God the Spirit being there with God the Father. We don’t directly read His name in these pages, but Jesus is God the Son, and He has existed forever. God the Father and God the Spirit have no beginning, and neither does Jesus. Jesus, the Word of God, is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together. (Colossians 1:16-17) ”

6 GROUP DEMONSTRATION (5 min.)

Lead the kids to hold their hands in front of their mouths and blow out slowly. Ask them what they felt. (their breath) Display the fork, birthday candle, recorder or kazoo, and bubble wand. Pick up the objects as you work through the following teaching.

SAY “We can do some neat things using our breath. I can play a recorder, blow out a birthday candle, cool down a bite of hot food, and even blow bubbles on the playground. But none of these even come close to the amazing act God did with His breath in the Bible story we heard. Do you remember? [Read Genesis 2:7.] God breathed life into the man He had created. Wow! Isn’t that incredible? That’s way cooler than playing an instrument or blowing bubbles. Only God has the power to breathe life into people.

You and I—along with every other person who has ever lived—is kept going by this breath that God has breathed into us. Apart from God’s sustaining Spirit, we would have no life in us at all. This idea of God’s breath—or Spirit—is found throughout the Bible. The Spirit of God is our way of experiencing God’s presence. And check this out! [Read John 20:22.] In this verse Jesus had just appeared to His disciples after He was resurrected from the dead. What did Jesus do? He breathed on His disciples so they would receive the Holy Spirit—God’s very presence with them! Everyone who trusts in Jesus and puts their faith in Him receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. We have this life-giving breath of God with us wherever we go. His presence is always with us, guiding us and helping us live for Him. ”



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE with Worship

1 DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. What did we discover about God in this passage? God is incredibly powerful and is intimately connected to His creation. He made man and woman in His image so humans can exist in relationship with Him. God created people to be capable of knowing Him and loving Him.
2. We have talked about the sense of awe we experience when we think about the greatness of God. But awe may not be the only response you have to God. You may feel purposeful knowing that God created you intentionally in His image. Or you may feel valued by God when you consider all the ways He has blessed you. We can be honest about our feelings or responses to God because He already knows how we feel. Our thoughts are not surprising to Him, so we can go before Him willingly and honestly. What are some other ways you respond after hearing how God created the world? Provide a safe place for kids to discuss emotions and remind kids that their feelings are real and valid, even if they don't match what others feel.
3. What are some ways a person might show the emotion of awe? Awe is like amazement or wonder. When we are in awe of something or someone it's often a breathtaking moment. Awe of God can be expressed as a quiet stillness in which our appreciation of Him grows in our hearts and minds. Or we may experience awe through joy and energetic worship.
4. Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories? Help kids talk through other situations where they have felt awed, purposeful, valued, or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.
5. How can being in awe of God draw us closer to Him? Discuss with the kids how God desires us to know and love Him. He placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and was relationally connected to them. He wants the same for us today. When we are amazed at and delighted by the works of God, we are drawn to desire more of Him.

After the kids have had time to discuss, direct their attention back to the main worship leader for the group activity. If you formed smaller groups, you may choose to re-gather as a larger group depending on your ministry context.

2 RESPOND THROUGH PRAYER (3 min.)

SAY “ We will spend a few minutes praying to God on our own. Let's think back to the story we heard from the Bible about God creating the world. He made everything that exists simply by speaking. He is a gracious and loving God who wants us to know Him. What better way to get to know God than through a conversation with Him! And that's exactly what prayer is, a conversation with God. We can share what we think and feel with God, and we can listen for Him to speak to us. Spend a few minutes now thanking God for creating you in His image. Ask Him to help you know Him better so you can experience the full and exciting life He has planned for you! ”

3 GROUP ACTIVITY: CAPTAIN'S ORDERS (5-10 min.)

SAY “ We worship an incredible God who is connected to everything He has made. Let's play a game to help us remember something important that we learned from our story today. ”

Explain to the group that you are the Captain and you will give several commands. Upon hearing



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the different commands kids will race to do a specific movement. Any kid who does the wrong movement or is the last one to move must do 10 jumping jacks before rejoining the game. [Commands: Captain's coming-stand and salute; Swab the deck-pretend to scrub the floor; Hit the deck-lay on their stomach; Climb the rigging-pretend to climb a rope; Abandon ship-find a partner, sit facing each other, and pretend to row a rowboat.]

SAY 🗨️ Great job! You had to listen carefully to the commands to be successful at that game. The captain had the power to speak and make actions happen. Let's think back to our Bible story. What did God do in the passage we read today? [Allow responses.] God created all things! [Ask volunteers to read Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24.] Did you hear any repeating words in these verses? That's right, we read the words 'and God said...' at the beginning of each verse. God spoke and all things came into existence. Those were some powerful words!

When God made man and woman, He used a different approach. [Read Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:7.] God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into his nostrils. Then God made the woman from the man's rib. God cared deeply about the people He had made in His image. He wanted them to be like Him so they could represent Him as they moved through the world. You and I are made in God's image too, and we have the same invitation. We get to be God's representatives in the world. In some ways we can be like God, and when we rely on Him, He guides us to live in ways that bring about our growth and good, and His glory! 🗨️

4 RESPOND IN WORSHIP (3 min.)

Choose slower worship songs—such as “How Marvelous You Are” or “My Father's World”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

SAY 🗨️ God is amazing! He created all things, and He did it by simply speaking. That's certainly not something you or I could ever do. I don't know about you, but I feel in awe of God. He is worthy of all worship, respect, honor, and praise. God made people in His image to reflect what He is like. We aren't God, but in some ways we are like God. We can be creative because God is creative. We can think and feel because God can think and feel. So much of who we are is wrapped up in who God is and what He is like because we are made in His image. Let's spend some time now worshipping our amazing God together. 🗨️

As you continue playing music, allow the kids a few minutes to pass an offering basket, bring offerings to a collections box, or collect offerings in another way.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE in Worship

1 KEY PASSAGE (5 min.)

SAY “ The Psalms are prayers to God. The writers express a wide variety of emotions and responses to what they experience with God. Our key passage comes from a psalm of praise to God for the wonderful creation He has made. The psalmist was in awe of God’s creativity and power. ”

Read Psalm 104:24 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the key passage poster for kids to read. You may also sing the key passage song, “Countless (Psalm 104:24).”

2 APPLICATION (2 min.)

Spend some time following up with the kids to see if they were able to complete the application challenges from the previous session. (Consider ways you can show others what God is like; write out the key passage and remember God’s love for you.) Encourage each kid for his or her efforts, and remind kids to keep seeking ways to worship God each day.

SAY “ Today we heard from Genesis 1 about how God created all things. God put His creativity on display when He spoke all things into existence. I love coming together each week to learn from God’s Word. We can also find fun ways to put our faith into practice throughout the week. This can help us remember and better understand the truths we learn from the Bible. Here’s an idea to try this week.

God created all things for His glory, and the natural world often gives us a sense of awe at God’s power. Write down three or four parts of creation that you love. It could be the sound of a creek near your home, or the way the sun shines through the tree branches out your window. We don’t have to look too hard to find things that amaze us. As you notice God’s creation, take a moment to thank Him for what He has made and praise Him for His great power. ”

3 PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 min.)

SAY “ Father, we are in awe of You and the incredible power You display within Your creation. We praise You for the way You brought forth the beauty of the natural world through Your Word. Give us eyes to see all the ways You are at work within Your creation this week and help us give glory to You as people made in Your image. Amen. ”

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry before dismissing. If there’s significant time between dismissal and pick-up, consider using the additional activity to keep the kids engaged. You may also substitute the additional activity for the group activity.



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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

KEEP IT UP

Guide kids to form two teams and lead them to stand in a circle and hold hands. Give each group an inflated balloon. Explain that the group will have to work together to keep the balloon in the air, but the trick is they must not drop the hand of the person next to them. With each tap of the balloon the group will say one word of the key passage. Each time the balloon drops to the ground, the group will have to start back at the first word of the key passage. The group to finish saying the key passage first wins.

SAY “ Well done, everyone! You had to work together to keep the balloons up in the air and you used some creative ways to do it. Today we read from the first chapters of the Bible, in Genesis. We began answering our big picture question: **Who is God?** Do you remember the answer? **God is our Creator and the King of everything.**

What else have you learned about God today? **[Allow responses.]** God is so creative and has made all things by the power of His word. Why did God create everything that He did? **[Allow responses.]** The whole Bible tells the story of our awesome God and how He made all things for His glory. Today we’ve read from the first book of the Bible. Now let’s turn to the very last book. **[Read Revelation 4:11.]** God made everything that exists, and all of creation exists to glorify and worship God. ”