



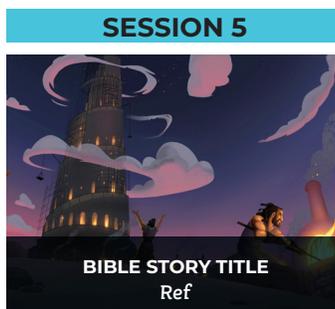
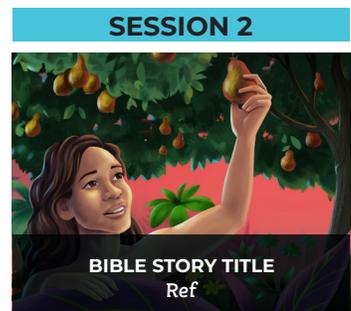
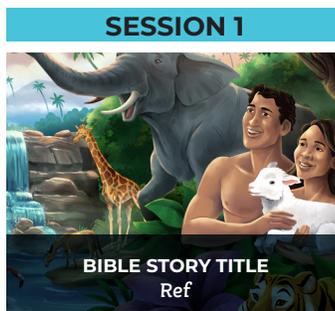
## VOLUME 12 - FROM THIS WORLD TO THE WORLD TO COME

As the gospel spread to the Roman Empire, God prepared Paul's heart for the world to come. Paul's ministry and John's vision of the new creation give us strength and confidence to continue the mission of sharing the gospel and making disciples.

### UNIT 3: GOD IS IN CONTROL

After three missionary journeys on which God used Paul to plant many churches and see many people trust in Christ, Paul returned to Jerusalem where he was arrested. Paul would eventually be sent to Rome as a prisoner, but this did not stop him from doing everything he could to preach the gospel and make much of Jesus.

Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for what He has done to provide our salvation and also because He is returning one day to make all things right.



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# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

UNIT 1 | SESSION 1

# GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GENESIS 1-2



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God made the whole world just by speaking. Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. God the Son has always existed, and He rules over everything.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 104:24

**STORY POINT:** God made all things good.



IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

In Genesis 1–2, we encounter one of Scripture’s most well-known passages: the creation story. This account is foundational to recognizing God as Creator and King over everything. Yet, as foundational as this account may be, faith is still a necessary component of understanding this biblical account and in trusting the goodness of the triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—whose good creation makes known His glory and His purposes.

So, how do we find Jesus within the creation account?

To understand Jesus within the context of Genesis 1–2, we must focus on how God chose to create the heavens and the earth. He did not simply point at the formless void and silently fashion it into existence; rather, He used His voice to speak. Hebrews 11:3 declares, “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” As God spoke, everything was created out of nothing (ex nihilo).

In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as “the Word” to specifically demonstrate that God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus. Just as God spoke creation into existence, making His glory and will known through His words, so did He also make Himself known by the Word of God coming to earth. In fact, John 1:1 teaches us that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus is God in flesh who came to dwell in the very creation He created. Within the first three verses of Genesis 1, we read that all three Persons of the Trinity were present and involved in the creation of the world. (Genesis 1:1-3)

The apostle Paul later wrote in Colossians 1:16-17 that everything was created by Jesus, through Jesus, and for Jesus. He was before creation, and by Him all things are held together; the Word has been present since the beginning.

As you prepare to teach this session, pray that God reveals His glory in the person of Jesus Christ to the preschoolers’ hearts and minds. Ask for clarity in your words as you proclaim His truths. May God grant faith to the hearers of this story, helping them trust the truth of His Word.



**PREPARE**

**THE WEEK PRIOR**

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



**LEARN**

**10-15 MINUTES**

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



**LOVE**

**20-25 MINUTES**

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



**LIVE**

**15-20 MINUTES**

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



### LEARN

#### Welcome and worship with song

- "God Made the World" song

#### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- "God Created the World" video (optional)
- story telling tips props (optional)

#### Review

- Giant Timeline

#### Respond through song and prayer

- "Great and Mighty Things" song
- "Thank, Thank, Thank You God" song



### LOVE

#### Go on a color hunt

- "How Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song (optional)

#### Make sculptures

- pool noodles cut into 3-inch segments
- chenille stems of varying color and size
- plastic bin

#### Look at books

- picture books about nature

#### Guess the animal

- "Animal Cards" printable
- bucket or basket

#### Make a dirt cup snack

- "God Made the World" song
- chocolate sandwich cookies, 1 package
- gallon-sized ziplock bags, 2
- chocolate pudding or pudding cups
- gummy worms
- spoons, 1 per child



### LIVE

#### Learn the Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Practice the Key Passage

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

#### Missions Moment

- "All About the Americas" missions video



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

## 1 WELCOME AND WORSHIP WITH SONG

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “God Made the World”, to engage and welcome them. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage preschoolers to join you. Between songs, help the preschoolers think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk about any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

## 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to look out a window. Tell preschoolers to look out and tell what they see. If you do not have a window, ask preschoolers what they see when they are outside.

**SAY** “When we look outside, we see amazing things like clouds, tall trees, and birds. God created all these beautiful things we see. God also made something inside our classroom. What do you think that could be? [Allow responses.] God made us, He made people! Today we will learn about when God created everything, including people!”

Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1–2:7,18-25. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### GOD CREATED THE WORLD

“In the beginning, there was nothing but God—no sun, no dirt, no animals, and no people! God did something that no person could ever do. He made the world out of nothing.

First, God created the heavens and the earth. Water covered the earth, and it was dark. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” That was the first day.

On the second day, God made the sky. On the third day, He gathered the water on earth into oceans. Now there was dry land. God made all kinds of plants and trees, and He saw that it was all good.

On the fourth day, God put the sun in the sky for daytime and the moon and stars for night. God looked at what He made, and God saw that it was good. On the fifth day, God made animals that swim in the water. He made birds that fly in the sky. God saw that His creation was good.

On the sixth day, God made animals that live on earth. He made wild animals and animals that crawl and animals that can help people. God saw that what He made was good.

The last thing God created was the most special of all. Finally, God made

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Count to seven:** Ask children to hold up the corresponding finger as you mention that day of creation. Count to seven together after you tell the story.

**Show a prop:** Show a prop that corresponds with each day of creation: flashlight (day 1), cotton ball (day 2), artificial flowers (day 3), star cutout (day 4), toy bird or fish (day 5), mirror (day 6), small pillow (day 7).



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**people.** The people would take care of the earth God made. They would take care of the plants and animals. **God took dust from the ground and made a man.** He breathed into the man, and the man became alive. **The man's name was Adam.**

**God made a garden and put the man there to work in the garden and take care of it.** God grew trees for the man to have food. But **God did not want Adam to be alone, so He** caused Adam to fall asleep. God took a rib from Adam and **made a woman to be his helper and wife. Her name was Eve.**

**God loved Adam and Eve, and He took care of them. God saw all He had made, and it was very good. On the seventh day, God rested. ”**

Christ Connection: God made the whole world just by speaking. Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. God the Son has always existed, and He rules over everything.

### 3 REVIEW

Point to the giant timeline as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who did God create to take care of the plants and animals? (people, Adam and Eve)
4. What is your favorite thing God made? (Answers will vary.)
5. What did God call His creation after He made it? (good)
6. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.**

**SAY ”** God created the whole world: the sky, land, sea, birds, fish, trees, animals, and people in six days. On the seventh day, God rested. God is powerful and good. God's Son, Jesus, is the ruler over all creation. Everything was created for Jesus and Jesus rules over everything. Jesus loves us and takes care of us. ”

### 4 RESPOND THROUGH SONG AND PRAYER

**SAY ”** God made the whole world just by speaking. Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. God the Son has always existed, and He rules over everything. **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD. ”**

Sing "Great and Mighty Things" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Thank, Thank, Thank You God." Collect an offering.

**SAY ”** God, thank You for creating [say each child's name]. I pray that these children will know how much You love them and will one day choose to trust in Jesus and follow Him. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God because of what we learned

Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### 1 GO ON A COLOR HUNT



Gather seven different-colored pieces of construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink) and tape them to the floor. Guide preschoolers to search the classroom for objects that match one of the seven colors and then place the item on the matching paper. Consider playing the key passage song, “How Countless (Psalm 104:24),” as children hunt for different-colored objects.

**SAY** “Let’s count the papers together. [Count the seven papers.] God created the earth in six days and rested on day seven. What color is each paper? [Point to each paper and say the color.] God made so many colorful things like red apples and pink flamingos! **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** What other colorful creatures did God create?”

#### 2 MAKE SCULPTURES

Place pool noodles and chenille stems in a plastic bin and set it on a table for preschoolers to explore. Demonstrate how to make a sculpture by pushing chenille stems into a pool noodle. Encourage preschoolers to vary their sculptures by connecting multiple pool noodles or twisting chenille stems into different shapes.

**SAY** “What did you choose to make? [Allow responses.] We used our hands to make our sculptures, but when God created the world, He only used His words. God is our Creator and King. God created everything and rules over it all.”

#### 3 LOOK AT BOOKS

Place a bookmark at the key passage, Psalm 104:24, and set in nearby. Provide several nature books depicting animals, sea life, plants, and the solar system. Invite children to sit and look through the different books. Sit with the children as they look at the books and try to answer any questions they have. As children look at the books, remind them that God is the Creator of all things and He made all things good.

**SAY** “God created all the things we see in these books by just speaking. [Open the Bible to Psalm 104:24.] Our key passage says, ‘How countless are your works, LORD! ... The earth is full of your creatures.’ Psalm 104:24. This means God created so many things, we can’t even count them all if we tried! And **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.**”



LOVE

## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 GUESS THE ANIMAL

Before the session, print and cut out the “Animal Cards” printable. Fold each card and put them in a bucket or basket. Gather preschoolers to sit down in a designated area. Choose a child to pick a card from the bucket; that child will play out the animal depicted on the card by making noises and movements while the children sitting guess the animal. Continue to play by asking different preschoolers to choose a card from the bucket.

**SAY** “It is fun to pretend to be different animals, but are you really a snail? Are you a lion? No, you are a person! God made people different from the animals. What are the names of the first people God made? (Adam and Eve) God gave Adam and Eve a special job. He told them to take care of the plants and animals that He created.”

### 5 MAKE A DIRT CUP SNACK



Prior to the session, put a package of chocolate sandwich cookies inside a gallon-sized ziplock bag and remove any excess air. Consider putting that bag inside another ziplock bag to prevent any leaks. Gather children to sit in a circle on the floor. Pass the bag around the circle as the song “God Made the World” plays. Tell preschoolers to squeeze the bag to crush the cookies and then pass it to their neighbor. When the song ends, instruct preschoolers to go to the table. Distribute a chocolate pudding cup to each child. Sprinkle cookie crumbs on top of each cup and give preschoolers a few gummy worms. Lead preschoolers to use a spoon to mix and eat their “dirt” snack.

**SAY** “This snack is chocolate pudding, but it looks like dirt! The Bible says that when God made Adam, He took dust from the ground, made a man, breathed into the man, and the man became alive. Only God has the power to create people. Everything was made by God and for God and **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.**”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

# LIVE for God out of love

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### 1 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “Our big picture question asks, **Who is God?** The answer is, **God is our Creator and King.** A king is in charge and takes care of his kingdom. Since **God is our Creator and King**, that means He made you and me and He takes care of us by giving us everything we need. The most important way God took care of us was by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus has always existed, and He rules over everything.”

### 2 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 104:24. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration. Use motions such as “How countless are your works, LORD! (Bring arms up in front of self and overhead.) The earth is full of your creatures.” (Make the outline of a large circle with fingers.) Psalm 104:24 (Open hands like a book.)

**SAY** “Our key passage says, ‘The earth is full of your creatures.’ Snakes, bugs, birds, flowers, clouds, and people—God is the Creator and King over them all.”

Sing the key passage song “How Countless (Psalm 104:24)” together.

### 3 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

**SAY** “God, thank You for Your amazing creation. You are powerful and good. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to rule over creation. Amen.”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 MISSIONS MOMENT

Point to Brazil on a world map. Explain to preschoolers that Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world. Show the “All About the Americas” missions video.

**SAY** “**GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.** He made people in His own image. People can choose to love God. He wants everyone to know and love Him. Many people in the world have never heard about God or Jesus. A man named Eric Reese lives in Brazil with his wife Ramona so they can tell people about God and Jesus. Eric and Ramona want everyone to know that God loves them and sent Jesus to rescue them from sin.”

Pray for the safety of the Reese family and the other missionaries serving in Brazil. Pray that more people living in Brazil will want to learn more about Jesus.

### SING A CREATION SONG



Lead children to sing the following song to the tune of “Do You Know the Muffin Man?”:

God made all the things we see;  
the things we see; the things we see.  
God made all the things we see;  
He even made \_\_\_\_\_ (the stars, tigers, the sharks, flowers, me).

Change the last word each time you sing the song, allowing preschoolers to name something God created.

**SAY** “You sang about so many different things that God created! Our key passage says, ‘How countless are your works, LORD.’ We could keep singing and singing about all the amazing things God created. **GOD MADE ALL THINGS GOOD.**”