



Busy Bible Builders

The 7 Days of Creation

BIG IDEA: God made everything and it's very good.

BIBLE BASIS: Genesis 1:1-2:2

KEY VERSE: "As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:15 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:00

LARGE GROUP LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:30-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I love reading! And for me, the best books are the ones that grab me from the first page. Throughout literary history though, there are a handful of books that have a reputation for not only grabbing the reader from the first page, but from the very first line. “Call me Ishmael” is Herman Melville’s celebrated first line in *Moby Dick*. In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens jumps out of the gates with his now famous first line, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Great opening lines not only stick in the mind of the readers well after the book has been read, but they spark a fire of imagination that invites the reader deeper into the story. There are a lot of great opening lines to a lot of great books, but none are quite as iconic as this one: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” In its first line, the Bible jumps straight into the thick of it and answers one of the most basic human questions ever — where did all of this “stuff” come from?

The Bible does one other important thing in its opening. In the first two verses of the Bible, we’re introduced to all three main characters. (*More specifically, we’re introduced to all three parts of the One main character.*) In verse one, we’re introduced to God the Father, who (as we learn in John 1:1-2) is accompanied by the Son. Then, in verse 2, we get our first glimpse of the Holy Spirit. In essence, this is God’s grand introduction to the people He created.

In my most recent reading of the creation story, I was struck by the parallel between God’s first creation and His ultimate rescue plan that would one day restore all of creation to its original, intended glory. On day one, God said, “Let there be light,” and for the first time light pushed back on a physical existence that was completely dark and lifeless. Many years later, God did it again, but this time the Light would push back on a spiritual darkness rather than a physical darkness. It was ultimately Jesus, the Light of the World, who brought life back to our otherwise dark and lifeless existence.

As you get ready to explore this story with the kids in your ministry, consider how incredible it is that you have access to the Light of the World. More than that, think about how amazing it is that the Creator of the universe wants to have a living and personal relationship with you. In Psalms 139:14, David says, “How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” (*NirV*) In the same spirit of praise that the psalmist had, spend some time thanking God for how wonderfully He made you and praise Him for sending the Light into *your* life.

David Rausch

Go Tell It Founder and Creator



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Large Group

Here's a short story for you: A man gets up in front of a room full of kids and with no forethought or preparation he delivers a spellbinding and life-changing message. The kids are so grateful that they carry the man out of the room on their shoulders as confetti cannons explode. Great story, right? Unfortunately, you'll find it under "fiction." Great messages don't just happen without a little work on the part of the communicator. In short, your goal as the Large Group Leader is to communicate God's truth to kids in an engaging way so that life change can happen. To do that effectively, though, you've got to do a little prep work. Here are a few ways you can prepare:

Live the message. Authenticity is one of the most important traits of a good communicator. When we tell kids that they need to be pursuing God, they need to know we're doing that ourselves. That doesn't mean you have to be perfect; it just means that you have to be working towards living out the message in your own life.

Memorize. Sounds scary, right? It doesn't have to be. We'll spend more time in the future talking about how to memorize, but for now let's just say this: Effective communicators memorize. When you're tied to a script, you lose eye contact and your body becomes less animated. And when that happens, your level of engagement goes down. If you've never memorized before, start small. Pick a section of the lesson to memorize and pay attention to the difference it makes with your audience.

Rehearse. In short, don't let service time be the first time you've ever delivered your message. It might seem awkward at first, but run through your message a few times in advance. If possible, do it in the actual space where you'll be teaching.

Pray. When we deliver God's message, we're not alone. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your co-teacher!

1.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

Let's get busy building! During "Busy Bible Builders," preschool kids will look high and low for the colored building blocks around the room. Each block contains a picture from the Bible story. As the blocks stack up, so does the story. When the stacking stops, the preschoolers will have discovered how God has made them and given them a family to love.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a set of 5 boxes that are a little larger than a piece of 8½ x 11 paper.
- Print the "Large Number Set" on 8½ x 11 paper. Attach one large number to each of the 5 boxes.
- Print the "Bible Story Pictures" on 8½ x 11 paper. Attach one picture to each box on the opposite side as the number. The pictures are numbered. Be sure the picture and the large number correspond with each other.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Story Time Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½ x 11 cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

1.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

As children enter the story time area, give them a high energy welcome — smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. When the children have all arrived, play one or two upbeat worship songs of your choosing and lead the kids in singing.

Music: **Worship Songs**

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello everybody — I'm so, so happy you're here today! I LOVE building with blocks. Do you love building with blocks too? *(Children respond.)* I'm so glad, because today we're going to build a BIG Bible story tower out of blocks. The block tower is going to help us tell our Bible story.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **God made everything and it's very good**. That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **God made everything and it's very good**. It's true! **God made everything and it's very good**. In fact, that's what today's memory verse tells us. Let me teach it to you.

*"As for me (point to self with thumbs)
and my family (trace a circle in front of you with fingers),
we will serve (march in place)
the Lord (point up)."
Joshua 24:15 (extend hands like holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children 2 or 3 times.)*

STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: **Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video**

(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

1.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BUSY BIBLE BUILDERS INTRO

Say: I have an idea — let’s play a pretend game. Let’s pretend like we’re swimming in the ocean. (*Pretend with children.*) Do you know who made the ocean? (*Children respond.*) That’s right — God did! Let’s pretend like we’re climbing a mountain. (*Pretend with children.*) Do you know who made the mountains? (*Children respond.*) That’s right — God did! Let’s pretend to fly like a bird. (*Pretend with children.*) Do you know who made the birds? (*Children respond.*) That’s right — God did. God made the oceans, and the mountains, and the birds. But that’s not all He made. In today’s true Bible story, we’re going to learn that **God made everything and it’s very good!**

Say: If you’re ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. (*Children wiggle fingers.*) Great! First, let’s get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. (*Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.*) I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It’s true, it’s true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the “The 7 Days of Creation” slide

1.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — THE 7 DAYS OF CREATION

(Note: Ahead of time, place the numbered story blocks all around the room so they are visible from the seating area. Place the blocks so the numbers are visible, but not the pictures.)

Say: In the very, very beginning of time, there was nothing. The only thing in the world was God. But then God created something. Let's get busy building! Let's find the **blue #1** block to see what God created. Can you find the block? *(Retrieve the story block and place it in the storytelling area with the picture facing the children.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think God created? *(Take answers.)* On day 1, God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. For the first time ever, the world had day and the world had night. On day 2, God said, "Let there be sky." And just like that, God created the sky above and water below. Then God looked at everything He had created and said, *(put thumbs up)* "This is good!" Can you say that with me? *(Repeat with children.)*

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **green #2** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think God created? *(Take answers.)* On day 3, God said, "Let there be dry ground." And just like that, God created land and seas. He also created plants and trees. On day 4, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky." And just like that, God created the sun, and the moon, and the stars. Then God looked at everything he had created and said, *(put thumbs up)* "This is good!" Can you say that with me? *(Repeat with children.)*

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **yellow #3** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think God created? *(Take answers.)* On day 5, God said, "Let there be fish and birds." And just like that, God created fish swimming in the seas and birds flying in the sky. On day 6, God said, "Let there be animals on the land." And just like that, God created wild animals like elephants, and camels, and sheep, and beavers. Then God looked at everything he had created and said, *(put thumbs up)* "This is good!" Can you say that with me? *(Repeat with children.)*

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **red #4** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think God created? *(Take answers.)* God had saved His best creation for last. On day 6, God also said, "Let us make human beings so they are like us." And just like that, God created the first two people. Their names were Adam and Eve. Then God looked at the people He had created and said, "This is VERY good! Can you say that with me? *(Repeat with children.)*

Say: Let's find our last story block. Can you find the **purple #5** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think happened next? *(Take answers.)* On day seven, God had finished creating the whole world and everything in it, so on that day He rested. Let's pretend like we're sleeping. *(Pretend with children.)* Now let's wake up!

1.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

Music: Play one worship song

Say: Wow! God is so amazing! He created the whole world in only six days, then rested on the seventh day. Let's count to seven together. (*Count to seven with children.*) But God saved His best creation for last. What was God's most special creation? (*Children answer.*) That's right — it was people!

Say: God created us to be just like Him — to think thoughts, to create art, and to feel love. But best of all, God loves us more than anything He created. He loves us more than the moon and the stars, more than porcupines and puppy dogs. Let's give ourselves a big hug! (*Hug yourself.*) In fact, God loves us so much that He gave us His own Son, Jesus, so that we could live forever with Him in heaven. That's a LOT of love. **God made everything and it's very good!**

TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(*Whisper.*) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God made everything and it's very good**. On the count of 3, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to 3 and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **God made everything and it's very good.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank God for creating such a beautiful world. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

Dear God,
Thank you for creating the whole world.
You did a great job!
Thank you for loving me so much.
I love you too.
Amen.