



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



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Small Group

Picture this scene: Moments before children's church is scheduled to begin, a leader stands in the corner of the room with their face buried in some papers labeled "Small Group Lesson." They seem oblivious to the kids moving quickly and loudly all around them. A bead of sweat rolls down their face. The clock ticks loudly as they read at a fevered pace. Have you seen this leader? *Are you* this leader? There's no judgment here! We get it — life is often *really* busy and finding the time to volunteer, much less prepare, can be tough. But by investing just a small amount of time into preparation, you can go from being a good leader to a great one. Here's how:

Read your lesson ahead of time. You saw that one coming, didn't you? When the kids arrive, it's game time. When you've read the lesson ahead of time, the kids get your full attention from the moment they walk in. When small group begins, you'll be able to lead much more effectively if you're not trying to figure the lesson out for yourself at the same time you're explaining it to your group.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Many of the small group activities in the GO! curriculum have materials that go with it. When you read the lesson at home, you might have a picture of what the materials look like, but double check to make sure what you imagined matches reality when you arrive at church.

Prepare your own heart. The best way to lead the kids in your group is through example. Consider reading the Bible story ahead of time and asking yourself how it applies to your own life. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you how you need to change in light of this story.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

CREATION MEMORY MATCH

Supplies: 1 set of creation memory match cards

Directions: Place the creation memory match cards face down. Choose a child to go first. Tell them to flip over two cards in an attempt to find a match. If the cards do *not* match, flip them back over. If the cards *do* match, tell the children what God created on that day. (The answer is indicated on the card.) After each match, encourage the children to say, “**God created everything, and it’s very good!**” Remove the matching set of cards from the game. Continue until all of the matches have been found.

Say: You matched them all! Did you know that God created all of those things? It’s true! Today, we’re going to hear the story of God’s creation. We’re going to learn that **God created everything and it’s very good!**

Large Group: Room 207 at 11:00 AM



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

ANIMAL ACTORS (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, we learned that God made everything and it's very good. Let's play a fun game that helps us remember some of the animals that God created on day 6.

Directions: Choose a child to be the guesser. Cover their ears while you whisper to the other children what animal to act like. (See the list below, but feel free to make up your own.) When ready, prompt the children to act out the animal until the guesser can guess what it is. When they have guessed correctly, ask the children, "Did God create the [insert animal]?" then respond as a group by saying, "**Yes! God created everything and it's very good.**" Continue playing until every child has had a turn being the guesser, then ask the question below.

Animals:

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|-------------|---------|
| • Lion | • Elephant | • Crab | • Bull |
| • Snake | • Pig | • Monkey | • Sloth |
| • Bird | • Dog | • Crocodile | • Shark |

Question: What is your favorite thing that God created? (**Note:** When finished, remind the children that they are God's favorite creation.)

KNOCK DOWN (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Plastic cups (15 per group), paper (1 piece per child), tape (1 roll)

Today's Bible verse:

*"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).*

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, use the plastic cups to build a pyramid. Allow the children to help. Create a tape line about 5-6 feet from the pyramid. Give each child a crumpled piece of paper and have them stand behind the line. Have the children say the verse together, then prompt them to throw their paper at the pyramid. If they knock down all of the cups above the bottom row, celebrate and rebuild the pyramid for another round. If they don't, continue playing until all of the cups are knocked down. The children must always recite the verse before throwing their paper ball. Play as many rounds as time and interest allow.

1.1 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



STORY STACK (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Story Pictures (1 set per group), small cardboard boxes (5 per group) **Note:** If there is only one small group, you can use the big story cubes from large group instead.

Preparation: Print the “Story Pictures” on paper, then cut apart. Tape each picture to a different, small cardboard box.

Directions: Place the story cubes with pictures in the middle of the group. Ask the children which story cube goes first. When they’ve chosen the correct cube, ask them to recount what happened in that part of the story. Place the first story cube on the floor or table, then stack each additional cube on top so the story progresses from the bottom up. Continue until the cubes are all stacked and the story is complete.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: What is your favorite day of creation? Why is that your favorite?

Question: God loves us more than anything else He created. How does God show you He loves you?