

THE  
**GOSPEL**  
**PROJECT**  
FOR KIDS



FALL 2012 PRESCHOOL WORSHIP GUIDE  
Ed Stetzer General Editor  
Trevin Wax Managing Editor

LifeWay | Kids

## Teacher BIBLE STUDY

All of creation began with a word. God said it, and it happened. This method of creation is referred to as *ex nihilo* or “from nothing.” God the Father wasn’t the only One involved in creation, though. Check out Colossians 1:16-17 and John 1:1-3. Jesus was not only present at creation, He was involved. Jesus was God’s agent of creation. All things were created by Him and through Him.

The Bible also tells us that all things were created for Jesus. Have you ever wondered why butterflies exist or why the setting sun fills the sky with such vivid colors? For Jesus!

God’s creation was perfect, totally unaffected by sin. His plan was to fill the earth with all the things He saw were good: large sea-creatures, winged birds, crawling animals, livestock, and wildlife.

God’s ultimate act of creation was creating people. God created people different from everything else He created. Not only do people have a special purpose—to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7)—but we were also made to know and love God. God blessed Adam and Eve and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply.

Creation is the beginning of God’s gospel story, the story that reveals how a great God redeemed a fallen people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Every story in the Bible is a snapshot of a bigger story, a story that begins at creation.

Pray for the boys and girls you teach as you prepare to share the gospel story with them. Help kids understand that they were created for a special purpose and that God desires for them to know and love Him. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you as you share with kids the story of God’s plan to send Jesus to earth to offer salvation to sinners. This story changes everything.

## Preschool WORSHIP OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** God Created the World and People

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1-2

**Big Picture Question:** Who made everything? God made everything.

**Key Passage:** Genesis 1:27

**Unit Christ Connection:** God knew we would sin and already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

### Preschool Worship

(15–20 minutes) .....Page 3

### Small Group Activities

(25–30 minutes) .....Page 4

### Large Group Closing

(10+ minutes) .....Page 5

### Teacher Resource Pages

(Use with activities as needed) .....Page 6



# The BIBLE STORY

## God Created the World and People

Genesis 1–2

In the beginning, there was nothing but God. There was no sun, no dirt, no creeks, no animals, and no people. God began to do something that no person could ever do. God began to make the world ... out of nothing!

First, God made the heavens and the earth. The earth was covered with water, 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 ever—Day 1.

On Day 2, God made the sky.

On Day 3, God gathered the water on earth into oceans. Now there was dry land. God saw that it was good, and He kept on working. He made all kinds of plants and trees. Every plant and tree had seed from which would grow more of the same kind of plant or tree. And God saw that it was good. Everything God makes is good.

On Day 4, God made lights in the sky for day and night. He made the sun for daytime, and the moon and stars for night. Later, people would watch these lights to see when to plant crops and when to celebrate special holidays. God looked at what He had made, and God saw that it was good.

On Day 5, God made animals that live in the water and fly in the sky. He made fish and whales and sea horses and octopuses that move in the water. He made birds that fly in the sky. He made each kind of animal different, and God saw that it was good. So God blessed the animals and told them to have baby fish and baby birds so there would be more of them on earth.

On Day 6, God made animals that live on earth, all different kinds. He made wild animals, like lions and giraffes and foxes. He made animals that crawl on the ground, like alligators and caterpillars. He made animals that help people, like cows and camels, and sheep. And God saw that it was good.

But God was not through yet. The last thing God created was the most special of all. He made people. The people would take care of the earth God had made. They would take care of the plants and animals too. God saw all that He had made, and it was VERY good!

The first man’s name was Adam. God gave Adam a job. He would take care of the garden, and he would give names to all the animals. Adam looked at each kind of bird and animal, both wild and tame, and he gave each kind the right name—dog, giraffe, pelican, aardvark—on and on until every animal had a name. But there was no other creature like Adam. So God made Adam sleep, and He took a rib from Adam. God used Adam’s rib to make a woman. God brought the woman to Adam. Adam named her Eve. Adam was very happy! God loved them very much.

On Day 7, God rested. He had done everything He planned to do. He said this day would be holy—a special day to rest, celebrate, and enjoy what He had made.

*Christ Connection: Colossians 1:15-22 reveals that Christ is ruler over all of God’s creation. All of creation was created through Him, by Him, and for Him. Everything was created to give glory to Christ, but people would choose not to give Him glory. The rest of the Bible reveals how Jesus would restore the relationship between God and man.*



# Large Group WORSHIP

**Session Title:** God Created the World and People

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1–2

**Big Picture Question:** Who made everything? God made everything.

**Key Passage:** Genesis 1:27

**Unit Christ Connection:** God knew we would sin and already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

## Large Group Worship (15–20 minutes)

- Play “You Are God Alone” in the background as you welcome incoming preschoolers, following your church’s security procedures.
- Set out an offering basket.

- Bible
- Key Passage poster

### Welcome and sing

Greet preschoolers as they arrive and collect offerings from those who have brought them. Sing a song such as “You Are God Alone,” “I Can Say Hello,” or “My God Is So Big.”

### Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

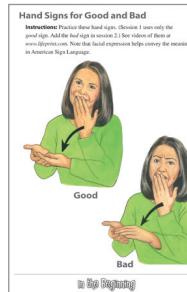
If necessary, play a game to separate kids who listen better when separated. Call names of two children to switch places. Then call two more. Continue until everyone has switched places at least once and the seating is arranged as you wish.

**Leader** • This month, we will learn a verse from the Bible. You can read it right here in Genesis, the first book in the Bible. Hold up the Bible; point to the verse. Read the verse on the key passage poster in the translation you choose.

When the Bible says “man,” it sometimes means “men and women” or “people.” “Male and female” also means “men and women.”

God created man in His own image. People cannot do everything God can do, but people can think, love, decide

- Bible
- See the video of the two-handed sign at [www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com) or [www.aslpro.com](http://www.aslpro.com), or see Hand Signs for Good and Bad.



- “God Created the World and People” video (optional)
- “How Great Is Our God”

**Tip:** Do activities one of these ways:

- at the same time as a group
- in small groups that rotate through each activity
- set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose

things, and know what is right and wrong. People are special. God did not create anything else in His own image except people.

Practice saying the verse two or three times together. Say it loudly and softly.

### Watch or tell the Bible story

If this is the second time today that some kids have heard the Bible story, ask what they remember about it.

If you tell the Bible story, introduce it by asking, “Do you remember how to make the sign for *good*?” If they have not heard the Bible story, teach them the *good* sign and practice it.

Tell the Bible story and ask them to make the sign when they hear the word *good* in the story, or show the Bible story video “God Created the World and People.”

### Say • Who made everything? God made everything!

### Worship with song and pray

Pray, something like “Thank You, God, for making us and our world. Thank You for the Bible that tells us what You did.”

Sing a praise song such as “How Great Is Our God.” Teach preschoolers to sing the line “How great is our God” when they hear it. If you sang with the DVD, talk about pictures you saw that show great things God made.

### Transition to small groups

Describe the activities you have chosen to set up, and explain how you will organize working in them.



# Small Group ACTIVITIES

**Session Title:** God Created the World and People

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1–2

**Big Picture Question:** Who made everything? God made everything.

**Key Passage:** Genesis 1:27

**Unit Christ Connection:** God knew we would sin and already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

**Tip:** Select from the activities those you can staff and which suit your class's interests. • Plan how many kids can work an activity at the same time.



• construction paper, 1 sheet each of several different colors



## Small Group Activities (25–30 minutes)

During each activity, ask the big picture question; train the boys and girls to respond together with the answer. Send a few preschoolers at a time to do an activity or choose one to do.

### Go on a colors hunt

Hold up a color, ask preschoolers to name the color, and send them around the room to find and point to something that color. When everyone has found something, call them back to you and name the items they found. Repeat with a different color.

**Say** • God made everything good. He filled the world with beautiful colors.

### Play a matching game

Mix up the cards and lay them facedown in 4 rows of 4 cards each. Children take turns turning over 2 cards for everyone to see. If the cards match, they keep the cards.

With younger children, avoid talking about “winners” and “losers.” For very young children, place the cards faceup and look for matches.

- Print two copies of the Creation Pictures on heavyweight paper, laminate them to construction paper, and cut them apart.

- plastic cups or lids of different sizes
- several colors of washable tempera paint
- plates or shallow pans
- paper
- paintbrushes
- painting smocks

- cutout fish shapes with paper clips or chenille stems attached
- cotton balls
- bucket or pail
- magnetic wand or a “fishing pole” made of dowel, string, and magnet

**Say** • Who made the \_\_\_\_\_ (name something in the picture)?

• **Who made everything? God made everything!**

### Stamp circles

Put a thin layer of each color paint in a flat plate or pan. Help preschoolers dip the lip of a cup or lid in a paint color and stamp a circle of it on her paper. Use paintbrushes to add details. Possible circle pictures could be a yellow sun, white moon, green trees, tan faces, red flowers.

**Say** • **Who made everything? God made everything!**

### Pretend to go ice fishing

Place in a bucket or pail the fish shapes with something attached that a magnet will hold; cover them with cotton balls to resemble ice. Boys and girls take turns fishing.

**Say** • God created the fish. Did God make ice? Yes! Ice is frozen water!

• **Who made everything? God made everything!**



### Play zoo charades

Pretend you are at the zoo. Each child takes a turn pretending to be an animal and making the animal’s sound for the other children to guess. Be prepared to suggest animals for children who need an idea.

### Transition to large group closing

Call for attention in whatever way you have chosen (flipping the light switch, ringing a bell, clapping a rhythm for kids to repeat, or whispering “If you can hear me, raise your hand.”) Move to your circle for the closing activities while you wait for parents to pick up their kids.

# In the Beginning



# Large Group CLOSING

**Session Title:** God Created the World and People

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1–2

**Big Picture Question:** Who made everything? God made everything.

**Key Passage:** Genesis 1:27

**Unit Christ Connection:** God knew we would sin and already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

## Large Group Closing (10+ minutes)

### Review

- Bible
- Time Line Map
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "In His Own Image"

Ask a couple of boys and girls to point to the beginning of the time line and tell you what happened first in the whole Bible. Show them the first book in the Bible, name the book (*Genesis*), and read the first verse.

Invite the preschoolers to say the key passage with you again. Repeat it, assigning the words *God, created, man, and image* to different children who jump up and say their word at the appropriate spot in the verse. Listen to the key passage song "In His Own Image."

**Say** • Whom did God make in His own image? (*people*, Gen. 1:27)  
• ***Who made everything? God made everything!***

### Talk about a missions activity

If your preschool and children's ministry is planning a large-scale missions activity, introduce the activity and talk about the reasons for it. If you do not have a missions activity planned for now, talk about inviting friends to church.

- "I Can Say Hello"

**Say** • God made everything, including people. But some people don't know God made them, or that He loves them! We know God loves people because He said so in the Bible, and God always tells the truth. Who can you invite to church to hear the wonderful news? (*family, friends at school, neighbors*)

Sing "I Can Say Hello" and comment that being friendly to guests at church will help them want to return and learn more about God.

- various items representing things God made
- man-made items
- towel

### Play a game

Place a selection of items on the floor (toy car, plastic food, toy animal, doll clothing, and so on) representing things God made and things people made. Cover them with a towel. Remove one item secretly along with the towel. Children guess which item is missing. Determine whether it represents something God made or not. Repeat.

If a child says that God made everything, and a car is something, point out that God made the materials and gave man the creative brain to make the car.

When parents arrive to pick up their children, follow church security rules. Make eye contact with the parents as you tell them something their child enjoyed during the session. You are establishing relationships with each child's family.

## Hand Signs for Good and Bad

**Instructions:** Practice these hand signs. See videos of them at [www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com). Note that facial expression helps convey the meaning in American Sign Language.



**Good**



**Bad**

## Play Dough Recipe

**Instructions:** Make play dough according to the instructions below.



### Play Dough Recipe

#### Ingredients:

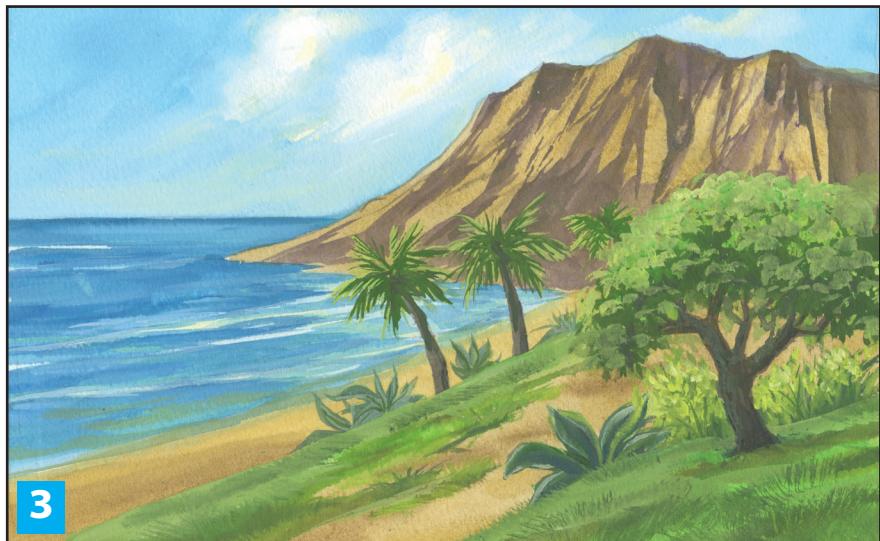
1 cup flour  
1/2 cup salt  
1 tablespoon cooking oil  
1 cup water  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
food color

#### Directions:

Mix together all ingredients over medium heat, stirring constantly, until a ball forms. Turn onto waxed paper and knead immediately for one minute. Store in an airtight container.

## Creation Pictures

**Instructions:** Print two copies on heavyweight paper, or laminate them on construction paper. Cut them out and use as a matching game.

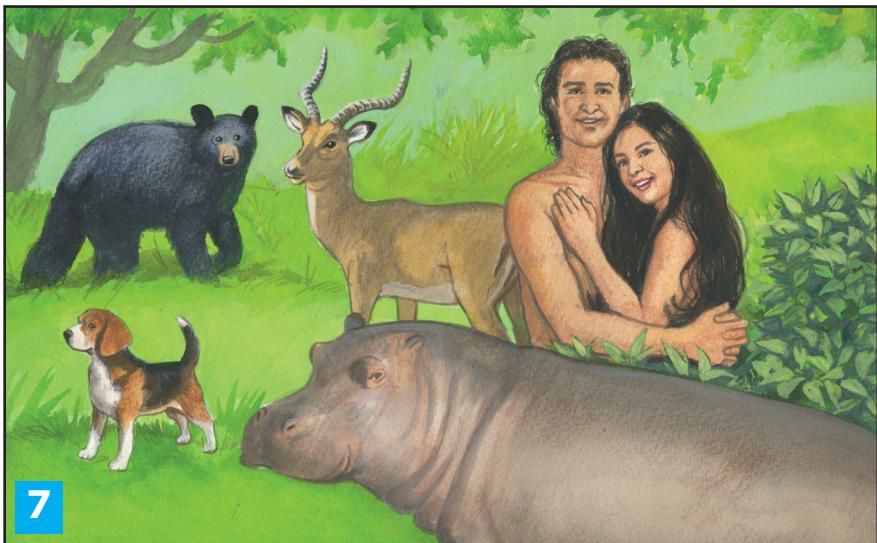




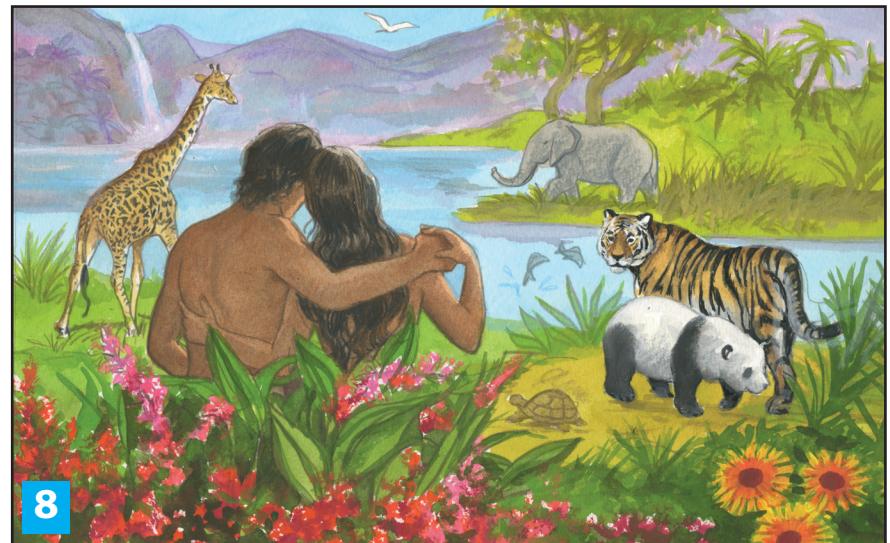
5



6



7



8