

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR KIDS



FALL 2012 PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE
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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 BIBLE STUDY 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.

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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.



Small Group OPENING

Session Title: God Created the World and People

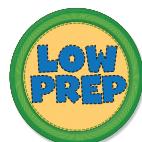
Bible Passage: Genesis 1–2

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.

- Prepare: Play unit song “You Are God Alone” in the background.
- Set an offering basket near the door.
- Post the allergy alert for the snack ingredients.
- Set out a few favorite toys such as puzzles and blocks.



- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- activity sheet, 1 per child



Activity Sheet: Match Mommies and Babies

Talk about God’s wonderful plan for animals to have babies so there would be more animals of the same kind. Point to some matching and non-matching mommies and babies on the activity sheet and ask whether this mommy could have that baby. Children may wish to color the mommies and babies. Let kids pretend to be animals that they name.

Say • Who made everything? In today’s Bible story, you will find out!

- play dough
- play dough tools

Tip: See play dough recipe if you wish to make your own.



Transition cue: Ring the bell, flip the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for children to copy to gain attention.

Create with play dough

Suggest that preschoolers create things out of play dough.

Talk about which are like things God created.

Say • God created everything out of nothing at all!

Transition to Bible study

If you need to fill time during a transition, clap the Big Picture Question: **Who made everything?** Pat-Pat Clap-Clap-Clap. (*Pat legs or shoulders; clap hands.*) Repeat the pattern. Children can also clap the answer, which, in this case, has the same pattern as the question: **God made everything.** Pat-Pat Clap-Clap-Clap.

If you prefer, flip the lights or secure a bell to ring as a signal for transition times. You can ring the bell or let a child ring it.

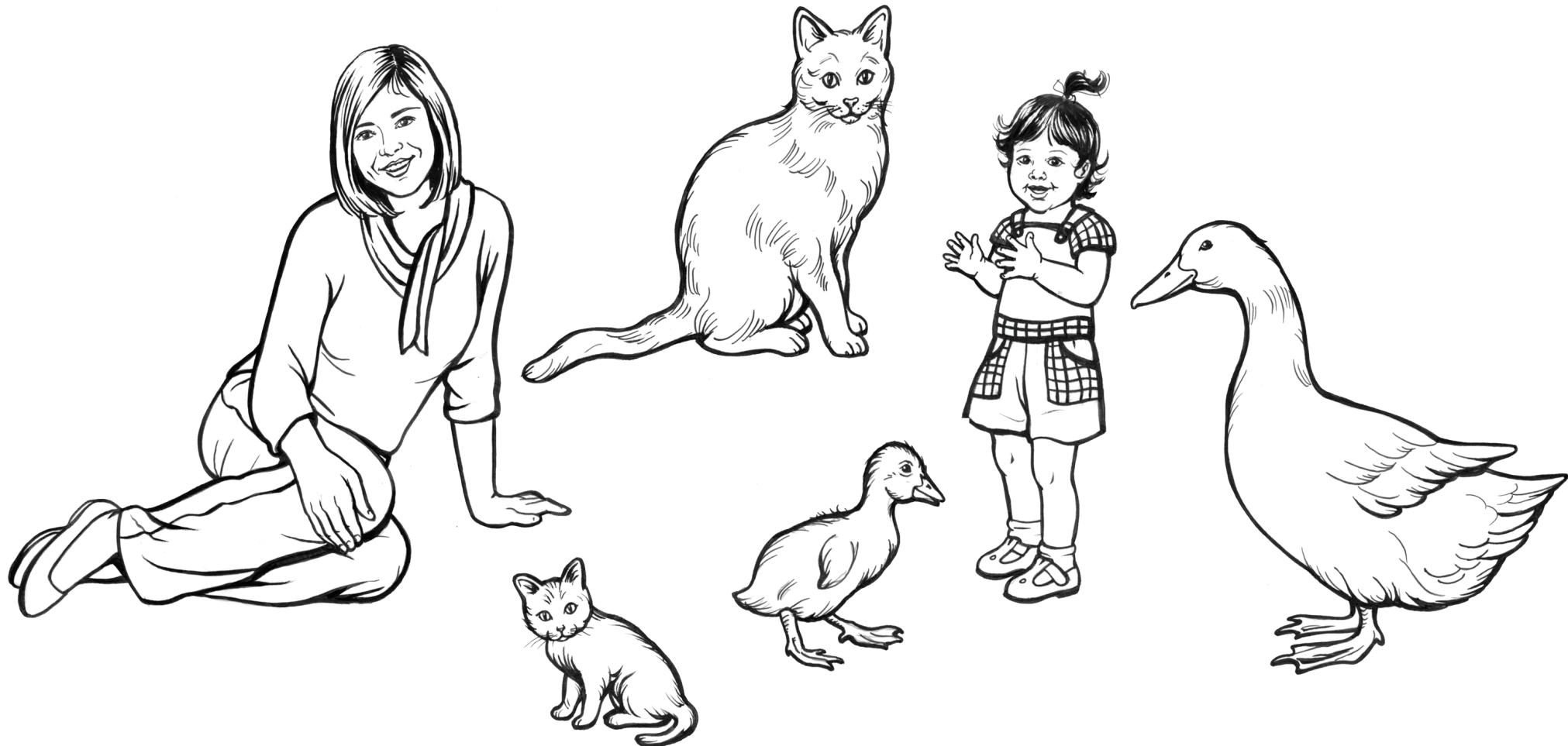
As you walk to the group time area or room, count aloud: “1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – jump.”

Designate a place for each child to sit, such as a carpet square, a chair, or a masking tape X on the floor. Each child needs his own space.

Activity SHEET

Match Mommies and Babies

Instructions: God made animals and people to have babies that would grow up to be like their parents. Draw a line to connect each mother with her baby. Color the sheet.





Large Group BIBLE STUDY

Session Title: God Created the World and People

Bible Passage: Genesis 1–2

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

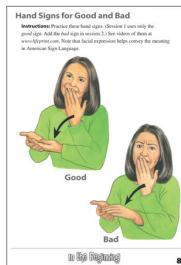
Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

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

Large Group Bible Study Time (10–15 minutes)

- Bible
- “In His Own Image,” the unit song, or another song about God’s creativity or power

Tip: If you are going to tell the Bible story, teach the sign: a picture of tasting something and then offering it to someone else because it is good. See Hand Signs for “Good” and “Bad.” or find videos of the two-handed sign at www.lifeprint.com or www.aslpro.com.



Introduce the Bible story

Sing the unit song or “In His Own Image.” Making eye contact and talking with expression communicates with preschoolers.

Leader • Our story today comes from right here in the Bible.

Let’s sing a Bible song (tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb”):

- (1) In the Bible we can read, / We can read, we can read.
In the Bible we can read / What God wants us to know.
- (2) It is true from start to end. / It is true; it is true.
It says God is great and good / And that He loves us so.
Woo-Hoo! (pump arm or high five)

Point to Genesis 1; show that it is the first story in the Bible.

Today you will hear the very first story in the Bible. It is the very first story there ever was, and it is a true story. It is about God and how God made the world. When God made a thing, He looked at it and saw that it was good. Let’s make the sign for *good*.

Place the fingers of your right hand against your lips. Move your right hand into the palm of your left hand. Both hands should be facing upward. Smile because it is good.

- Bible
- Highlight the word *good* in the story to remind you to make the sign.
- “God Created the World and People” video (optional)

- Time Line Map
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- “In His Own Image”

Tell the Bible story or watch the video

Hold the Bible open to Genesis 1. Show the “God Created the World and People” video, or tell the Bible story using the hand sign. If you tell the story, ask kids to say *good* and make the sign for *good* whenever they hear you say “God saw that is was _____.” (*Practice it.*)

Talk about the Bible story

1. What did God make the world out of? (*nothing*)
2. What were some of the things God made? (*light, sky, land, stars, plants, animals*, Gen. 1:1–27)
3. What was the most special thing God made? (*people*)
4. What jobs did God give Adam? (*taking care of the garden; naming the animals*, Gen. 1:28; 2:19)
5. When did God make everything? (*in the beginning*)

Show the Big Picture Question poster and ask the question: ***Who made everything?*** (*Everyone answer with expression.*) ***God made everything!***

Show the time line and explain what it is. Let each child come point to the beginning of the time line.

Show the key passage poster and read the verse a couple of times. Listen to the key passage song “In His Own Image.”

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

Return to small groups

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

Say • How many days did God take to create the world and rest when He finished? Return to the room or parade around the room counting steps as you go. Count “1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – jump” all the way to small-group activities.



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.

Small Group Activities Time (20–25 minutes)

Select from the following activities those which you can staff and which suit the interests of your class. Plan how many kids can work on it at the same time. During each activity, ask the Big Picture Question; teach the boys and girls to respond together with the answer. Send a few preschoolers at a time to do or choose an activity.

Say •Who made everything? God made everything!



• books with pictures of plants and animals (optional)

Take a nature walk

Show pictures of plants and animals in books, or take a few children at a time for a walk, looking in your church building for signs of nature such as an aquarium or a flower arrangement. Look outside a window at something growing. If the weather is warm, walk outdoors. When you see something God made, mention which day God created that kind of thing (examples: plants and trees on Day 3; fish on Day 5).

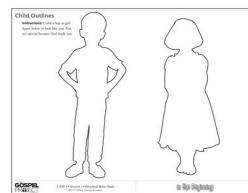
Say •God created all kinds of plants and animals. Each kind is different from the others, just as He created each one of us different from everyone else.

•Everything was created for Jesus. (*Col. 1:16*)

- Creation Pictures
- other puzzles, available from LifeWay.com:
Creation (12 pcs.; 001050997);
Creation (box puzzle with four 12-piece mini puzzles; 001276454);
My Family (6 pcs.; 005191558)



- Child Outlines, 1 per child, or child-size lengths of paper cut from a roll.
- crayons



Work puzzles

Print the creation pictures showing what God created each day. Tape each picture to a block, or lay them out; work together to arrange them in the order of creation. Notice the number of the day in the corner of each picture.

0—Before God said “Let there be light,” all is dark.

1—light

2—sky

3—oceans and dry land; plants and trees

4—sun, moon, and stars

5—animals that live in water and that fly

6—animals that live on earth and people

7—Creation is complete; God rested.

Set out puzzles about plants, animals, and people for the boys and girls to work. Identify the day on which God made different things you see in the puzzles.

Say •God made everything at the right time. When He made plants, He had already created water and light for them to live. When He made animals, He had already made plants for them to eat.

•Jesus holds the whole world together. (*Col. 1:17*)

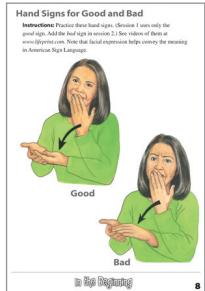
Draw someone God made—a self-portrait

If you use child-size lengths of paper, trace around each child. Otherwise, give each child a copy of the child outlines page.

Say •God made people different from anything else He made. Draw yourself on this outline. What color is your hair? What color are your eyes? Who made you?

• You are special because God made you.

- See two-handed signs at www.lifeprint.com or www.aslpro.com, or see Hand Signs for Good and Bad.



Review Bible story with “good” sign

Practice the hand sign for “good”—a picture of tasting something good and offering it to someone else. Place fingers of right hand against your lips; move right hand into palm of left hand, both hands facing upward. Smile because it is good. Review the seven things God called good. Make the hand sign as kids say “good” with you.

Say •God made _____ and God saw that it was (*good*).

- (1–light)
- 2–oceans and dry land
- 3–plants and trees
- 4–sun, moon, and stars
- 5–animals that live in water and that fly
- 6–animals that live on earth
- 7–people and all that He had made)

Build an ocean scene

- blue tarp, sheet, or large piece of paper
- blocks
- green and brown paper
- masking tape
- washable markers
- safety scissors

Say •On Day 3, God gathered the water on earth into oceans.

Now there was dry land. God saw that it was (*good*). God kept on working. He made all kinds of plants and trees.

Introduce the Journal

Distribute a folder and a journal sheet to each child. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available as often as you wish to use them.

Say •***Who made everything? God made everything.*** You get to create something today: a journal. A journal is a place to write or draw what you are thinking about. You could

draw something that we talked about today in the Bible story. Or you could draw a picture that helps you think about something you would like to say to God.

Print each kid’s name on his folder. Encourage kids to decorate their folders; then take them up.

Take prayer requests if time remains. Pray, thanking God specifically for His wonderful creation. Pray for each child by name, and thank God for creating each one.

Snack Time and Transition (20 minutes)

- bell (optional)
- goldfish crackers
- water or blue fruit punch
- paper cups
- napkins
- hand sanitizer
- Post the allergy alert, listing snack food for parents to see.

Take a bathroom break and wash hands before the snack. If you do not have facilities to wash hands, use hand sanitizer.

Say •Before we eat, let’s thank God for the snack.

Pray briefly or ask a volunteer to pray. Do not insist that a child pray aloud. Remind boys and girls not to begin eating until everyone has been served and the prayer has been said. Encourage them to say thank you when a teacher helps with hand washing or gives them crackers.

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, tell him to throw away his trash and select a book or puzzle to look at, draw on his journal page, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Welcome the second session teachers and softly tell them what they need to know about the children who are present.

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.

Hand Signs for Good and Bad

Instructions: Practice these hand signs. (Session 1 uses only the *good* sign. Add the *bad* sign in session 2.) See videos of them at www.lifeprint.com. Note that facial expression helps convey the meaning in American Sign Language.



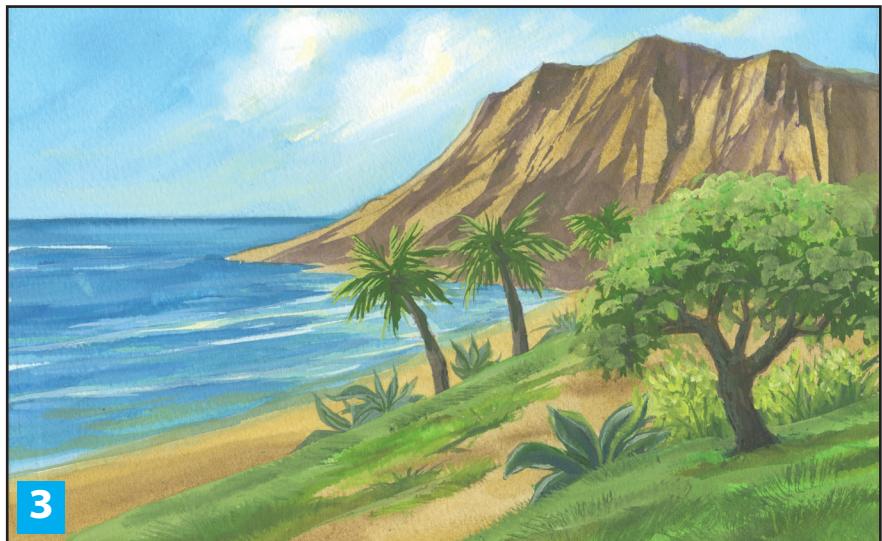
Good



Bad

Creation Pictures

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

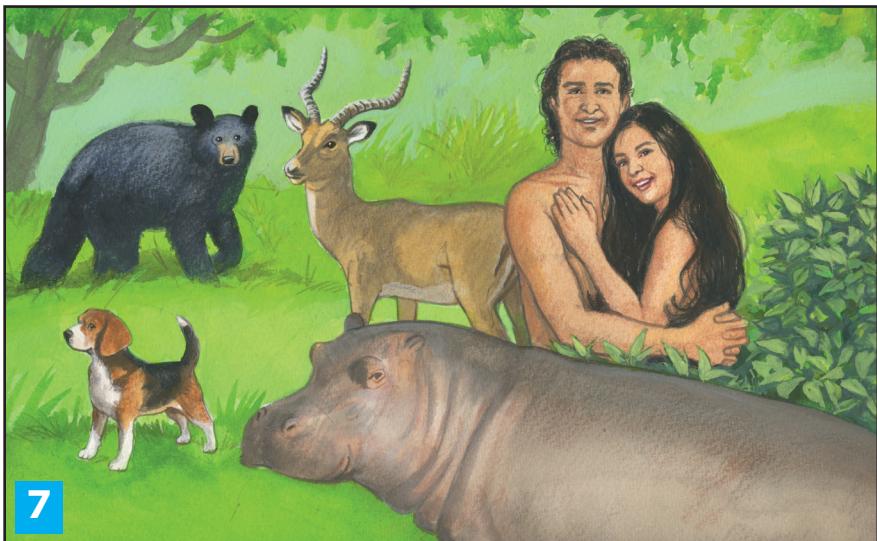




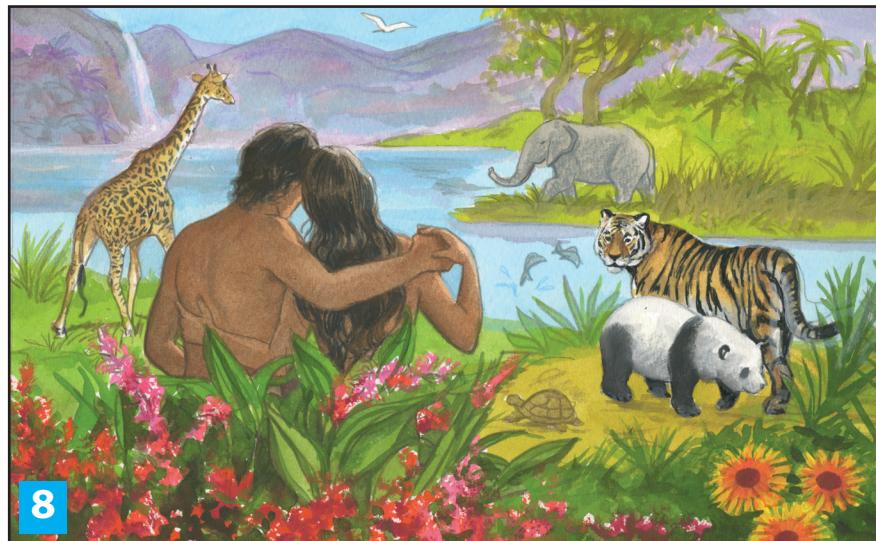
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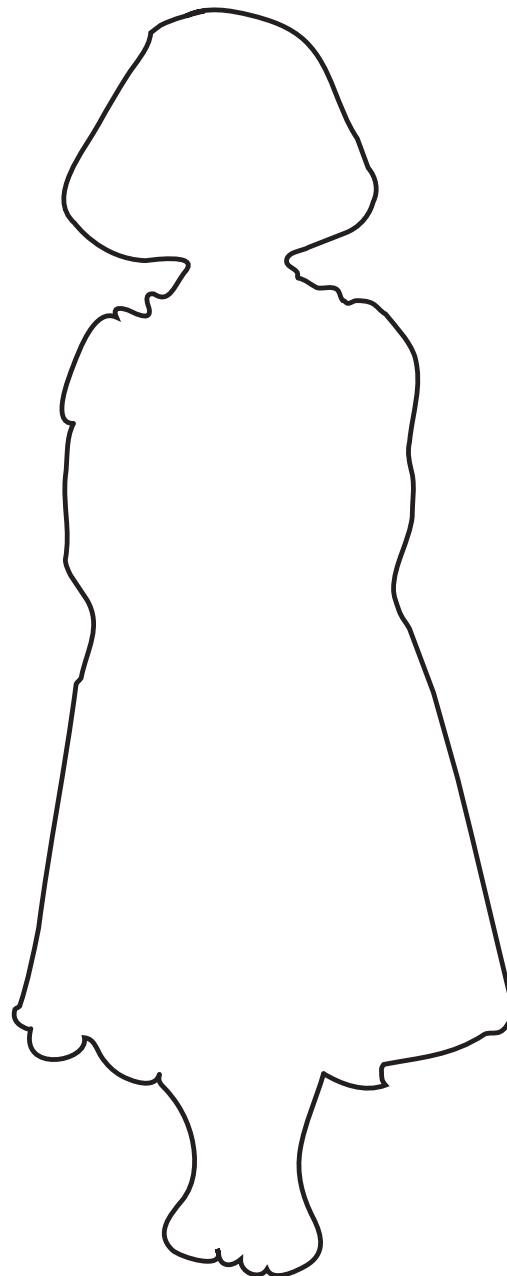
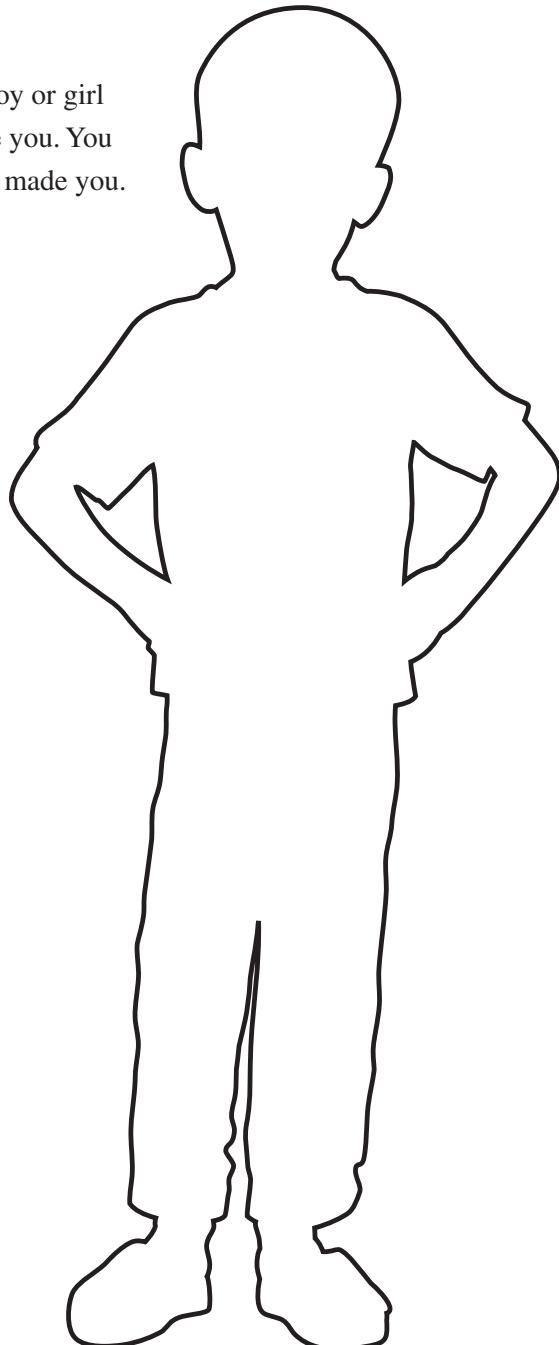
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Child Outlines

Instructions: Color a boy or girl figure below to look like you. You are special because God made you.



Today your child will be
tasting/touching/sniffing

Please notify a teacher
if your child should not
participate in this activity.



Instructions: Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.

In the Beginning

Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

Session 1: God Created the World and People
Genesis 1–2

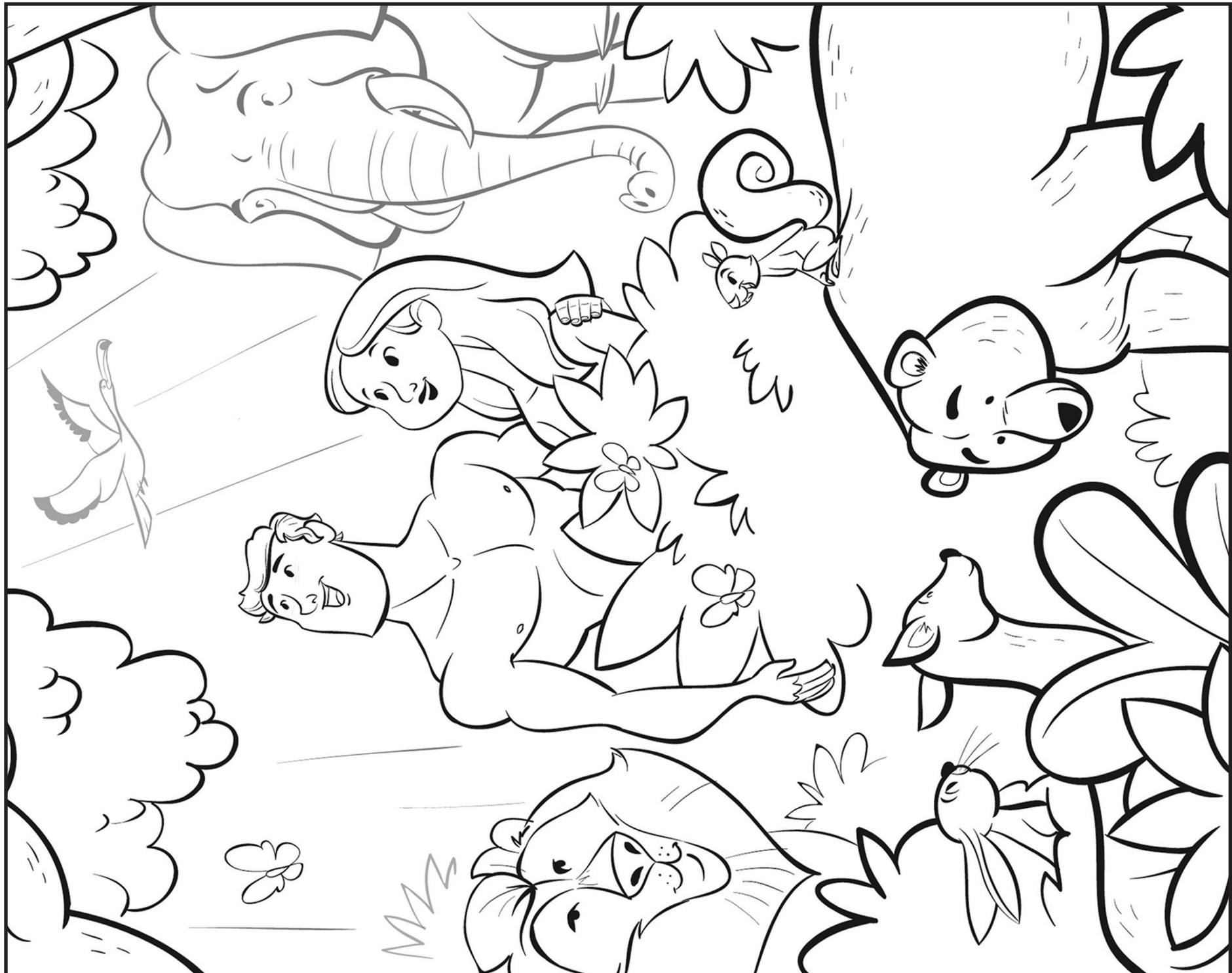
Session 2: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3–4

Session 3: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5–9:17

Session 4: The Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1–9

Session 5: Job
Job





God Created the World and People

Genesis 1-2

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