

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR KIDS



FALL 2012 OLDER KIDS LEADER 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.

Older Kids BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: God Created the World and People

Bible Passage: Genesis 1-2

Big Picture Question: Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

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 very beginning nothing existed except for God. God spoke and created the heavens and the earth. When He first created the earth it had no shape and total darkness covered the earth. The Spirit of God was present, hovering over the waters. God said, “Let there be light!” and light was created. God separated the light from the dark. The light was called *day*, and the darkness was called *night*. God saw the light and knew that it was good. This all happened on the first day of creation.

God began to separate the waters that were on the surface of the earth from the waters that were above the earth. God created a great expanse between the water on the earth and the water above the earth. He called the expanse *sky*. This all happened on the second day of creation.

Then God created dry land on the earth. The waters were gathered together into one place and the dry land appeared. The dry land was called *earth*, and the waters were called *seas*. God then commanded the earth to grow plants and trees. The plants and trees grew, and God knew that this was good. This all happened on the third day of creation.

Next God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to provide light on the earth, to separate day from night, and to help us track time in days and years. This all happened on the fourth day of creation.

God created all living things that are in the water and all birds that fly. God told them to multiply and fill the seas and the earth. God saw that it was good. This all happened on the fifth day of creation.

Finally God created animals to cover the earth. The animals multiplied until they covered the whole earth. God looked down at His creation and knew that it was good.

God then created people. God created people differently from everything else He created; God created people in His very own image. God took dust from the ground and made a man. God took His very own breath and breathed into the man, and the man became alive. God then took a rib from the man and

created a woman to be the man’s helper and spouse. God named them Adam and Eve. God asked the man and woman to care for the garden in which He had placed them and to take care of the earth. God told the man and woman to eat from any tree that He had created. He said that the trees were food for all the wildlife and animals as well as the people He had created. God’s one warning was about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From this tree God warned the man and woman not to eat or they would die. This all happened on the sixth day of creation.

On the seventh day of creation, God rested from all of His work. He had done everything He planned to do and it was very good.

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 created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

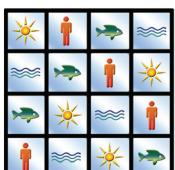
Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

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

Welcome time

This is a great time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Begin getting to know the kids in your small group by asking them about their favorite place to travel.

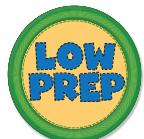
- activity sheet, 1 per kid
- pencils



Activity sheet (5 minutes)

Help boys and girls solve the creation puzzle on the activity sheet.

Say • God created everything out of nothing.
 • People are God's special creation.
 • God created people to bring Him glory.
 • *Glory* is giving praise, honor, and respect. We were created to give praise, honor, and respect to God.



- crayons, markers, or colored pencils, 1 color per kid
- plain paper

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Creation drawing

Lead boys and girls to sit in a circle. On the command each kid will begin to draw a picture of something God created. After 10–15 seconds call “stop,” and instruct kids to pass their pictures to the person on their right. On the command, each

Tip: Give each kid a different color crayon so you can see what was added to the drawing each time.

kid will continue their neighbor’s drawing of something God created. Repeat two or three more times.

Say • How hard was it to add to someone else’s drawing?

- Did the final drawing look like what you were thinking of when you started the picture?
- When God created our world, He knew from the beginning exactly what He wanted everything to look like. When God created the world and people, He saw that everything was good.

Option 2: Paper and scissors creation

Instruct kids to write on a small piece of paper the name of their favorite animal. Gather all the papers, mix them up, and distribute one to each child. Allow each child to create his assigned animal using only paper and scissors. Lead the group to guess which animal each boy and girl created.

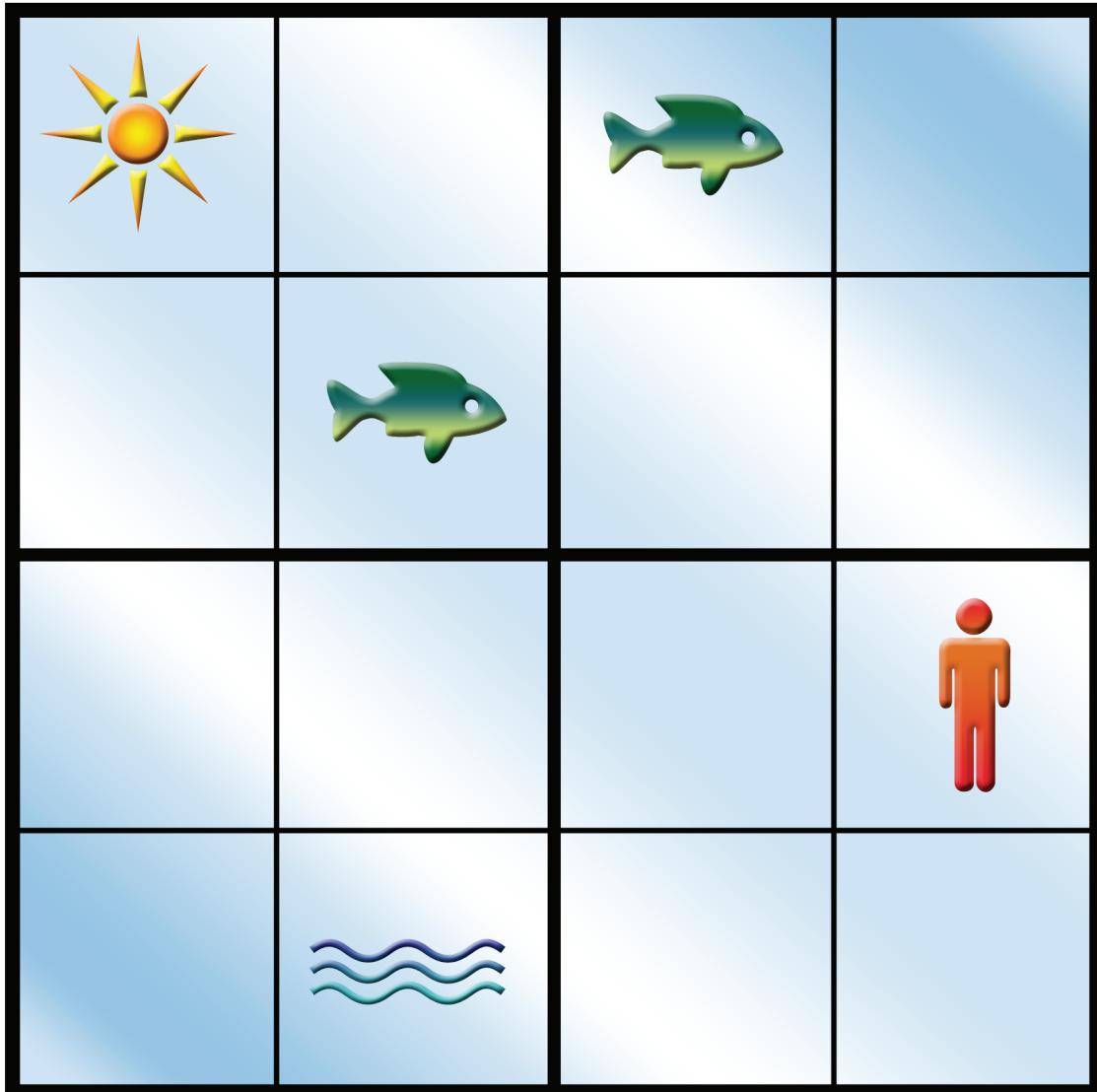
Say • Which animal did you create? How did you create it?

- Was it difficult to create using only paper and scissors?
- What would you need to create a really great animal?
- Today in our Bible story we will learn why God created the world and people.

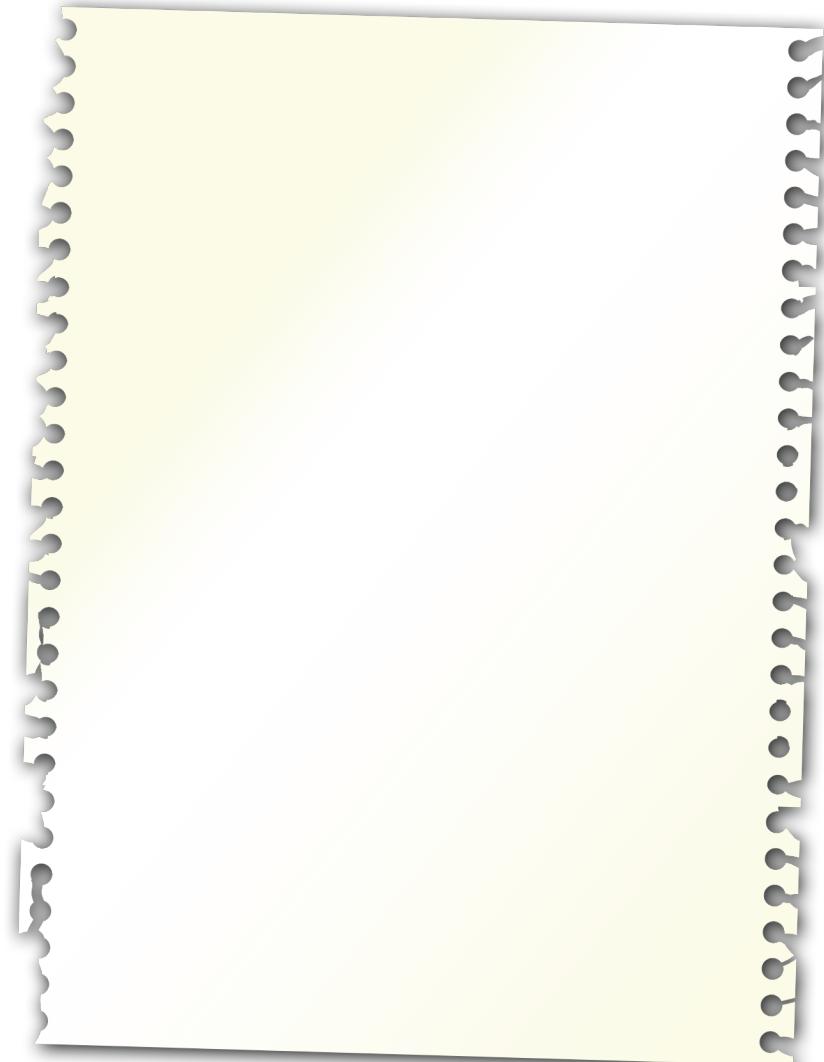
Transition to large group

Activity SHEET

Instructions: Fill in the puzzle so that each row, column, and mini-box has only one of each creation.



These are just four of the things God created. What are some of your favorite things created by God? List a few of your favorites or draw a picture of them.





Large Group LEADER

Session Title: God Created the World and People

Bible Passage: Genesis 1–2

Big Picture Question: Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

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.

- room decorations

Tip: Pick one or two ideas that work for your room and budget.

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Create an airport terminal in your large group room. Attach old road maps to the walls. Set up a bench or row of chairs to resemble a passenger waiting area. Place a couple of suitcases near the bench. Stack or scatter other suitcases around the stage. Create a schedule board by dividing a piece of poster board into three columns. List locations in the first column, times in the second column, and write phrases such as “on time,” “arriving,” “delayed,” or “canceled,” in the third column. You may choose to make more than one poster and display them side by side or around the stage or room.

- countdown video

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

- passport holder, clipboard, and suitcase for large group leader

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

[Large group leader enters wearing a passport holder, and carrying a suitcase and a clipboard. Look at the kids and around the room while checking off items on your clipboard.]

Leader • Oh good, all my travelers are here. Welcome to Big

Tip: Pause after questions to allow kids time to respond. If time allows you may choose to be more interactive with the group by selecting some kids to personally share their answers with the group.

- time line map

Picture Airlines! According to my list we are ready to go; we are ready for our flight to begin. I love to fly. Has anyone here ever flown in an airplane before? Do you like to sit by the window or the aisle? I love to sit by the window. When I sit by the window I can see a big picture of earth. Here on the ground I can only see what is in this room right now, but up in the sky I can see this building, other buildings around, and the mountains and lakes. When I look out the airplane window, I can see the big picture of creation.

That reminds me of something I wanted to share with you all today about the Bible. Did you know that the Bible shows us a big picture? The Bible tells us the big picture of God’s story. And we are a part of God’s story. We have a part in God’s big picture! Are you all ready to hear about how the big picture of God’s story starts? Well, get ready because our plane is about to take off, and we are going to see how the big picture of God’s story begins. Let’s check our map to see where our flight will start.

Time line map (1 minute)

Guide children to look at the time line map.

Leader • We are at the beginning of the map, and each week we will see how God’s story continues as we travel along the time line. The Bible gives us the big picture of God’s story. Although the Bible has many stories about different people, all of those stories are a part of God’s one plan; to save His people through Jesus Christ. We will travel to many new places on this map and learn how God uses people just like us in His story.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • But before we get ready to start our journey, you need to know one more thing. Each week there will be a special big picture question about God's story. You will want to listen closely during the Bible story to find the answer to the big picture question. Each question and its answer will help us understand more about God's story and how He used people in His plan. Do you want to know what today's big picture question is? Now you have to promise not to say the answer out loud if you already know it. Do you promise? Okay, drum roll please. The big picture question is ... ***Who created everything?*** I know some of you think you know the answer, but listen to our Bible story to discover the answer.

Option: Allow kids to create a drum roll by clapping their hands against their legs as you announce the big picture question.

Tell the Bible story (8 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Choose to tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided, or show the Bible story video "God Created the World and People."

- "God Created the World and People" video
- Bibles
- big picture question slide or poster

Leader • God created everything that exists in the world today. God created Adam and Eve different from all the other things He created. Remember the Bible shows us the big picture of God's story. When we study God's Word, we can learn about His big picture and how we fit into God's story. And creation is the beginning of God's story.

Did you hear the answer to the big picture question during the Bible story? Who remembers what the question is? Good. Our question is: ***Who created everything?*** Are you ready for the answer? The answer is: ***God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*** Glory is giving praise, honor, and respect. Everything was created to give praise, honor, and respect to God.

Lead boys and girls to read the question and answer twice. Urge kids to memorize the big picture question and answer.

- key passage slide or poster
- "In His Own Image"

Key passage (5 minutes)

Leader • On every airplane flight it is important to have a flight plan. It helps everyone know exactly where the plane is going and what the plan is for it to reach its destination. In a car we can use an atlas or GPS to help us know how to get where we are going. God has given us a special flight plan that leads us to Jesus! God's flight plan is important, so we will memorize a key passage from the flight plan. God reveals His plan in the Bible. The Bible tells us how God sent Jesus, His Son, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to Himself. Here is our key passage for the next few weeks.

Show the slide of this unit's key passage, Genesis 1:27. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse together. Encourage kids to memorize the key passage.

Leader • The flight plan key passage tell us that God created each of you special, just as He created Adam and Eve. Being made in the image of God means we were created with the purpose to know and love God, to please Him and bring Him glory.

Sing "In His Own Image."

- "Creation Talk" video

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Leader • Today's in-flight video will be starting momentarily.

During the video think carefully about our Bible story.

Show the "Creation Talk" video.

Leader • What were the cupcakes talking about? How were the cupcakes created? People often wonder how we were created. They will ask "How did I get here?" "Why am I here?" Have

any of you heard people talk about where they think the world came from? What would you do if you heard people say they didn't believe God created world and people?

Invite two or three kids to share. Encourage the kids to think about the Bible story and how they could use that to respond.

Leader • Remember our big picture question was: ***Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*** In your life you will hear a lot of different opinions and ideas. Always look at the Bible to find the truth for every situation and idea. God's Word is always true.

Sing (5 minutes)

• "You Are God Alone"

Leader • It is time to praise God for creating our wonderful world. Join me in singing our theme song.

Sing "You Are God Alone."

Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader • In small group, you will continue to learn about creation and God's story. God created you, and you are a part of His plan. We are a part of the big picture of God's story.

After I close in prayer, watch your small group leader for the signal to exit the airport. I can't wait to see you again next week and discover where we will travel to next on our journey through the big picture of God's story.

Dismiss to small groups

Insights for Large Group Leaders:

Big picture question: Big picture questions are designed to help teach kids Bible truths systematically. The question will be introduced prior to each Bible story, and the answer will be revealed following the Bible story. Encourage kids to memorize the big picture question and answer each week.

Christ connection: At the end of every Bible story is a Christ connection that relates Christ to that specific story. The Christ connection is an additional paragraph at the end of the Bible story script. On the video, the Christ connection is shared after the Bible story.

Time line map: If space is limited, hang one or two sections of the time line map at a time. When you review the Bible stories from the previous weeks, point out the Bible stories on the time line to allow kids to see the progression of chronology.

Key passage: The key passage will be the same for the entire unit. Encourage kids each week to work on memorizing the key passage by the end of the unit.

Small group/large group/small group: If your children's ministry has self-contained classes instead of small and large groups, use both the small group and large group guide to plan your session. Utilize the small group opening guide to plan opening activities, the large group leader guide to plan Bible teaching time, and the small group leader guide to plan review and application activities.



Small Group LEADER

Session Title: God Created the World and People

Bible Passage: Genesis 1–2

Big Picture Question: Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

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.

- Bibles, 1 per kid

Tip: A script of the Bible story and the Christ Connection is included in each session plan. While it is a useful guide, remember that kids need to see and hear you teach from the Bible.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Lead kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 1–2 and review the Bible story from Large Group. You may choose to tell the story again in your own words using the script provided. Always teach from your open Bible.

Review the story of creation by playing a game. Form two teams. Explain that you will ask a question and they will need to locate the answer and the verse(s) in which they found the answer. The answer may be found in more than one verse, but kids only need to find one verse for a correct answer. When a team member has an answer, they must announce, “It was good,” and stand.

Possible questions and answers:

1. How did God create everything except Adam and Eve?
(*He spoke, Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26.*)
2. What day did God create the sun, moon, and stars?
(*Day four, Genesis 1:14-19.*)
3. What made man a living being? (*God breathed the breath of life into him, Genesis 2:7.*)
4. What did God give Adam to live in and care for?
(*the garden of Eden, Genesis 2:15.*)

5. What did God declare the seventh day? (*holy, Genesis 2:3.*)

Say • At the end of our Bible story we heard how Jesus Christ is connected to the story of creation. Colossians 1:15–22 tells us that Jesus had a special part of creation. All of creation was created through, by, and for Him.

- Who is the ruler over all of God’s creation?
(*Colossians 1:15-22 reveals that Christ is ruler over all of God’s creation.*)
- Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.**

- key passage poster
- Bibles

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Lead kids to open their Bibles and read the verse together. Form teams of two or three. Assign each team a phrase from the verse. Guide each group to create an action to go with its phrase (examples: hop on one foot, special dance move). After a few minutes ask everyone to form a circle with the groups standing in verse order, clockwise. The first group will share its phrase and motion. Everyone will repeat the phrase and motion. The second group will share its phrase and motion. Everyone will repeat the first phrase/motion and the second phrase/motion. Continue until the entire verse is finished. Lead the group to say the verse without the motions.

Say •**Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.**

- God created you in His image to know and love God, to please Him and bring Him glory.
- We are made in God’s image, and this makes us incredibly valuable. We all have days when we do not feel special or pretty or cool or valuable. On those days



- several sheets of paper
- pen or marker for each team
- a timer or watch

remember that God created you, and He has a plan for you as a part of His story. You are a part of God's big picture.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Creation top ten

Form teams of two or three. Give each team a piece of paper and a pen to record its answers. Guide each team to number its paper one to ten. Share that each team will list ten items that fit the category you give them. They will have 60 seconds to create their lists. After time is called each team will share its list. Each team earns one point for each item on its list that is not listed by any other team. Play again as time allows using a new category.

Suggested Categories:

1. Things on Earth God Created
2. Things in Space God Created
3. Plants God Created
4. Animals God Created
5. Insects God Created

Say • Jesus Christ is ruler over all of God's creation.

- Everything God created has a purpose.
- ***Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.***

- markers
- long piece of chart paper or three sheets of poster board
- dirt or sand
- straws, 1 per kid
- glue
- tarp or old sheet (optional)

Tip: Use a foam brush to "paint" your picture.

Option 2: Dirt people

Lay a long piece of paper or three sheets of poster board on the floor. You may wish to place a tarp or old sheet under the paper. Direct kids to use markers to write the key passage or a phrase of the key passage along the bottom or on one section of the paper. Use glue to draw a picture in the middle of the paper of Adam and Eve. Line the top and side edges of the paper with

dirt or sand. Allow kids to use a straw to gently blow the dirt onto the glue to form Adam and Eve. After it dries, hang the dirt people picture up in your small or large group area or hallway.

Say • God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground. He made Eve using one of Adam's ribs.

- When God made Adam and Eve, He breathed into them to give them life.
- The Bible says God created man in His own image. This means that man was made different from everything else God created.
- Everyone is unique, and God made us to know Him and love Him.
- ***Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.***

- pencils
- journals
- journal page
- Bibles

Tip: Give each child a three-ring binder or folder with fasteners in which to store their journal pages for the year.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils to kids.

Say • This year, we will have a journal to list our prayer requests and our praises to God. We will leave our journals here at church and add to them throughout the year. When God answers one of your prayer requests, you can mark it in your journal.

- On your journal page today, write a prayer thanking God for all the things He created.

Help kids to write a prayer of thanksgiving on their journal pages. Kids may use a Bible to review the many things God created in Genesis 1–2. As they finish their prayers, encourage boys and girls to list any prayer requests on their journal page. Allow kids to share their prayer requests with the group. Lead the group in a prayer thanking God for His creation.

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

