



UNIT 1 | SESSION 1

# GOD CREATED THE WORLD

## GENESIS 1

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus is Lord over everything. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together and everything brings God glory.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

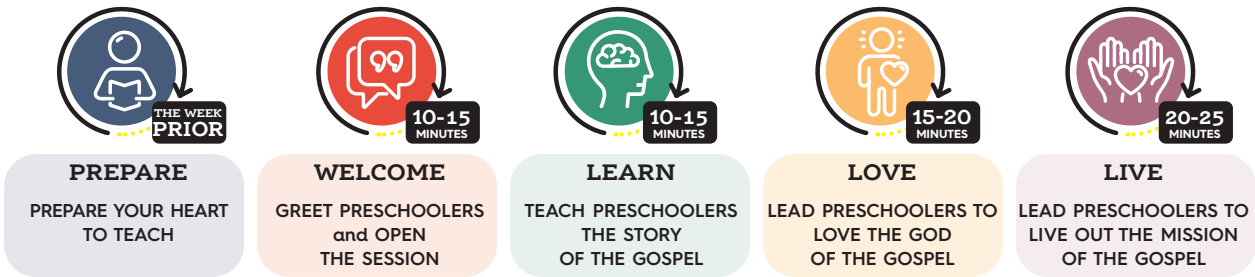
Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 19:1



IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION.



## LEADER Bible Study

The Bible begins where we would expect it to: with the beginning of all of creation. But the beginning that Genesis 1:1 speaks of is not the beginning of everything. It was not the beginning of God. God is eternal—He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed. So the beginning in this session’s Bible story is the beginning from our perspective. It is humanity’s beginning.

You might notice that the Bible story stops a little earlier than you might be used to—before God created Adam and Eve. That happened on Day 6, along with the animals of the earth, but that is not included here because that will be covered in the next session in much more detail.

Instead, for this session, take your time to emphasize three things:

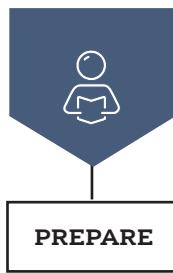
First, that God created everything from nothing. God did not create like we do—by taking some raw materials like clay and making a beautiful sculpture. Instead, God made everything that exists—everything we see and even that we don’t see—simply by speaking it into existence from nothing. That’s important because it teaches us that everything belongs to God because He made it all and also how powerful He is to be able to create the universe by speaking it into being.

Second, that God created everything with order. Not only do we see that God created the different kinds of plants and trees as well as animals according to their different kinds, but we also see an orderly pattern in the days of creation. God created by separating things on days 1-3 (light from darkness; sky from water; and then land from oceans) and then He filled what He had created on days 4-6 (the stars, sun, and moon in the heavens; birds and fish in the sky and waters; animals on the land).

Third, that God created everything for a reason—to bring Himself glory. We will talk a lot more about this during this unit, and all of our study through Scripture. But for now help your kids see that everything exists to show how good God is—to show His glory for all to see.

### DAYS OF CREATION

Separated	Filled
<b>Day 1:</b> Light from darkness	<b>Day 4:</b> Sun, moon, stars
<b>Day 2:</b> Sky from water	<b>Day 5:</b> Birds and fish
<b>Day 3:</b> Land from oceans	<b>Day 6:</b> Animals



PRIOR TO TEACH THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep the following items on hand for every session: Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, school glue, glue sticks, beanbag, blocks, play dough, world map or globe, paper cups and napkins, snack food.



### WELCOME

#### Welcome

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ "Psalm 19:1" song

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "Create!" activity page, 1 per child

#### Create with raw materials

- ☐ interlocking blocks

#### Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



### LEARN

#### Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ "God Created the World" video (optional)

#### Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Psalm 19:1" song

#### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- ☐ "All About the Americas" video



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Take a nature prayer walk

- ☐ walking rope (optional)



### LIVE

#### Prepare and enjoy fruit salad

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ bananas
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ waxed paper
- ☐ foam bowls
- ☐ plastic spoons
- ☐ washed and prepared cut fruit (e.g. melon, berries, halved grapes, apples, kiwi)

#### Sort animals

- ☐ "Animals" printable
- ☐ dark blue paper
- ☐ green paper
- ☐ light blue paper

#### Bounce on a blanket

- ☐ blanket or parachute
- ☐ foam ball or small stuffed animal



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Create!" on the activity page.

**SAY** “ When we humans want to create something, we use different materials to make something new. Do you know what God used when He created the whole world? [Allow responses.] Nothing! God created everything out of nothing at all! God created everything simply by speaking. That’s something only God can do! ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### TALK ABOUT FAVORITE BELONGINGS



Prompt each preschooler to think of her favorite belonging. Guide each child to draw a picture of her favorite belonging. Invite children to hold up their completed drawings and tell the group about their favorite belongings.

**SAY** “ Your belongings are things that belong to you. God gives us things to enjoy and care for. Did you know that the world and everything in it are God’s belongings? God made everything so everything belongs to Him. We will learn more about that in today’s Bible story. ”

#### CREATE WITH RAW MATERIALS

Set out interlocking blocks or play dough. Encourage preschoolers to make anything of their choosing using the items available. Encourage creativity.

**SAY** “ Look at all your different creations! You made many different things with all these supplies. In today’s Bible story, we will hear about how God created the world. Do you know what supplies He had? Nothing at all! God created the world just by speaking. Let’s hear how He did that in today’s Bible story. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to walk as their favorite animal as they transition to “Learn.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**







## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite a few volunteers to tell about things they like to make. Offer prompts such as art, toys, blocks to start preschoolers talking.

**SAY** “ People often use things they already have and make new things. God made us creative like that. God is the greatest maker of all. He made the whole world out of nothing at all. Listen to how God did that in today’s Bible story. ”

#### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Genesis 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ The Bible is the most important book there is because it has God’s words in it. God talks to us through the Bible. We know our story today is a true story because it comes from the Bible, and the Bible is true. Today’s Bible story comes from the very first chapter of the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

#### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### GOD CREATED THE WORLD

“ **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 one else 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.** Everything God makes is good. **God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” That was Day 1.**

**On Day 2, God made** a space over the earth that He called **the sky.**

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



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**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.** 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** animals that fly in the sky. He made fish and whales and seahorses and eels **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 all of it was good.** ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use props:** Gather props to represent the different days of creation. Show each prop at the appropriate moment in the Bible story. Potential props include bottled water, flashlight or puck light, real or artificial plants, plastic or stuffed animals, different colors of construction paper, drawings, or photographs.

**Count on your fingers:** Lead preschoolers to hold up the appropriate number of fingers to represent each day of creation as you tell the story.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** ” Jesus is Lord over everything. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together and everything brings God glory. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** ” God did something no one else could ever do. He made the world out of nothing. Each of the six days, God spoke and made a different part of His creation. God saw that everything He made was good. All that He created showed how powerful and amazing He is. Creation gives God glory. God’s glory is His greatness. Jesus is God the Son. Everything was created by Jesus and for Jesus. Jesus gives God glory best of all. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 19:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

**SAY** ” Our key passage reminds us that God’s creation gives Him glory. When we look at the sky, we can remember that God made it. We can praise and glorify Him for the beautiful creation He has given us to enjoy. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Psalm 19:1.” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Our big picture question asks, **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.** God is the greatest of all. He created the world and all that is in it to show His power, might, and goodness. God deserves our worship. ”

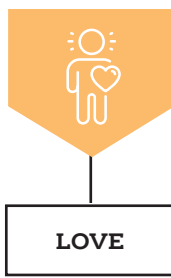
### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

**SAY** “ Many people around the world have never heard that God made them and loves us. God wants believers to tell others about Him and about His Son, Jesus. A missionary is a follower of Jesus who is sent out to go and make more followers of Jesus throughout the earth. Some people say America when meaning the United States, but other countries are also part of the world we call “the Americas.” There’s North America, Central America, and South America. Missionaries live in each of these areas of the world, sharing the gospel. ”

Show the American regions on a world map. Then show the “All About the Americas” missions video. Close in prayer, asking God to help people in the Americas hear about Him.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “God, we praise You for all that You made. You are the Creator and King. All that You created shows Your power and glory. Remind us of Your goodness as we enjoy Your creation. Amen.”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “Name some ways we can thank God for His creation.”

**SAY** “Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.”

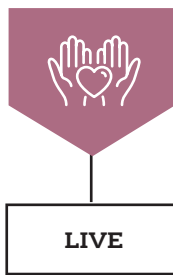
#### 3 TAKE A NATURE PRAYER WALK

If weather permits, lead preschoolers outside. Guide preschoolers to point out things God made that they see on their walk. Lead the group in saying, “Thank You, God!”

**SAY** “Jesus is Lord over everything. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together and everything brings God glory.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **CALL IT GOOD**



Invite preschoolers to take turns naming things that God made. After each child names something, lead the group to say, “God saw that it was good!” Consider giving children categories of things to name, such as things that grow in the ground, things you find in the sea, things that live on the ground, things that fly in the sky, things you eat, and so forth.

**SAY** “ God looked at everything He made and saw that it was good. God made Jesus Lord over everything. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together and everything brings God glory. ”

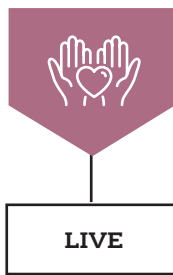
#### **PREPARE AND ENJOY FRUIT SALAD**



Post an allergy alert. Wash or sanitize hands. Give each preschooler a banana. Invite her to peel the banana and slice it with a craft stick on the waxed paper. Guide her to place her banana pieces in her bowl. Spoon additional fruit items of a child’s choosing in his bowl. Be sure only adults add additional fruit to a child’s bowl. Encourage preschoolers to gently mix up their fruit with a spoon and enjoy their fruit salad.

**SAY** “ On Day 3, God made all kinds of plants and trees. Every plant and tree had seed to grow more of the same kind of plant or tree. The fruit we are eating came from plants and trees. Jesus is Lord over the plants and trees and everything else He made. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### SORT ANIMALS

Print the “Animals” printable and cut apart the cards. Set out a sheet of dark blue paper to represent water, green to represent land, and light blue to represent sky. Invite preschoolers to sort the animal cards according to where each animal lives.

**SAY** “ God created the world in the perfect order. He made the sky, sea, and land before He made the animals to live there. He knew the animals would need a place to live before He created them. The Bible says that Jesus was there creating with God. Jesus holds everything together. ”

### BOUNCE ON A BLANKET



Lead preschoolers to surround a blanket or parachute, holding its edges. Toss the ball or stuffed animal into the middle of the blanket and show preschoolers how to shake the blanket to make the ball bounce around. Challenge them to keep the ball on the blanket.

After a few minutes of play, direct children to freeze in place every time the ball bounces out. When children freeze, say one of the following phrases and lead preschoolers to repeat the phrase after you:

- God made you.
- God loves you.
- The Bible is God’s Word.
- Jesus came to earth to save us.

**SAY** “ These are truths we can learn and tell other people. Missionaries tell these truths to people around the world. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite a preschooler to complete the coloring page. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 1 | SESSION 2

## GOD CREATED PEOPLE

GENESIS 1–2

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

God created people in His own image. He loves us and gives us everything we need. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 19:1



IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION.



## LEADER Bible Study

Humans are at the center of everything God created. Only God Himself is more important. That is why the creation of the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—deserved its own session.

As you prepare for this week’s session, there are two words that might be unclear or even confusing. The first is our in Genesis 1:26. “Let us make man in our image.” This can be confusing because the Bible is clear that there is only one God (see Deuteronomy 6:4 and 1 Timothy 2:5). Why then does God say our image and not my image?

Bible scholars have long debated what is meant by this word, but here are two of the most common explanations. The first is that this word is affirming the doctrine known as the Trinity—that God is one in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Our in this verse is drawing from that important aspect of who God is. This would make sense here because a common, but wrong, belief of why God created people was because He was lonely. But God as three Persons in one is never alone. He has always enjoyed a perfect relationship of love within who He is. It would make sense that God wants to make that clear here.

A second explanation for our is that it is the use of what is called the “plural of majesty.” In this case, God is establishing from very early on how glorious He is, even in how He refers to Himself.

The second word that deserves a note is image. Once again, scholars have debated for ages about what this word means. But we can know what it does not mean: physical form. God is spirit (see John 4:24), so we are not made with a body like God’s body; He has no body. Instead, being made in God’s image includes attributes of people that separate us from the rest of creation (such as our ability to reason, our morality, our will, and our emotions) and our unique role in creation as ruling over it under God’s greater rule.

While we might not know what these two words mean exactly, we do know this for sure: our glorious God has made people to be special in all of His creation and designed us to be in relationship with Him.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Image Bearers:** Every person bears God’s image. We are like God in ways that the rest of creation is not. God gives us the ability to reason, feel emotions, and understand right and wrong. Jesus is the perfect XXXX



PRIOR TO TEACH THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep the following items on hand for every session: Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, school glue, glue sticks, beanbag, blocks, play dough, world map or globe, paper cups and napkins, snack food.



### WELCOME

#### Welcome

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ "Psalm 19:1" song

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "In His Image" activity page, 1 per child

#### Dig for animals

- ☐ large plastic tub
- ☐ play sand, dried rice, or dried beans
- ☐ plastic land animal figures
- ☐ digging tools (toy shovels, rakes, sieves, or cups)

#### Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



### LEARN

#### Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ "God Created People" video (optional)

#### Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Psalm 19:1" song

#### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- ☐ "Embera Bead Project" printable



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Draw self-portraits

- ☐ nonbreakable handheld mirrors



### LIVE

#### Care for a garden

- ☐ artificial flowers, plants, and trees
- ☐ child-safe garden items (trowel, handheld shovel, clean plastic grow pots, watering cans, empty seed packets)
- ☐ toy garden tools, wheelbarrows, and lawnmowers

#### Work people puzzles

- ☐ puzzles featuring people

#### Make beaded bracelets

- ☐ "Embera Bead Project" printable
- ☐ yarn
- ☐ clear tape
- ☐ beads



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “In His Image” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ You matched each person to his or her shadow. A person’s shadow looks a lot like the person but not exactly. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that God made people in His image. That means God made us to be like Him but not exactly. Listen to story to find out more. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### PLAY A NAME GAME



Form a circle. Choose a child to complete the following sentence, “My name is [child’s name], and I like [item or activity the child likes]. Then lead the child beside him to repeat the first child’s answer then answer for herself. Guide preschoolers to continue around the circle until each child has had a turn to repeat and answer.

**SAY** “ We learned one another’s names while we learned more about each other. In today’s Bible story, God made the first man and the first woman. He gave them names. Listen to the story to find out what names God gave them. ”

#### DIG FOR ANIMALS

Fill a large plastic tub with a few inches of play sand, dried rice, or dried beans. Hide plastic figures of land animals in the tub. Offer children digging tools to search for the hidden animals. Guide preschoolers to hide the animals again for another friend to find.

**SAY** “ Last week we learned that on Day 6 of creation, God made animals that live on earth—all different kinds! But that was not all God created on the sixth day. Listen to the story to hear what else God made on that day! ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite the girls to sit together and the boys to sit together as children transition to “Learn.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**







## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to stand up. Call out a characteristic. If the characteristic describes a child, he must sit down. Continue calling out different characteristics until all the children are sitting down. Characteristics include boy, girl, brown eyes, blue eyes, likes to look at books, or likes to play on the playground. Add humor by calling out characteristics that children likely do not have such as gray hair, twenty toes, or like to eat Brussels sprouts.

**SAY** “None of us are exactly alike, but some of us do have characteristics in common. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how God made people in His image. That means that God made people with some of the characteristics He has. But like none of us are exactly alike, people are not exactly like God. Yet God made us to be like Him in many ways.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Genesis 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Who remembers what the first book of the Bible is? [Allow answers.] Genesis! That is right. The Bible is the most special book of all because it is God’s words to us. All the stories we read in the Bible are true.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### GOD CREATED PEOPLE

“**God created the whole world.** He made the sun, the sky, plants and trees, and many kinds of animals. **But God was not finished yet. On Day 6 of creation, God made people and He loved them most of all.**

God said, “**Let us make man in our image.**” So He made a body out of the dust on the ground. **Then He breathed into the man, and the man came to life. The man’s name was Adam.** God gave Adam a home. He made a garden and put Adam in it. God gave Adam a job working in the garden and taking care of it.

God gave Adam food to eat. God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.” God warned him, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

Then God looked at Adam. Adam was all alone. **“It is not good for the man to be alone,”**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**God said. So God decided to make a helper for him.** God brought to Adam the animals He had created, and Adam gave the animals names. But these animals did not make good helpers for Adam.

So **God made Adam fall asleep. God took one of Adam's ribs, and He created a woman. When Adam woke up and saw the woman, he was happy! The woman was a perfect helper for Adam; she was his wife. Adam named his wife Eve.**

**God put Adam and Eve in charge of the animals and gave them everything they needed. God looked at everything He had made, and it was very good! So on Day 7 of creation, God rested from His work.**

”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Pretend to sleep:** Lead preschoolers to lie down and close their eyes when you come to the part of the story where Adam fell asleep. Speak quietly and deliberately as you describe how God made Eve. Then excitedly say, “Wake up!” as you tell about how Adam was happy when he saw Eve.

**Pantomime the story:** Invite a male and female adult leader to pantomime Adam and Eve's actions and expressions as you tell the Bible story.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ God created people in His own image. He loves us and gives us everything we need. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ God made people, and out of everything He created, He loves us most of all. God created us special. He made us in His image. We are the only creation God made in His image. God loves, creates, thinks, and rules, and He made us to love, create, think, and rule too. There are lots of other ways God made us like Him, but there are many ways God is different from us too. We are not in charge of everything. We do not know all things. We do not have power over all things. But we can love and trust this good God who made us! ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 19:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Guide preschoolers to say the key passage with you using the motions you created in the previous session. Then lead children to say the verse using different voices, such as a deep voice, high voice, loud voice, and soft voice.

**SAY** “ None of us say the key passage exactly the same because we all have different voices. God made people, and our key passage reminds us that all the things God created show how great God is. The sky, the ocean, plants, trees, animal, and people—all of them give God glory. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Psalm 19:1.” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “Our big picture question asks, **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.** God’s glory is His greatness. Everything God created was made to give God glory. That means that God created you, me, and all people to show how great He is!”

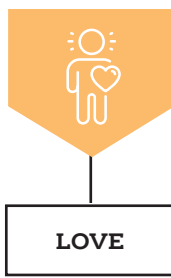
### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Display the photos and read about the story from the “Embera Bead Project” printable aloud.

**SAY** “Missionary Beth Burkhalter saw these Embera woman and recognized that they are people God created in His image. Beth noticed the women did not have money to take care of their families. She also noticed that they made beautiful beaded jewelry. Beth Burkhalter found a way to help the Embera women make money to take care of their families, but also a way to tell them about Jesus. Now the people have money that they need to live, and they know how to have life with God.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### **1 PRAY**

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “God, You made us. We belong to You. We want to glorify You. Help us show the world how great You are by the way we live. Help us turn away from our sin and follow Jesus. Help us love You most of all.”

#### **2 SNACK AND TALK**



Post an allergy alert. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What are some ways we can be like God? How are we different from God?”

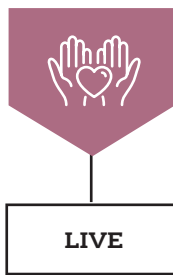
**SAY** “Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.”

#### **3 DRAW SELF-PORTRAITS**

Offer preschoolers nonbreakable handheld mirrors to look at their reflections. Invite preschoolers to use markers or crayons to draw a self-portrait. As preschoolers work, ask them to think of ways God made them unique. Offer suggestions that go beyond what they see in the mirror, such as character qualities, talents, or interests. Guide each preschooler to thank God for at least one way God made her.

**SAY** “God made each of you different, but all of you are made in God’s image. God loves You. He wants You to love Him too. He wants to use each of You in His plan in unique ways. He wants you to grow up to be men and women who joyfully follow Him.”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **SING “HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES, AND TOES”**



Lead preschoolers in singing the song, “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” If you are unfamiliar with the song or motions, look them up online before the session.

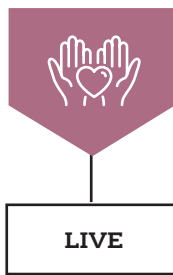
**SAY** “God made your head, your shoulders, your knees, and your toes! God made all of you! God does not have a body like you do, but you are made in His own image. You are special because God made you to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.”

#### **CARE FOR A GARDEN**

Set out artificial flowers, plants, and trees. Offer preschoolers child-safe garden items, such as a trowel, handheld shovel, clean plastic grow pots, watering cans, and empty seed packets. If available, set out toy garden tools, wheelbarrows, and lawnmowers. Invite children to play out caring for a garden.

**SAY** “God made a garden and put Adam in it. God gave Adam a job working in the garden and taking care of it. God loved Adam and gave him everything he needed. God loves us and gives us what we need too. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### WORK PEOPLE PUZZLES

Set out an assortment of puzzles featuring people. Include puzzles that depict people of different ethnicities, body types, and abilities as you are able. Review the Bible story as children work the puzzles.

**SAY** “ God created people in His own image. He loves us and gives us everything we need. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned. ”

### MAKE BEADED BRACELETS



Show the “Embera Bead Project” photos from the missions moment to remind preschoolers of the beaded jewelry that the Embera people make in South America.

Give each preschooler a length of yarn with clear tape wrapped around one end. Invite preschoolers to string beads on their yarn to make a bracelet. Tie a bracelet on a child’s wrist when he finishes adding beads. As children work, retell the story about the missionaries who are helping the Embera people sell their jewelry so that they will have money for things like food and clean water. Consider encouraging preschoolers to make extra bracelets to use in a different activity in the next session.

**SAY** “ One of the ways God gives people what they need is through other people. God used the Embera women’s talent for making jewelry and a missionary named Beth Burkhalter to make sure the women had money to provide for their families. Best of all, God used Beth to give the women what they need most—Jesus. God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite a preschooler to complete the coloring page. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 1 | SESSION 3

## CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

PSALM 19

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

All of creation shows how great God is. Jesus is God. Jesus is the best way we can know how great God is.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Psalm 19:1.



IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION.



## LEADER Bible Study

In the first two sessions of this unit, we have seen a common thread of God's glory. God created everything, including people, to display His glory. In this session, we want to make sure that our preschoolers understand what that means. What is God's glory?

God's glory can be thought of as God's greatness. The Bible often uses the picture of a brilliant white light when it comes to God's glory. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai after spending time with God, his face shone. When Jesus was transfigured, He shined like a brilliant white light. And when Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he saw a blinding light. Such an intense light helps us understand how pure and powerful God's glory is.

But we don't just see God's glory revealed in bright light. In this session, we will look at a Psalm that King David wrote many years after Adam and Eve. David used creation to speak of God's glory. For David, it was easy to see God's glory—at least its fingerprints—all around him.

If you have ever looked up into the heavens on a clear, dark night, maybe you have sensed it too as you consider all the stars that cannot be counted and think that each is a giant sun, like ours—only our sun is relatively modest in comparison—and that

they stretch over billions and billions and trillions and trillions of miles. And that is just what we can see!

Or maybe you have caught a glimpse of God's glory as you looked over a stunning mountain range or walked on a beach. Creation is full of beauty, wonder, and power—all of which hints at the greater beauty, wonder, and power of the Creator who made it all. God is glorious indeed.

But one of the greatest ways we can know of God's glory is that the Creator who made everything not only made us too, but wants to have a friendship with us. That is why He gave us the Bible—so that we might come to know Him, love Him, and live for Him.

As you teach, seek to leave your preschoolers in awe of how big and how good and how loving God is.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Glory:** God's glory is His greatness and is often described in the Bible as a brilliant white light. That picture is used to show how pure and powerful God's glory really is.



PRIOR TO TEACH THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep the following items on hand for every session: Bibles, Allergy Alert, construction paper, copy paper, markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, school glue, glue sticks, beanbag, blocks, play dough, world map or globe, paper cups and napkins, snack food.



### WELCOME

#### Welcome

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ "Psalm 19:1" song

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "See His Glory" activity page, 1 per child

#### Make glowing star pictures

- ☐ thick towels
- ☐ dark blue or black construction paper
- ☐ dull pencils, 1 per child
- ☐ flashlights
- ☐ white crayon

#### Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



### LEARN

#### Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ "Creation Glorifies God" video (optional)

#### Practice the key passage

- ☐ yellow construction paper
- ☐ flashlight
- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Psalm 19:1" song

#### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- ☐ "Embera Bead Project" printable



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

- ☐ Allergy Alert
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Look at books about things God made

- ☐ books featuring nature, animals, or people



### LIVE

#### Experiment with prisms

- ☐ prisms
- ☐ flashlights (optional)

#### Count stars under a table

- ☐ adhesive-backed glow in the dark stars
- ☐ blanket or sheet

#### Pretend to sell jewelry

- ☐ toy jewelry
- ☐ jewelry boxes and pouches
- ☐ toy money and credit cards
- ☐ toy register
- ☐ toy computer, phone, or tablet
- ☐ leftover beaded bracelets from session 2 (optional)





## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "See His Glory!" on the activity page.

**SAY** " You found the letters that spell the word *glory*. *Glory* is an easy word to say, but explaining what *glory* means is not that easy. We've been learning from our big picture question that God created everything for His *glory*. Our key passage also talks about God's *glory*. We will learn more about God's *glory* in today's Bible story. "

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### TELL FAVORITE SONGS



Invite preschoolers to take turns telling the group their favorite song about God. Encourage children to sing part of the song they named or lead the group in singing.

**SAY** " We sang songs about God. Today's Bible story is a song about God. A king named David loved God, so he wrote a song to celebrate how great God is. "

#### MAKE GLOWING STAR PICTURES

Guide children to lay a sheet of black or dark blue construction paper on a thick towel. Demonstrate how to use a dull pencil to poke holes in the paper. Hold up the punched paper in front of a flashlight to reveal a starry sky. Invite preschoolers to make their own starry sky pictures. Write the key passage with a white crayon on each child's artwork.

**SAY** " Your pictures remind me of a clear night sky! In today's Bible story, a king named David wrote a song about God. He said what we see in the night sky tells us about God. Listen to the story to find out what the sky shows us about God. "

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to be either the sun, moon, or a star as they transition to "Learn."

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**







## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite preschoolers to tell you things that they can see in the sky.

**SAY** “ Today’s Bible story is a song that a king wrote about God. He said that every day and every night what we see in the heavens tells us about God. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Psalm 19 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Another name for the Bible is God’s Word. We say the Bible is God’s Word because it is God’s words to us. The last two weeks, we heard from the Book of Genesis how **God created everything for His glory**, including us. That’s a big, important idea that we want to understand, so to help us do that, we will look at what a king wrote about God’s glory in a song from the Book of Psalms. Genesis and Psalms are in the Old Testament part of the Bible. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

“ **King David loved God. He wrote a psalm, or song, to celebrate how great God is. This is what he wrote:**

**“The heavens show us the glory of God—how great He is.** When we look up into the sky we can see what God made. **Every day and every night what we see in the heavens tells us about God. The heavens don’t use words, but they show us. And everyone in the world can see.**

**“We can see God’s glory in the sun coming up every morning and then going down at the end of the day.** Everyone and everything can feel the sun’s warmth.”

David also wrote,

**“God’s words to us are perfect.** They give us new life. **We can trust them. God’s words to us are right.** God’s words to us make our hearts glad. God’s words to us are worth more than the purest gold! God’s words to us are sweeter than the sweetest honey. **God’s words help us.** They warn us of what not to do and when we obey them, we are rewarded.

“Who can remember all of the times he disobeyed God? **Sometimes we disobey God** without



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

meaning to or knowing we did. **But God can forgive us of everything. And God can help us not to disobey Him. We should want everything we say and think to make God happy.”** ”

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ All of creation shows how great God is. Jesus is God. Jesus is the best way we can know how great God is. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ God is so great! We don’t have to look hard to see that is true. God’s glory is all around us—in everything He made! We see God in His creation and in His words to us in the Bible. Most of all we see God’s glory in Jesus, God the Son. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Before the session, cut out several stars from yellow construction paper and write part of the key passage on each one. Tape the key passage stars on the ceiling in your room.

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 19:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Guide preschoolers to repeat the key passage using the motions you created in the first session. Dim the lights and lead preschoolers to take turns shining a flashlight on the ceiling at each part of the key passage as you lead the group in saying the words.

**SAY** “ Our key passage comes from what King David wrote in his song about God. Creation tells us about God, but it doesn’t use words. What God made shows us what God is like, and everyone in the world can see. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Psalm 19:1.” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ This is the last week for our big picture question. Do you remember the answer? **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.** God’s glory is His greatness. All of creation shows God’s glory. Jesus is God. Jesus is the shows God’s glory more than anyone or anything. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Sing the story:** Before the session, practice singing the parts of the story that describe what David wrote in Psalm 19. You may also consider inviting someone who sings to visit your group and sing the story.

**Look at creation:** Display a slideshow of nature photographs as you tell the first part of the Bible story. Hold up your Bible to emphasize the goodness of God’s Word as you tell the second part of the Bible story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

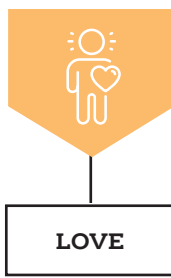
### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Display the “Embera Bead Project” photos from last week’s session and quickly review the missions story. Show preschoolers the nation of Columbia on a world map or globe. Point to the city of Medellin if it is labeled.

**SAY** “Many Embera people left their homes and communities to move to the city of Medellin so they would be safe, but life is hard for the Embera in Medellin. Finding a job is difficult because they do not speak Spanish, which is the language most people in Medellin speak. Missionary Beth Burkhalter and her husband began sharing stories about Jesus with the Embera people. They not only helped the Embera women sell their jewelry to help their families; they are introducing them to Jesus. Jesus is the best way we can know how great God is.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “God, thank You for Your creation that shows Your glory all around us. Help us think about You as we look at the things You made and hear Your truth in the Bible. Most of all, thank You for Jesus, Your Son, who is the best way we can know how great You are. Help us turn away from our sin and follow Him. Amen.”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “Name something God created that reminds you of how great He is.”

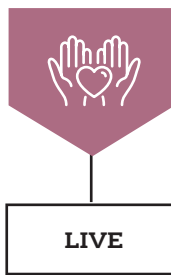
**SAY** “Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory.”

#### 3 LOOK AT BOOKS ABOUT THINGS GOD MADE

Gather an assortment of books that feature pictures of things God made, such as nature, animals, and humans. Set out books for preschoolers to browse. Invite preschoolers to say sentence prayers to praise God for His creation as they notice a picture. Be prepared to offer suggestions, such as “God, I see Your glory in this mountain You made.” “God, this otter shows me how You care about everything You made.” “God, this person You made reminds me that You sent Your Son to save people from sin.”

**SAY** “Everything God made tells us about Him. All of creation shows how great God is. We can praise God for His creation. Most of all we can praise God for Jesus. Jesus is God. Jesus is the best way we can know how great God is.”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **PLAY OUT A DAY**



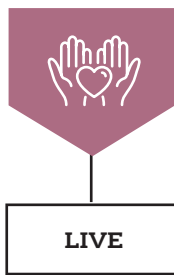
Invite preschoolers to name things they do at different times of day, such as morning, noon, afternoon, and night. Lead preschoolers to pantomime the actions they would typically do through the course of a day. Call out an action and lead preschoolers to copy your movements. Pretend a day is really fast and move through the movements quickly. Then pretend a day is really slow and move through the movements slowly.

**SAY** “ The sun comes up every morning and we begin our days. Our days end when the sun goes down. We see God’s glory in each day He made. All of creation shows how great God is. Jesus is God. Jesus is the best way we can know how great God is. ”

#### **EXPERIMENT WITH PRISMS**

Display a variety of prisms in a sunny window at a child’s level. Invite preschoolers to experiment with the prisms by tilting the prisms, searching for rainbows in the room, and looking at different objects through the prism. Offer flashlights if there is little sun in your room. Be sure to observe children closely if they are playing with a glass prism to avoid injury from broken glass.

**SAY** “ Isn’t God amazing how He made light to come from so many colors? We see God’s glory, or His greatness, in everything He made. We see God’s glory best of all in Jesus. Jesus is God the Son. Through Jesus, we can know how great God truly is! ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### COUNT STARS UNDER A TABLE

Arrange adhesive-backed glow in the dark stars on the underside of a table. Cover the table on three sides with a blanket or sheet. Invite preschoolers to climb under the table, lay on their backs, and count the stars. Consider allowing preschoolers to add to, take away, and rearrange the stars for one another to count.

**SAY** “ The Bible tells us that when we look up into the sky we can see what God made. Every day and every night what we see in the sky tells us about God. And everyone in the world can see. All of creation shows how great God is. Jesus is the best way we can know how great God is. ”

### PRETEND TO SELL JEWELRY



Gather a variety of toy jewelry. If your group made extra beaded bracelets in the previous session, gather those as well. Arrange the jewelry along with jewelry boxes, pouches, toy money, credit cards, cash registers, computers, phones, or tablets in a play area. Invite preschoolers to play out selling beaded jewelry both in person and online. Review the missions moment as preschoolers play.

**SAY** “ The Embera women, their families, and even the jewelry they make show God’s glory too! All of creation shows how great God is. God made humans to be creative like Him, and when humans create God gets glory! ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite a preschooler to complete the coloring page. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.