

# 1.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



## Hey Otis!

### God Made Adam and Eve

**BIG IDEA:** God made me special.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Genesis 2:4-25

**KEY VERSE:** "How you made me is amazing and wonderful."  
Psalm 139:14 (NirV)

## SCHEDULE

### 2S & 3S CLASSES

#### ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

#### 2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

#### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

### PRE-K & K CLASSES

#### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

#### PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

#### REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

In my family, there was a time when my three kids measured their “specialness” by their birth order. Lauren said, “I’m the oldest — that makes me special!” Luke said, “I’m the youngest — that makes me special!” Then Cassie surprised us by saying, “And I’m special because I’m the middle-est!”

The truth is, God DID make each of us special. Psalm 139 tells me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made and that God “knit me together in my mother’s womb.” He designed each of us with purpose so that all He gives us — our personalities, our abilities, our spiritual gifts, our passions, and our life experiences — works together to equip us for doing what He uniquely calls us to do in life.

How has He designed you? Are you using your gifts, abilities, and passions to do your part in His work here on earth? Remember, He made you a special, one-of-a-kind design!

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful...”  
Psalm 139:14

*Sally Prioleau*  
GO! Contributor



## LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

### *How to Create a “Moment” That Draws Your Audience In*

Wouldn't it be great if you could keep kids laser-focused on every word you said during a lesson? (*Answer: Yes! That would be a superpower greater than both invisibility and flight!*) Unfortunately, that's often not the case. No matter how dynamic a lesson is, most kids can only stay laser-focused for so long. Part of being an effective communicator is choosing the most important “moment(s)” within a lesson and using your voice and body to package it in a way that draws in your audience. Here are a few tips on creating a “moment” so you can be certain your audience hears what matters most:

**Choose your “moment” wisely:** Any given lesson probably has one or two moments where you really want to draw their attention. Often, the best place to look for that moment is at or near the end of the lesson when the “Big Idea” is being hammered home. The “Big Idea” is usually the moment the whole lesson has been leading up to.

**Don't make the “moment” too long.** For kids, you might want to keep your moment to two or three high-impact sentences.

**Pause before the “moment.”** A well-placed pause can be very powerful. That short moment of silence can communicate to kids that something different and interesting is about to be said or done.

**Use your voice.** One way to create a moment with your voice is to slow your pace down — give each word just a little extra emphasis. In addition, lower the volume of your voice to just above a whisper. A whisper can grab attention even more than shouting.

**Use your body.** Using movement and levels can also help to create a powerful moment. As your voice begins to slow down and become quiet, move close to the kids. You may even choose to place yourself in the middle of your audience. Sit down or kneel so that you put yourself almost eye to eye with the kids. Slow down your body movement and hand gestures to match the pace and volume of your voice.



## UNIT DESCRIPTION

Where is that silly cat? On the count of 3, let's shout, "Hey Otis!" During this unit, preschoolers will meet Otis the cat — a playful puppet who loves to copy whatever they do! As kids jump, wiggle, and act out Bible stories, Otis will follow right along, making every moment extra fun. Through interactive storytelling and silly surprises, preschoolers will explore the earliest stories from the Book of Genesis and discover just how amazing God's world really is!

## SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Place the "Otis the cat" hand puppet in the storytelling area. This puppet will be used for all 4 weeks of the unit. Inexpensive cat hand puppets can be found on Amazon as well as other online and local stores.
- Create a potting area in the storytelling area. Place a tarp or sheet on the table or floor to catch loose dirt. Place a small flower pot, some potting soil, and a small flowering plant in the potting area.
- Place a towel to wipe dirt off of hands in the potting area.
- Option 1: Print the "Creation Pictures" on 8½" x 11" paper. Tape all of the pictures to one side of a poster board. On the other side of the poster board, tape a large piece of reflective mirror film. This method will have a bigger "wow" effect. (See below for alternative method.)
- Option 2: Print the "Creation Pictures" on 8½" x 11" cardstock. Do not attach them to a poster board. Place a handheld mirror in the storytelling area. This method does not require the use of reflective mirror film.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Storytime Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½" x 11" cardstock and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

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## ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

### WELCOME AND MUSIC

**Music:** Play one or two upbeat worship songs

### BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

**Large Group Leader:** Hello everybody — it's so, so great seeing you at church today. It makes God so happy when we gather together and learn about His words in the Bible! In just a little bit, we're going to learn about the Bible with the help of Otis the cat.

**Say:** During today's true Bible story, we're going to learn that **God made me special**. That's our Big Idea for the day. Can you say that with me? *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **God made me special**. It's true: **God made us all special**. In fact, that's what our memory verse tells us. Let me teach it to you.

*"How you (point up)  
made me (scrunch hands as if molding clay)  
is amazing and wonderful (put a thumbs up on each word.)  
Psalm 139:14 (extend hands like you're holding a book)."*

**Say:** Let's do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children two or three times.)*

**Music:** Play Worship Song – 2s & 3s SKIP

### STORY TIME RULES

**Say:** Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story-time rules.

**Video:** Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

*(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)*

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## HEY OTIS! INTRO

**Say:** I want to show you something. *(With your hands, scoop up a handful of potting soil from the bag or container.)* Who knows what this is? *(Children answer.)* That's right — it's dirt. Can you think of some things you can do with dirt? *(Take answers.)* Wow — those are some great ideas! I think I'm going to use this dirt to plant a flower. *(Talk through each step to planting the flower. Place dirt in a small pot, make a hole in the dirt, plant a small flower, and add some water.)* There we go! If I put this flower in the sun and keep on watering it, it should grow up big and strong. *(Set flower pot aside and wipe hands with towel.)*

**Say:** There are lots of things we can do with dirt, but do you think we could make a real live person out of dirt? *(Children respond.)* No way! But in today's true Bible story, that's *exactly* what God did! It's the most amazing true story ever! If you're ready to hear that Bible story with Otis, let's say, "Hey Otis!" *(Say with children. Secretly slip your hand into the cat puppet and make Otis come out from behind your other arm.)*

**Say:** Hey, look — it's Otis! Otis loves when kids act out the Bible story. In fact, he likes to copy what you do. Let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box so we can read the story with Otis. *(Move to the Bible Box.)* I need your help getting it out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

**Slide:** Show the "God Made Adam and Eve" slide

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## BIG BIBLE STORY — GOD MADE ADAM AND EVE

**Say:** In the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, God created the whole world in only six days, but He saved His most special creation for last. On Day 6, God created the very first person. *Hey kids, let's pretend like we're shaping something out of dirt. (Pretend.) Now let's say, "Copy that, copycat!" (Say with children, then make Otis copy what the children did.)*

**Say:** God shaped and formed a man out of the dirt. Then He breathed His breath into the man. When God breathed His breath into the man, the man came to life. The man's name was Adam. Can you say that with me? *(Repeat name with children.)* Now let's act like we're climbing a big, tall tree. *(Pretend.)* Now let's say, "Copy that, copycat!" *(Say with children, then make Otis copy what the children did.)*

**Say:** God also created a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. God put Adam in the garden and told him to take care of it. The garden was filled with every kind of tree, and the trees were filled with every kind of delicious fruit. *Let's pretend like we're picking a fruit and eating it. (Pretend.)* Now let's say, "Copy that, copycat!" *(Say with children, then make Otis copy what the children did.)*

**Say:** Next, God brought all of the animals to Adam so that he could give them names. Adam said, *(point in different direction for each animal)* "I'll call you horse. And I'll call you tiger. And I'll call you hippopotamus." The animals were all very nice, but they weren't very good helpers. So God said, "It's not good for Adam to be alone. I will make a helper that is just right for him." *Let's pretend like we're tired and going to sleep. (Pretend.)* Now let's say, "Copy that, copycat!" *(Say with children, then make Otis copy what the children did.)*

**Say:** One day, God caused Adam to fall asleep. While Adam was sleeping, God took one of his ribs. A rib is one of the bones in your side. God used the rib from Adam to make a woman. The woman's name was Eve. Can you say that with me? *(Repeat name with children.)* Now Adam wasn't lonely anymore. Show me your biggest smile. *(Smile with children.)* Adam and Eve were amazing people, in a beautiful garden, with a perfect God who loved them so, so much.

**Say:** Wow — you and Otis did such a great job telling the Bible story! Otis has to leave now. Let's wave to him and say, "Goodbye!" *(As children wave goodbye, make Otis wave back, then discreetly slip him off of your hand and put him away.)*

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## MUSIC AND CLOSING

*(Lead the children in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)*

### Music: Play one worship song

**Say:** God created the whole world in only six days, and it was amazing. Let's look at some of the different things God created. (These are all on slides)

- What's this? *(Point to earth.)* That's right — it's the earth. God created the heavens and earth.
- What's this? *(Point to ocean.)* That's right — it's the ocean. God created the oceans and seas.
- What's this? *(Point to mountain.)* That's right — it's a mountain. God created the land and mountains.
- What's this? *(Point to fish.)* That's right — it's a fish. God created the fish in the oceans and seas.
- What's this? *(Point to bird.)* That's right — it's a bird. God created all of the birds in the sky.
- What's this? *(Point to tiger.)* That's right — it's a tiger. God created all of the animals on the land.

**Say:** God created the earth, and the oceans, and the mountains, and the fish, and the birds, and the animals. God created everything! But do you know what God's most special creation is? *(Turn poster board around to reveal the reflective mirror film.)* It's people! *(Hold it close to the children so they can see their reflection.)* It's you, and you, and you. It's all of us!

**Say:** God created Adam in a special way. He formed him from the dirt, and He breathed His own breath into him. God loves you so, so much. That's why **God made you special.**



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## TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

*(Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1" or, for a non-video option, print out the "Topher's Big Idea Cards" ahead of time and hold up card #1. See the "Topher's Big Idea" document in the Resource Folder for more suggestions on how to perform the non-video option.)*

**Video:** Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1"

**(Whisper.)** Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God made me special**. On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" *(Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.)*

**Topher:** Hey, what's the Big Idea?

**Children and Large Group Leader:** **God made me special.** *(Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.)*

**Topher:** Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. *(Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.)*

**Large Group Leader:** Let's say a prayer together and tell God "thanks" for making us so special. *(Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)*

**Dear God,  
Thank You for loving me  
And making me special.  
Your creation is so amazing.  
How You made me is wonderful!  
Amen.**