

LESSON 1: GOD CREATES US IN HIS IMAGE

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Genesis 1

09/01/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Genesis 1
- In This Passage: God makes the world. God is creative, making all different kinds of plants and animals, birds and fish, and land and sea. Finally, he creates the pinnacle of his creation: humans! He makes people in his own image, so we can be creative, too!
- Bible Point: God is creative...
- Application: ...so we're creative.
- Summary Verse: "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is creative.* Most younger kids think they're creative. But as kids start to age, some get the message that creativity just isn't their thing. Help kids see that they're created in the image of the Creator. God is creative, and that creativity is infused into each of us in different ways.
- Think About: What's the last creative thing you did? What does that show you about God's creativity?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would reveal his creativity to each child as kids consider how he made each of them specifically.

Quick Tip

- Creativity is not just revealed in art and music. It can show up in creative problem-solving, a new idea for how to play a game, or a wild imagination. Look for creativity in your kids this week. Try to affirm each child for how he or she is reflecting God's creativity.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers use their own creative ideas to make scenes of God's creation.

Supplies

- Bible
- blocks or Legos
- craft supplies such as construction paper, pompoms, chenille wire, sequins, foam shapes, and glue
- fabrics in different colors and sizes
- stuffed animals or other toy animals, fish, or bird
- gold foil wrapping paper (available at Walmart and craft stores)
- bell

Easy Prep

- Make a creation station for every 5 to 6 kids.
Make at least 1 creation station per set of supplies: 1 station with blocks or Legos, 1 station with craft supplies, and 1 station with fabrics in different sizes and colors and the stuffed animals. If you have more than 18 kids, make several stations per set of supplies so kids can work in groups of 5 or 6 with 1 set of supplies.
- Cut the gold foil wrapping into 6x6-inch squares, 1 per child.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers pray in their creation scenes.

Supplies

- creation scenes kids built in Core Bible Discovery

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have children shake hands with four friends using the back of their hands.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” in the voice of their favorite cartoon characters.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn that God is creative. That means he makes things. He can make anything. He makes things that are wonderful and wild and big and small and amazing! He even made you and me to be creative. Today we'll learn how God made you and me and the whole world. Let's think about some things we've made.**

Share

- Share about something *you* made that you're proud of. For example, it might be a craft, a meal, or a song you wrote.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share things *they* made that they're proud of. It might be a building they made with blocks or a picture they drew during free time, or it might be something made at home with their parents or siblings.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Each of you is creative—God made you to be creative in the ways you think, move, and make things. God made everything; he's creative. The Bible tells us about all the things God made with his creativity. The Bible shows us how much God loves us and how we can share that love with others. Let's find out more about that as we read the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that he's creative and he made us to be creative, too.



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Easy Prep

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- Cut the gold foil wrapping into 6x6-inch squares, 1 per child.

Tip

- Leave kids' creation scenes in place for use in the Life Application Wrap-Up activity.

Make Creation Scenes

Dim the lights in your room. Say: **Today we're learning that God is creative. That means God can make things. But he doesn't just make simple things. He makes amazing and exciting things! The Bible says he made the whole world, and he even made you and me. God created us, and he made us to be creative, too. God made us in his image. That means God created us to be like him. God is kind to others, and he made us to be kind to others, too. God is brave, and he made us to be brave, too.**

Point out the creation stations. Say: **We can be creative because God made us in his image. Let's use these creation stations to show how God made the whole world.** Invite children to choose a station based on the supplies they want to play with. It's okay if groups aren't even. Your kids may gravitate more toward certain supplies, but try to steer kids into groups of fewer than 10 so there aren't too many kids at a station for everyone to participate.

Have an adult or teen helper join each creation station and help children in the creation process as you tell the Bible story.

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible shows us God is creative.** Read Genesis 1:1. **God made the world. At first it was covered only in water.** Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to make a round world covered only in water. There's no right way for them to create the creation scenes—the idea is to invite preschoolers to be creative,— but adult or teen helpers can help them with ideas about what supplies to use at their stations. Here are some ideas:

- Block or Lego station: Kids might use blue blocks to make a big circle.
- Craft station: Kids might tear a blue sheet of construction paper into a circle. They might work independently, making their own blue circles.
- Fabric station: Kids might lay out a large piece of blue fabric, and bunch the edges to make a circle.

Signal with a bell to let kids know it's time to move on to the next part of the Bible story. Read Genesis 1:3, and then turn on the lights. Read Genesis 1:4-5, and demonstrate night and day by turning the lights on and off a few times.

Say: **God created night and day. And then God separated the sky from the ground.**

Read Genesis 1:9-10. Say: **Next, God made the land and the oceans.** Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to add land to their world. Here are some ideas:

- Block or Lego station: Kids might use brown blocks to add patches of land on top of the water.
- Craft station: Kids might add brown foam shapes over the water they previously created.

- Fabric station: Kids might place small pieces of brown fabric on their water, creating different shapes of “land.”

Signal with a bell to let kids know it’s time to move on to the next part of the Bible story. Say: **God also made the plants we see growing up from the land.** Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to add plants to their scenes. Here are some ideas:

- Block or Lego station: Kids might make trees by stacking several blocks on top of each other.
- Craft station: Kids might bend chenille wires into trees or flowers.
- Fabric station: Kids might bunch brightly colored pieces of fabric to look like flowers or treetops.

Signal with a bell to let kids know it’s time to move on to the next part of the Bible story. Say: **When God looked at the land, water, and plants he made, God said it was good. What you made is good, too. God made you in his image, so you can be creative like him.**

The Bible says God named all these things—he named the day and the night. He named the sky, the land, and the seas. The Bible says God made the stars and moon to light the sky at night, and he made the sun to light the sky during the day. God said all he made was good. Let’s see what good things you can create. Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to add to their creation scenes. Kids might make only a nighttime scene or a daytime scene, or they could create a daytime scene on one side of their world and a nighttime scene on the opposite side of their world. Here are some ideas:

- Block or Lego station: Kids might use yellow blocks to make stars and the moon or the sun.
- Craft station: Kids might use sequins to make stars above their world. They might use a large pompom or a round foam shape for the sun or the moon.
- Fabric station: Kids might make a yellow ball from a yellow piece of fabric for the sun or the moon.

Signal with a bell to let kids know it’s time to move on to the next part of the Bible story. Say: **Your creations look good! When God looked at the stars, sun, and moon he created, he said it was good. God is creative, so we can be creative, too. But God didn’t stop there.** Read Genesis 1:20. Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to add fish and birds to their creation scenes. Here are some ideas:

- Block or Lego station: Kids might put together various Lego pieces to make a bird or a fish. They might also pretend one brightly colored block is a bird and another is a fish. They can make fish faces with their lips and make “tweet” noises with their voices.
- Craft station: Kids might use pompoms to make birds or fish. They might also bend chenille wires.
- Fabric station: Kids might pick out stuffed birds or other toy birds or fish to add to their creation scene.

Signal with a bell to let kids know it’s time to move on to the next part of the Bible story. Say: **God told the fish and birds to multiply. God wanted the birds and fish to have baby birds and baby fish so there would be lots of them. God saw the birds and fish, and he said it was good. I like your creations—they’re good, too. Next, God created the animals on the land.** Read Genesis 1:25. Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to add animals to their creation scenes. They can add the animals in a similar way to how they added the fish and birds.

Say: **Let’s find out what God made after he made the animals.** Read Genesis 1:26-27. **That means God made people. He made boys and girls in his image. He made us to be like him. And because God is creative, we can be creative.** Encourage children to work in their creation station groups to add people to their creation scenes. Here are some ideas:

- Block or Lego station: Kids might put Lego people in their scene.
- Craft station: Kids might make chenille-wire people.
- Fabric station: Kids might be live models for their scene.

Signal with a bell to let kids know it’s time to move on to the next part of the Bible story. Say: **God named the people, and he told them to have families. He wanted there to be lots of people on earth. He made the people rulers over the plants, animals, fish, and birds. And he looked over all he made and said it was good. God is creative, so we’re creative, too.** Encourage each group to show off its creation scene to one other group.

Talk About It

Give each child a square of gold foil. Say: **God is beautiful, kind of like this beautiful, shiny gold square. God gives us light—it’s like he shines and sparkles. He’s kind, loving, patient, strong, and all the other good things in the world. Every good thing comes from him. When God created us...** Begin to shape a square into a heart by crumpling it. **He made us in his image. He put some of himself in us when**

he made us. Because God is kind, when he made us in his image, he put his kindness in us. Because God is creative, when he made us in his image, he put creativity in us.

Show kids how to crumple their gold foil into hearts.



Share about something you think God put in *you*. You might share about how God made you to care about others' feelings or that God made you to be strong so you can help others.

Ask: • **What's something you think God put in you?** Help children think of characteristics of God's that God created in them. They might talk about how they can be helpful because God is helpful or they can listen because God made them to be listeners like he is.

Say: **God is creative. He created you, and he created me! Like this gold paper was formed into a heart, God put his character into us when he made us. He made us in his image. We're made to be like him.**



Supplies

- creation scenes kids built in Core Bible Discovery

Choose a Creation Scene

Gather the children away from the creation scenes. Say: **Today we found out that God is creative and that we can be creative, too! We learned how God created, or made, the whole world, and we made our own creation scenes to show some of the things God made. Let's thank God for creating us right now.**

Encourage the children to choose a creation scene to sit in. If you have adult or teen helpers, ask them to join children in each creation scene.

Thank God

Say: **Look around in your creation scene. God made everything in it, including the friends you're sitting next to! Let's thank God for creating us.** Lead the children in a brief prayer, thanking God for creating the land, the sky, the water, the animals, and each one of the children. (If you have a small group, name each child individually.)

Say: **God is so creative that he even made each of us to be special and unique. We each have special talents and things about us that God gave us, and God likes when we use the special things about us to create new things, too. Let's thank God for making us creative.** Lead children in a brief prayer, thanking God for making each person creative. (If you have a small group, name something special about each child.)

Say: **It's wonderful to have each of you creative kids in church with us today. We hope you'll come back next week!**