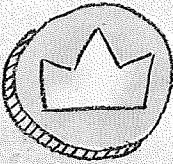


THE GOSPEL

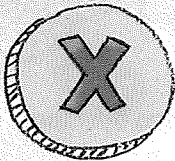
GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



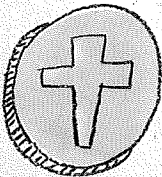
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



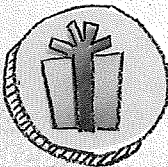
WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



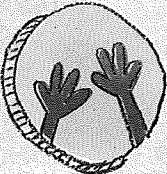
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Bible Study at a Glance



Leader Bible Study

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption.

Preparation

Pray for your kids and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

Pray for your kids

Send a parent e-mail

Print/download printables

Assemble supplies

Prepare videos

Opening Activities

Activity Page

Small Group Opening

Engage kids and introduce the day's Bible story.

Say what?

Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.

Large Group Leader

Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.

Sing

Big Picture Question

Giant Timeline

Key Passage & Bible Skill

Bible Story

Discussion Starter



Suggested times

The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour and fifteen minutes. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

Make it fit

Customize the session plan to fit the needs of your church or classroom.



1 room

- 1) Use the Small Group Opening to welcome kids to Bible study. Kids may work the activity page and/or complete an activity together.
- 2) Transition to an area within your classroom that can be designated as the Large Group Bible story area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the small group area by using a countdown video, or gather around a table as you reinforce the Bible story's main point and Christ connection.



1 or more rooms

- 1) Use the Small Group Opening to welcome kids to Bible study. Kids may work the activity page and/or complete an activity together.
- 2) Use the countdown video or other transition signal as you move your small group to join the other small groups in the large group area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the small group rooms where you will reinforce what the kids learned from the Large Group Leader, review the key passage, and practice Bible skills.



Check out our tips and resources for an additional hour in the Worship Guide!

Unit 1: God the Creator

Unit Description:

In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

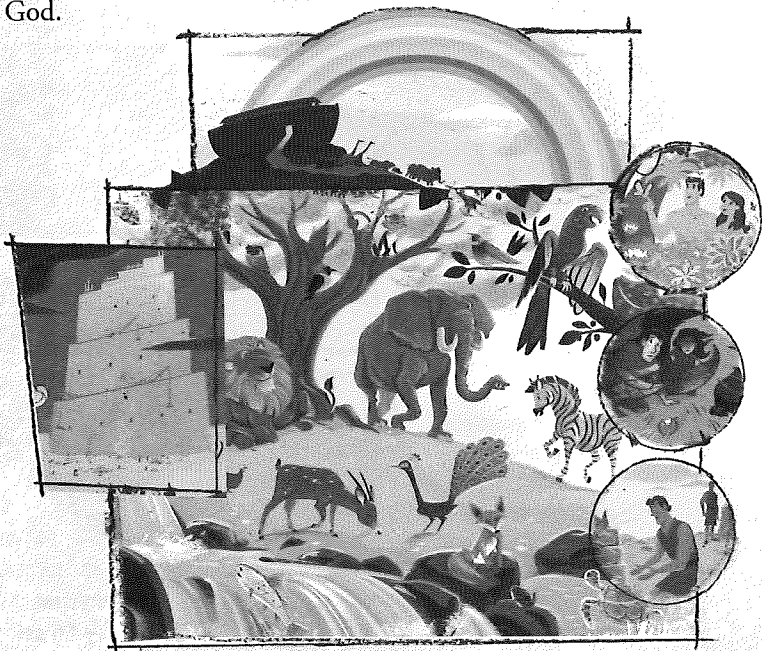
Unit Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions:

Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.



Unit 1: God the Creator

Session 1:

Bible Story:

God Created the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:1-25

Main Point:

God created everything for His glory.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Cain and Abel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

Main Point:

Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

God Created People

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:26-2:25

Main Point:

God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

Noah and the Ark

Bible Passage:

Genesis 6:5-9:17

Main Point:

God is holy, and He punishes sin.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 3:1-24

Main Point:

Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 6:

Bible Story:

The Tower of Babel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 11:1-9

Main Point:

God created people to give glory to Him alone.

God Created the World

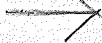
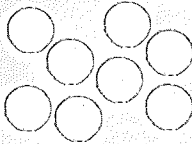
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

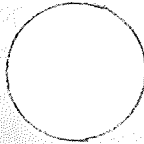
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

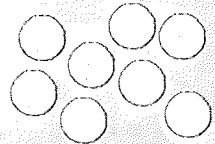
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10-15 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25-30 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25-30 MINUTES)
PAGE 18



Leader BIBLE STUDY

In the beginning, God created everything. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, or “out of nothing.” All of creation began with a word. When God spoke, it happened. Light, land, sky, stars, plants, and animals. God made them all, and they were good. Creation was perfect, just as God intended.

Every story in the Bible is a small piece of a much bigger story—God’s redemptive story. Sin would enter the world and affect everything, but God already knew. He already had a plan to show His grace to people through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9), to rescue and restore. In fact, the Bible says that God’s plan existed before He created the world. (Eph. 1:4-6)

The Bible is the story of how a great God redeemed rebellious people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. The story of Jesus does not begin in a manger. The Son has always existed, and He was present at creation. He is the Word through whom all things were created. (John 1:1-3)

Colossians 1:16-17 says that everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. Through creation, we see and understand God's eternal power and divine nature. (Rom. 1:20)

As you begin teaching kids about creation, help them discover who God is. Remind boys and girls that God created everything with a purpose, to bring Him glory. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands."

The Book of Genesis is the beginning of the greatest story ever told. It is a true story, and at the center of it all is the true hero, our Savior, Jesus Christ. This story changes everything.



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

God Created the World

Genesis 1:1-25

In the 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 there, hovering over the waters.

God spoke. **He said, “Let there be light!”** and what God said happened. Light was created. **God saw that the light was good**, and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light *day*, and He called the darkness *night*. **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the first day of creation.**

God spoke again: “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate them.” What God said happened. He made a space between the water that was on the earth and the water above the earth. **God called the expanse *sky*. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the second day of creation.**

God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” What God said happened. God called the dry land *earth*, and He called the gathered water *seas*. **God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth make plants and trees with fruits and seeds.”** What God said happened. Plants and trees grew, and God saw that it was good. **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the third day of creation.**

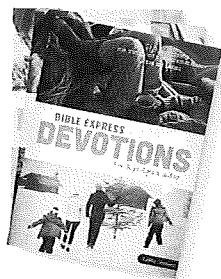
Next, God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to provide light on the

earth, to separate day from night, and to help us track time in days and years. **God saw that it was good. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fourth day of creation.**

Next, God made creatures that move and swim in the water. He made birds to flap their wings and soar across the sky. God saw that it was good. God told the animals to multiply, and they filled the seas and the sky. **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fifth day of creation.**

Then God made more animals—livestock, creatures that crawl, and wildlife to live on the earth. When God said it, it happened. **And God saw that it was good.**

Christ Connection: The Bible says that Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together. (Colossians 1:16-17)



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that everything was made through Jesus and for Jesus.

Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them to share their favorite animals and describe some of the animals' features.

SAY • The earth is filled with all types of living things, like plants and animals. Have you ever wondered where everything came from? Maybe you know the answer. Who created everything? (*God created everything.*)

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Creation Scene Search" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Creation Scene Search" on the activity page. Challenge kids to search the creation scene to discover which two animal examples are not pictured. (*fish, squirrel*) Encourage kids to identify all the animals in the picture.

SAY • How many animals do you think are in the world? Scientists estimate more than 8 million species, or kinds of animals, exist. Every year, researchers discover thousands more! Today we are going to learn about an event that happened long ago: God created the world.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Creation drawings

Form two teams. Invite one player from each team to come to the front of the room. Give each player a marker and explain that you will whisper something that God created. Kids should then draw the creation on the board.

The first team to guess what their teammate is drawing earns a point. (Suggested words: sun, moon, stars, flower, tree, lion, giraffe, owl, and so forth)

SAY • Who created all of the things that you drew? Yes, God created everything! We are going to hear more about the beginning of the world in today's Bible story.

OPTION 2: Creation challenge

Scatter an assortment of construction materials on a table. Allow kids to work all together or form smaller groups.

Explain that kids will have a chance to create. Call out created items one at a time and give kids a couple of minutes to create. Invite kids to share their creations. (Suggested items: sun, star, tree, bird)

SAY • Good try, everyone. Your creations kind of looked like the real things; maybe you didn't have the right supplies. Do you know what God used to make everything? Nothing! That's right. God created everything out of nothing. He spoke, and it happened. Let's find out more.

LOW PREP

- dry erase board or large piece of paper
- markers

- various construction materials: craft sticks, construction blocks, drinking straws, craft feathers, play dough, and so forth
- tape
- glue
- paper
- scissors

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

- room decorations
- theme background slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Create a hot air balloon by positioning a tall laundry hamper at the front of the room. Over the hamper, hang a large balloon or beach ball from the ceiling. Tape four lengths of string between the basket and the sides of the balloon. Decorate the basket with streamers or construction paper. Add exploration props such as a telescope, binoculars, maps, and so forth.

Countdown

- countdown video
- “The Big Story” video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins. Then begin the session by showing the video “The Big Story.”

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- Bible
- backpack
- telescope or binoculars

[Large Group Leader enters carrying a backpack, a telescope or pair of binoculars, and a Bible.]

LEADER • Hi, everyone! I sure am glad you're here. I'm [your name]. Hey, have any of you ever been in a hot air balloon? You can see everything from up there—trees, farms, lakes ... so much of God's creation! This telescope will help us see things that are far away, and this here is the Bible! The Bible is just what we need today as we learn about God's creation. It tells us how all of this got started.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • Let's look at our giant timeline. We are starting here, at the beginning. Did you know that even though the Bible is made up of a lot of different stories, it all tells one big story? That's right. The Bible is the story of how God created everything and how, when we turned away from Him, He brought us back to Himself by sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.

• Giant Timeline

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • So we know that God made everything, but have you ever wondered why? *Why did God create the world?* Any guesses? [Allow kids to respond.] Great ideas. Listen carefully to the Bible story; maybe you will hear the answer! *Why did God create the world?*

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video "God Created the World."

LEADER • Wow! Before God created the world, nothing existed. Nothing, that is, except for ... whom? That's right. God! No one created God. God has always existed. God the Father created everything through His Son. *Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.* That means God created everything to show how awesome He is. Everything God made was good. It was perfect!

I'm going to ask you some questions about the Bible story. Raise your hand if you know the answer.

- Bibles
- "God Created the World" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Ask the following review questions:

1. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
(*He spoke, and it happened; Gen. 1:3*)
2. What did God call the light and darkness?
(*day and night, Gen. 1:5*)
3. What did God make on the third day of creation?
(*earth, seas, plants, trees; Gen. 1:9-13*)
4. What did God create to shine at night?
(*moon and stars, Gen. 1:16*)
5. Was God's creation bad or good?
(*It was good; Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25*)
6. When did God make birds?
(*on the fifth day of creation, Gen. 1:20*)
7. ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.***
8. Who is Lord over all creation? (*Jesus, Col. 1:15*)
9. Who holds everything together?
(*Jesus, God the Son; Col. 1:17*)

Read Colossians 1:15-17 aloud from your Bible.

LEADER • The Bible says that God's Son, Jesus, is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

LEADER • ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*** The Bible says that before God created the world, He knew people would choose not to bring Him glory. [See *1 Pet. 1:20-21.*] The Bible is about God's plan

to send Jesus to earth to fix the relationship between God and people.

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 1 Corinthians 8:6.

LEADER • Jesus is God's Son. Jesus' birth wasn't the beginning of His life; the Son has always existed. He was with God the Father before the world began. The Bible says that He made everything, and He keeps everything from falling apart!

Demonstrate hand motions for key words to help them memorize the first part of the verse. Sample motions:

- *one God*—Hold up your index finger.
- *the Father*—Place the tip of the thumb of your open hand against your forehead.
- *from Him*—Hold out arms and bring them toward yourself as if receiving a gift.
- *for Him*—Move arms away from body as if giving a gift.

LEADER • Wonderful! We will work on the rest of our key passage next week. As we sing our key passage song, try to do the motions when you hear these words.

Sing together "There Is Only One."

• Key Passage Poster
• "There Is Only One"
song

• “Unit 1, Session 1”
discussion starter
video

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

Choose a volunteer to answer the big picture question: *Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*

LEADER • Have you ever looked at something in nature and said, “Oh, wow!”? God made everything so that when we see it, we know how awesome He is. Check out some of the creatures in this video.

Show the “Unit 1, Session 1” discussion starter video. Lead kids to talk about what they saw. Point out that when we see a beautiful painting, we don’t tell the painting, “You’re great!” We tell the artist, “Good job!” Encourage kids to thank God for the beautiful creation they see this week.

Sing (4 minutes)

• “All Creatures of Our
God and King (He Is
Our Gain)” song

LEADER • God’s creation is so amazing. It makes me want to worship Him! Let’s sing praises to God.

Lead boys and girls to sing together “All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain).”

Prayer (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Heavenly Father, Your creation is so wonderful! When we see it, we remember You! You made everything for Your glory. When we enjoy a sunset or admire an animal or feel the cool air on our faces, we give praise to You! Turn our hearts toward You every day. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud together. Then form two groups. Lead the first group in reading a few words of the key passage, and then pause while the second group echoes the first. Repeat until kids say the entire verse.

If your group is large, form three groups and guide the first group to say the phrase loudly, the second group to echo at a normal volume, and the third group to whisper.

SAY • Let's try to memorize this verse over the next few weeks. When we memorize words from the Bible, we remember what is true. This verse tells us about God and creation. **God created everything for His glory.**

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Main Point Poster

Guide kids to sit in a circle. Distribute Bibles and instruct kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Genesis. Explain that the word *genesis* means “the beginning.”

SAY • The Book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It tells us about the beginning of the world, when only God existed. No one created God; He has always existed. The Bible tells us that God created everything! We can read about creation in Genesis 1.

Call out a reference and invite kids to find the verse in their Bibles. For each reference, ask kids to tell what God created.

- Genesis 1:3 (*light*)
- Genesis 1:6-8 (*sky*)
- Genesis 1:9-10 (*earth, seas*)
- Genesis 1:11-12 (*plants, trees*)
- Genesis 1:16 (*sun, moon, stars*)
- Genesis 1:20 (*fish, birds*)

Begin a slow pat-pat-clap-clap-pat-pat-clap rhythm as you teach them a rhyme to remember the days of creation. Pat or clap for each syllable. Kids may pat their legs or the floor.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

“God created on Day 1
He made light where there was none.
God created on Day 2
Space called sky, the sky so blue.
God created on Day 3
Earth and seas and plants and trees.
God created on Day 4
Sun and moon and stars galore!
God created on Day 5
Fish to swim and birds to fly.”

Say the rhyme a few times, encouraging kids to repeat the words after you. Explain that on Day 6, God made more animals and His most special creation of all—people!

SAY • God created everything for His glory. That means that God created everything to show how awesome He is. Have you ever seen a colorful sunset or the patterns on a bug and said, “Wow!”? The next time you enjoy creation, thank God for it; He made it!



LOW PREP

- craft sticks, 5
- markers
- Bible

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Days of creation moves

Write the numbers 1 to 5 on separate craft sticks. Hold the sticks in your hand, covering the numbers.

Instruct kids to form a large circle. Walk around the circle and choose a volunteer to pull one of the sticks from your hand. The volunteer should announce the number to the group and then give a physical task the group should do that number of times. For example, one push-up, two sit-ups, three squats, four twirls, or five jumping jacks.

Then call on a kid to name something God created on the corresponding day of creation. Refer to the following verses to check kids' answers. (*Day 1, see Gen. 1:1-5; Day 2, see Gen. 1:6-8; Day 3, see Gen. 1:9-13; Day 4, see Gen. 1:14-19; Day 5, see Gen. 1:20-25*)

Play again, allowing another volunteer to pull a stick.

SAY • Good job, everyone! Can anyone tell me why God created the sun? Why did God make the stars? Or fish? Yes, **God created everything for His glory.**

OPTION 2: Wonders of creation

Print and cut apart the creation cards. Arrange chairs in a circle, one per kid, and tape the cards under separate chairs.

Instruct kids to walk in a circle around the chairs.

Explain that you will read a fact. When you finish, everyone should sit in a chair. Then guide kids to look under their chairs. If a kid finds the creation card described by the fact, he should hold up the card and exclaim, "Wow!"

Invite him to show the rest of the group what is on his card. Guide the rest of the kids to return their cards under their chairs. Play again with the remaining facts.

- "Creation Cards" printable
- tape

1. This type of energy travels faster than anything else. (*Day 1, light*)
2. This might look red, orange, purple, or yellow; but most of the time it looks blue. (*Day 2, sky*)
3. More than 20,000 types of these exist in the world—have you ever seen an evergreen, cottonwood, maple, or elm? (*Day 3, trees*)
4. No one has ever counted them, but experts estimate our galaxy is home to about 300 billion of these. (*Day 4, stars*)
5. An albatross is a type of this animal. It can travel thousands of miles without stopping. (*Day 5, bird*)
6. These creatures include giraffes, elephants, lions, and turtles. (*Day 6, wildlife*)

Option: Research additional facts to extend play.

SAY • Wow! Isn't God's creation wonderful? He made all of these things out of nothing! When God spoke, it happened. **God created everything for His glory.**

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Invite kids to write on their journal pages about something they enjoy from God's creation. Kids may also draw pictures of things God created.

SAY • **God made everything for His glory.** He made everything to show how awesome He is. Let's pray and thank God for His creation.

Lead kids in a short prayer. Thank God for the beauty of His creation, and praise Him for His creativity.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Big Question" on the activity page. Kids will unscramble the words to answer the big picture question. (*Answer: **God created the world and everything in it for His glory.***)

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "The Big Question" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.