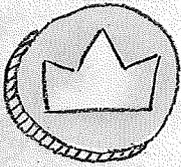


THE GOSPEL

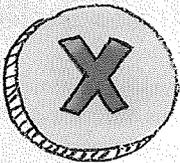
GOD'S PLAN for PRESCHOOLERS

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help little minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



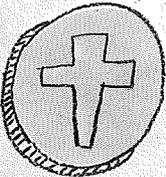
GOD IS KING.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



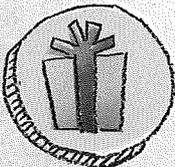
WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



GOD SENT JESUS.

Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.



JESUS LOVES.

Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.

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 preschoolers and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

- Pray for your preschoolers
- Send a parent e-mail
- Print/download printables
- Assemble supplies
- Prepare videos

Small Group Opening

Engage preschoolers and introduce the day's Bible story.

Activity Page

Opening Activities

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.

- Bible Story
- Giant Timeline
- Big Picture Question
- Key Passage
- Sing

 **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 preschoolers to Bible study. Preschoolers 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. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



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 preschoolers learned from the Large Group Leader. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



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

Unit 1: God the Creator

Unit Description:

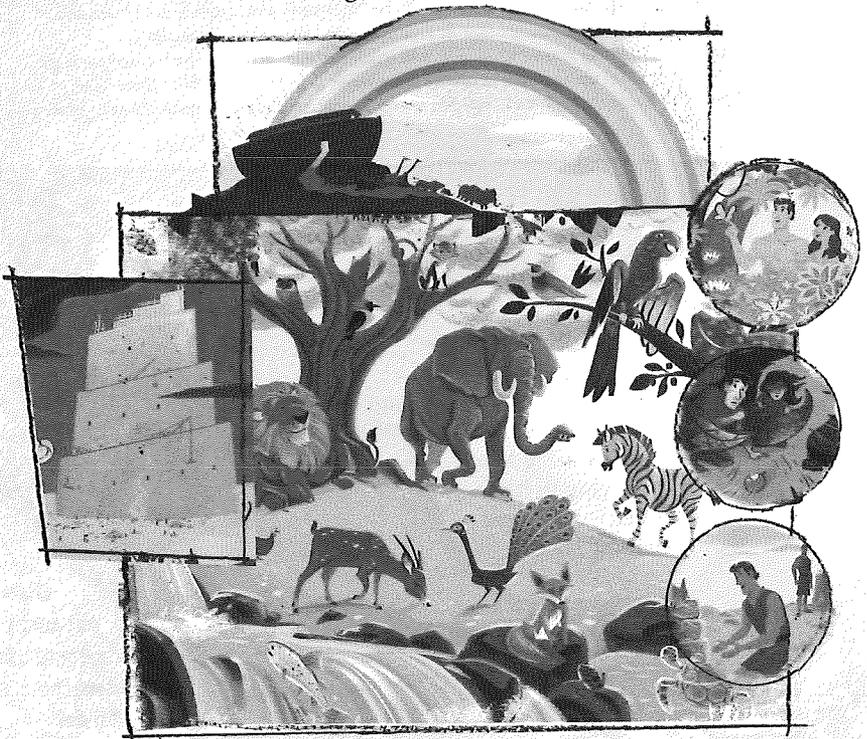
In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

Unit Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions:

Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.



Unit 1: God the Creator

Session 1:

Bible Story:

God Created the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:1-25

Main Point:

God created everything.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

God Created People

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:26-2:25

Main Point:

God created people in His own image.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 3:1-24

Main Point:

Adam and Eve sinned.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Cain and Abel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

Main Point:

God punished Cain for his sin.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

Noah and the Ark

Bible Passage:

Genesis 6:5-9:17

Main Point:

God is holy.

Session 6:

Bible Story:

The Tower of Babel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 11:1-9

Main Point:

God created people to give Him glory.

God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything.

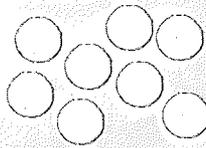
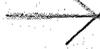
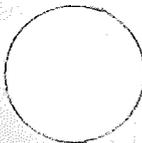
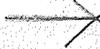
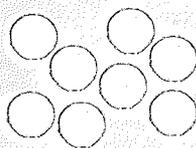
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10

LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 12

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 14



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)

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve fruit such as sliced apples, oranges, or bananas. Talk about how God created plants and trees to provide food for us to eat.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of something God created. Pray for the children.

SAY • Thank You, God, for creating this beautiful world for us to enjoy. You are our Creator. There is no one like You. Help us to remember how amazing You are as we enjoy Your creation. We love You. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:26–2:25

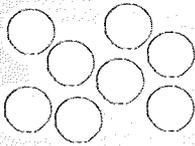
MAIN POINT: God created people in His own image.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

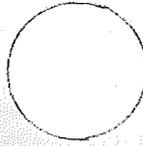
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

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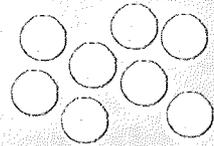
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 22



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 24



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 26



Leader BIBLE STUDY

On the sixth day of creation, God created man in His own image. God formed the man out of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Gen. 2:7) Man was set apart as different from the rest of God's creation. God did not breathe into the animals. He skillfully formed man out of dust as a potter forms a pot out of clay. (See Isa. 64:8.)

God sustained the man. He planted a garden in Eden and put the man there to work it and keep it. (Gen. 2:8,15) Then God gave the man a command. God told the man, "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Then God explained the consequences, "For on

the day you eat from it, you will certainly die” (Gen. 2:17).

Then God made woman from the man’s rib. She was a suitable helper for him. Both man and woman were created in God’s image. The first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, lived in the garden and enjoyed God’s friendship.

We know Adam and Eve did not keep the command God gave, and their disobedience brought sin into the world. For that reason, God sent His Son, Jesus—“the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15) and “the exact expression of His nature” (Heb. 1:3). God the Son became fully man, acting as the second Adam, to bring life to those who are in Him. (See 1 Cor. 15:45-49.)

As you teach preschoolers this week, help them understand that being made in God’s image means we are made like Him, or patterned after Him. God does not have a physical body; He is Spirit, and He has given each of us a spirit. God gives people the ability to think and to feel emotions and to make choices. He gives us the ability to understand right and wrong.

Emphasize that God made people different than anything else He created. God created people in His own image (Gen. 1:26) and for His glory (Isa. 43:7).



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 People

Genesis 1:26-2:25

God had created the world! He made the sun, the sky, plants and trees, and many kinds of animals. **But God was not finished yet!** The next thing God created was the most special of all. **On Day 6 of creation, God made people.**

God made a man out of the dust on the ground. He made the man come to life, and **the man's name was Adam.** **God made people different than anything else He made.** **God made people in His own image.** **God also made a garden,** and He put Adam in the garden. God gave Adam a job. **He told Adam to work in the garden and take care of it.**

God gave Adam food from the trees so he could eat. The food looked so good. **God told Adam that he could eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.** In the garden was a tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **God warned Adam, "If you eat from that tree, you will die."**

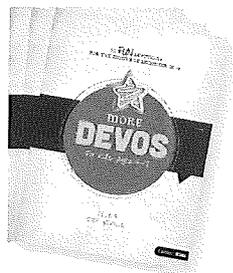
Now **God was not done** creating. He looked at Adam. Adam was all alone. **"It is not good for the man to be alone," God said.** So God decided to make a helper for Adam. God brought to Adam the animals He had created, and Adam gave the animals special names. But these animals did not make good helpers for Adam.

So God made Adam fall fast 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 gave Adam and Eve good things. He put them in

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

Christ Connection: God created people in His own image. Adam was like God in some ways, but he was not exactly like God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to show us exactly what God is like. (Colossians 1:15) Jesus is exactly like God because He is God. (Hebrews 1:3)



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God created the first man, Adam, in His image. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:26–2:25

MAIN POINT: God created people in His own image.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

Welcome

- “God Makes Everything” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Most Special Creation” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschoolers to circle the largest item in each column and to draw a square around the smallest item in each column.

SAY • God made many different things when He created the world. He made plants and animals of all different shapes and sizes, but God didn’t stop there. What God created last was His most special creation of all! Can you guess what God made last? You can see the answer on your activity page. We are going to hear more in today’s Bible story.

A little help, please

Provide a paper napkin for each child. Invite preschoolers to move around while balancing paper napkins on their heads. If a child’s napkin falls, she must stand in place and call out, “A little help, please!” Another child may pick up her



- paper napkins

napkin and place it back on her head. She may then resume play. Play as time allows.

SAY • Thank you for helping! God created the first man in today's Bible story. God said it wasn't good for the man to be alone, so God made a helper for the man. Let's find out who the first man's helper was.

Finish it up!

Provide several half-completed tasks for children to finish.

- Set out some toys and put some in a bin. Invite children to finish putting the toys in the bin.
- Draw a circle on a piece of paper. Ask a preschooler to finish drawing the face.
- Set out lacing cards. Lace the cards halfway and invite preschoolers to complete lacing the cards.
- Build a small tower with blocks. Guide preschoolers to finish the tower.
- Write or draw on a dry erase board and erase half of it. Encourage a child to finish erasing the board.

SAY • In our last Bible story, we learned that God created the world, but God was not finished yet. Let's find out what else God created. Here's a hint: What God made next was His most special creation of all!

- toys
- toy bin
- paper
- crayons or markers
- lacing cards
- yarn or string
- blocks
- dry erase board
- dry erase markers
- dry eraser

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Tell preschoolers that in today's Bible story we will learn that it is not good to be alone all the time. Invite them to find a friend to go to Bible study with them.

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:26–2:25

MAIN POINT: God created people in His own image.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

Introduce the Bible story

Invite preschoolers to find their ribs by pressing on their side above their stomach.

SAY • We cannot see our ribs because they are inside us, but we can feel them. In our Bible story today, we will hear about the very first man and an amazing thing God did with one of his ribs!

Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Genesis 1.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book in the entire world! The Bible has God’s words in it. Everything in the Bible is true. Today’s Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Show the Bible story video “God Created People,” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • God made people. People are the most special thing God made. **God created people in His own image.** That means people are like God in some ways. People can think and make choices. People can be happy or sad. Those are all things that God can do. People are not exactly

- Bible
- “God Created People” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

like God, though. People are not as powerful or as smart as God. Also, God always does what is right and best, and people do not. There is one person who is exactly like God. That person is God's Son, Jesus. Jesus shows us exactly what God is like because He is God.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What did God make from the dust of the ground? (*a man*)
2. What was the first man's name? (*Adam*)
3. What did God make from Adam's rib? (*a woman*)
4. What was the first woman's name? (*Eve*)
5. What did God say when He looked at everything He made? (*It was very good.*)

Big picture question

SAY • Let's say our big picture question and answer. *Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.* Everything in the world shows how awesome and fantastic God is. When we look at the sky or our pets or our mommies or daddies, we can say, "Thank You, God!"

• Big Picture Question Poster

Key passage

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 8:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "There Is Only One."

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

SAY • **God created people in His own image**, but there is only one God. Our key passage tells us that.

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:26–2:25

MAIN POINT: God created people in His own image.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

Draw faces on mirrors

- unbreakable mirrors
- dry erase markers
- dry erasers

Provide an unbreakable mirror for each child. Invite children to use dry erase markers to draw a face on a mirror.

SAY • When you look in a mirror, what you see is called your image. You are not inside the mirror. You are right here! The mirror shows us what you look like. Our image in the mirror reminds us that **God created people in His own image**. God created us to show what He is like, but we are only like God in some ways. Jesus is like God in every way because Jesus is God! Jesus shows us exactly what God is like.

Dust the room

- dust rags
- feather dusters
- toy vacuums (optional)

Provide clean dust rags or feather dusters. Invite preschoolers to dust different areas of the room. If available, provide toy vacuums for preschoolers to use.

SAY • God made Adam out of the dust on the ground. Dust is so small, sometimes we cannot even see it. Most of the time, dust is something we don't want. That's why we wipe it away. **God created people in His own image**, using something as tiny and unimportant as dust. God is good at using things that seem unimportant to do amazing things!

Move and rest

Guide preschoolers to complete different movements and actions while you count to seven. Preschoolers should continue the action while you count. When you reach seven, say “rest.” Children should stop what they are doing and rest. Use the following actions or create your own:

- Run in place.
- Jump up and down.
- Wiggle.
- March in place.
- Do jumping jacks.

SAY • On Day 6 of creation, **God created people in His own image.** Every time I counted to seven, we rested. On Day 7 of creation, God rested from His work because He had made everything He planned to make. God looked at everything He had made, and it was very good!

Play out the story

Lead preschoolers to play out the story of Adam and Eve using the following script and actions:

- God made a man out of the dust on the ground. [*Pretend to scoop up dust from the ground.*]
- God made Adam come to life. [*Squat down and pop up.*]
- God said it was not good for Adam to be alone. [*Shake your head as if saying no.*]
- God decided to make a helper for Adam, so God made Adam fall asleep. [*Lay on the ground and pretend to be asleep.*]
- God took one of Adam’s ribs, and He created a woman. [*Touch your side where your ribs are.*]

- Adam woke up. [*Pretend to wake up.*]
- Adam saw the woman, and he was happy! [*Jump up and down and clap.*]

Play through the script and actions several times moving faster each time. Have fun trying to see how quickly preschoolers can complete all the actions.

SAY • Isn't it amazing how God created people? He could have just said, "Let there be a man and woman," like He did for all the other things He created, but He decided to do something different and special. **God created people in His own image.** God always has the best ideas!

Most special of all

- bins
- sets of identical items

Provide several different bins, each one filled with one type of identical items. Select items that are the same size or color. You may choose to use blocks, feathers, craft sticks, chenille stems, pom-poms, or other items you have readily available.

In each bin, bury one additional item that is different from the other items (brown chenille stems with one gold chenille stem, for example).

Invite preschoolers to dig through each bin, looking for the special item. Allow preschoolers to take turns burying and uncovering the special items in each bin.

SAY • People are God's most special creation. They are different from anything else that God made. **God created people in His own image.** Only people are made in God's very own image.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve animal crackers for snack. Talk about how Adam gave the animals special names. But these animals did not make good helpers for Adam. God created a woman to be Adam's helper.

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of someone God created. Pray for the boys and girls.

SAY • Thank You, God, for being our Creator. You made us in Your image to show how awesome and wonderful You are! There is no one like You. Help us to remember how amazing You are as we enjoy Your creation. We love You. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayon
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*