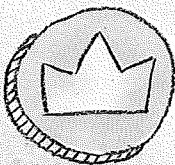


THE GOSPEL

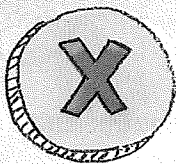
GOD'S PLAN for US

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.



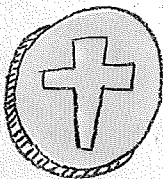
GOD RULES.

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.



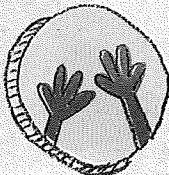
GOD PROVIDED.

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.

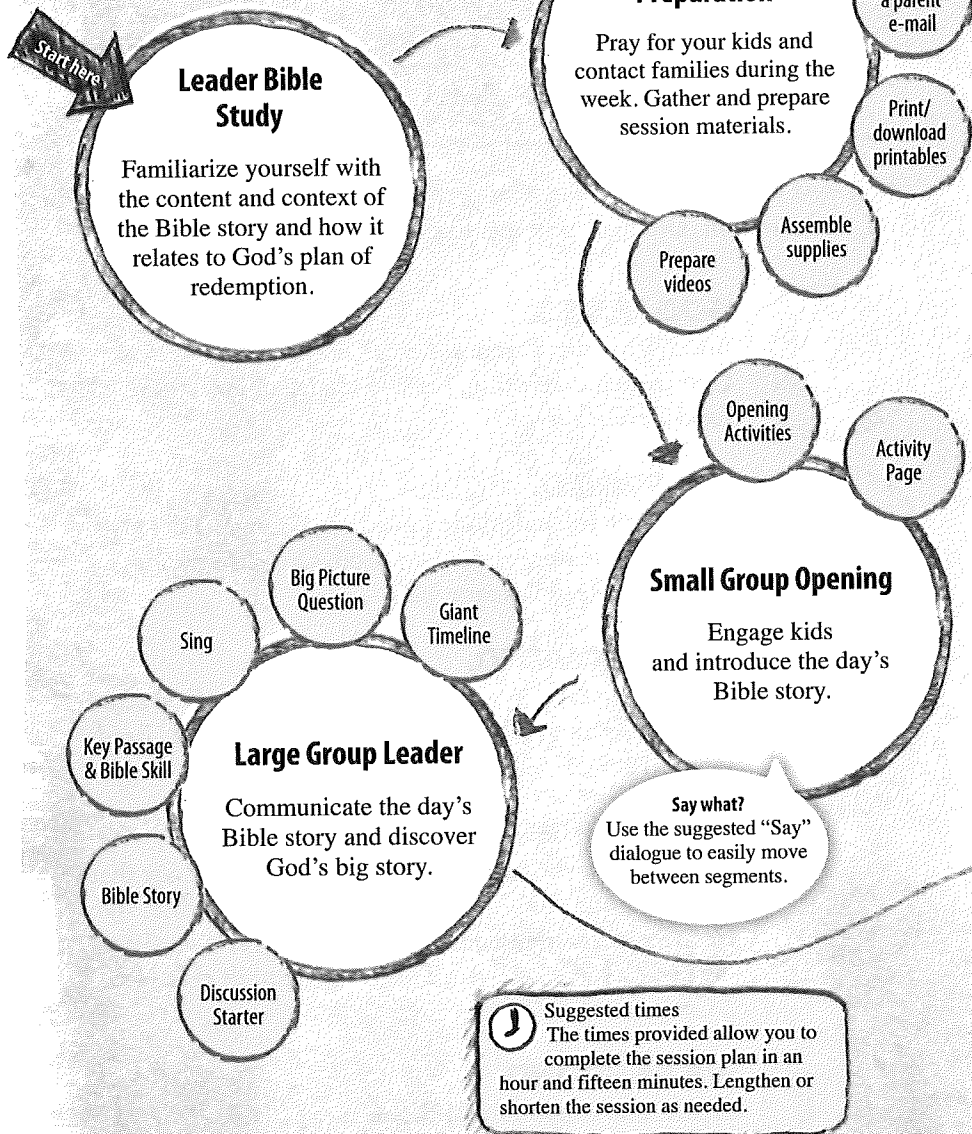
Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



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



Make it fit

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



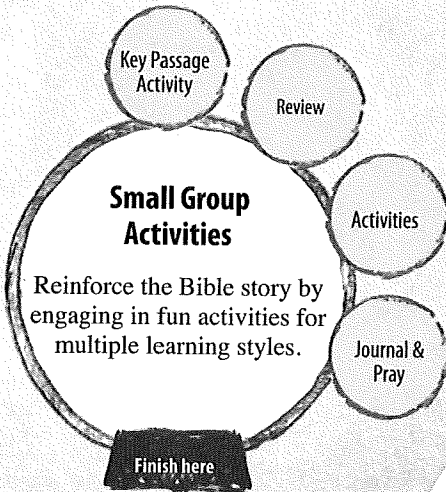
1 room

- 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.

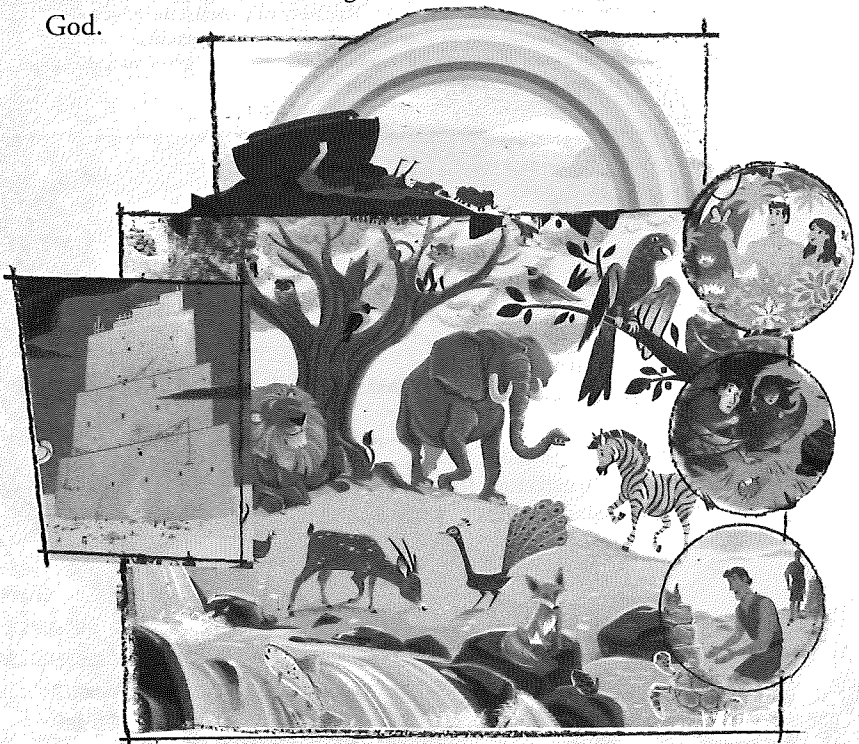
Unit Key Passage:

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 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 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 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 5:

Bible Story:

Noah and the Ark

Bible Passage:

Genesis 6:5-9:17

Main Point:

God is holy, and He punishes sin.

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

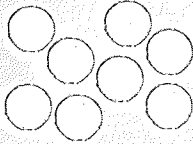
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

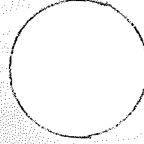
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

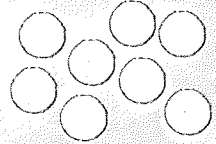
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



SMALL GROUP LEADER
(25–30 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)

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.**

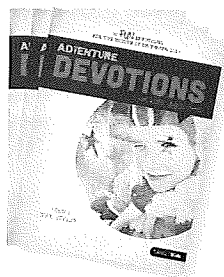
Next, God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to provide light on the

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
ADVENTURE!**

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.

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

ARRIVING ACTIVITY: Do what I say

- index card
- marker

Write the main point on an index card and hide it in the room. Guide kids to stand around the room. Explain that you will give instructions that will lead them to find the main point. Tell kids to listen carefully and do what you ask them to do, or they will have to sit down where they are. Give kids instructions like “Turn left and hop four times.” Lead them all around the room with your instructions before guiding them to the card. When the kids reach the card, ask them to read the main point aloud.

SAY • Did you know that God created everything by just speaking it? He said what should happen, and it did. You listened to my voice and found the main point. God is so powerful that when He spoke, He created everything!

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

- “Creation Maze” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

SAY • Today we will learn how God created everything for His glory. He did this over six days. The maze that you completed shows us on what day God created each thing.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Story-go-round

Guide kids to sit in a circle. Explain that kids will tell a story by saying one sentence and then pointing to another child to add another sentence. Begin a story with “Once upon a time there was a boy [*girl!*] ... ” and point to a child, leading her to add the next sentence. Continue until each child who wants to participate has had a chance to do so.

SAY • Do you like stories? Today, we are going to read the first story in the Bible. It’s a true story. Even from the very beginning, God had a plan for us to be a part of that story! God created us—and all of creation—so that He would be glorified with our lives.

OPTION 2: Out of nothing

Form groups of four to six kids. Give each group a bag of supplies. Explain that groups will work together to create different items from the supplies. Challenge groups to build the tallest tower or the strongest bridge. Choose a winner with each assignment. Be mindful of how much time you have and use a timer to limit time for each build.

- bags, 1 per group
- newspapers
- tape
- child-sized scissors
- rocks
- other random craft materials
- timer

Pretend to pour the contents from an empty bag.

SAY • Could you create something out of nothing just by talking? God is so powerful that He created everything just by speaking it into existence. **God created everything for His glory.** How do you feel when you look at something beautiful that God has created? We can praise God for all the wonderful things He has made!

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.

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 large hot air balloon by draping a sheet over a large exercise ball and attaching a basket with rope. Add a backdrop of a rolling hills and a blue sky. Add artificial trees and props used in travel like suitcases or passports to the scene.

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. You may also choose to show the video “The Big Story” during this time to help kids get a glimpse of where they are in the chronology of Scripture.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

[Large Group Leader enters, carrying an old suitcase.]

- old suitcase filled with poorly made crafts

LEADER • Hello, my friends! Can anyone tell me about something that they have made that they were very proud of? I made all of this. *[Open the suitcase and spill the contents onto the floor.]* Aren't they glorious? I love making crafts, and I'm pretty great at it. Wouldn't you agree? I even made this hot air balloon *[Point to the balloon.]* with a little help *[under breath]* or a lot of help.

Today we are going to read about the best Creator from the very beginning of the story God has given

us in Genesis 1. God created everything that we can see—and even things that we can't—by simply speaking them into being!

Giant timeline (2 minute)

LEADER • We are at the very beginning of time as we know it. [*Point to beginning of the giant timeline.*] God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit were not created but have always existed. That's pretty hard for my brain to understand, but I know it's true!

The story of creation is the first story in the Bible, and it is the beginning of God's great story that He has written for us! **God created everything for His glory.** How do you think we can give God glory? We can give God glory by pleasing Him with our lives. The story that begins with creation continues throughout history, and even you are a part of it!

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • **God created everything for His glory.** We can praise Him for all the beautiful, glorious, detailed things that He created by singing together.

Sing together "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)."

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

Key passage (4 minutes)

LEADER • God created everything just by speaking it into existence. He is the one true God, and we exist for Him! After all, He created us! Our key passage is from 1 Corinthians 8:6. Can you find it in your Bible? Let's say it together.

Show the slide or poster of the key passage,

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

1 Corinthians 8:6. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse. Then sing together “There Is Only One.”

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • God created everything in the world—everything that we see and even things we don’t see! He created the sun and the wind and the mountains and the beach and flamingos and bears and even fish that haven’t even been discovered yet that live in the deepest parts of the ocean! Why do you think God did all of this? ***Why did God create the world?*** That’s a good question. Let’s see if we can find out using God’s Word.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

LEADER • Turn in your Bible to Genesis 1. It is at the very beginning of the Bible. Let’s find out more about what God created and why. Listen closely for the answer to the big picture question, ***Why did God create the world?*** Let’s also listen for the words, “It was good.” Each time you hear “It was good,” shake your hands in the air.

Show the video or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

LEADER • God didn’t create a boring world of black and white. He created a beautiful, fascinating world! He gave us all different kinds of plants and animals to enjoy, and all the details that He put into them teach us about God. **God created everything for His glory.** God is powerful and creative, and He wants all of His creation to point us to praise Him! ***Why did***

- Bibles
- “God Created the World” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster

God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory. Let's review our story.

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did God create on the first day of creation?
(the heavens and the earth, and day and night, Genesis 1:1-5)
2. What did God create on the second day of creation?
(sky, Genesis 1:6-8)
3. What did God create on the third day of creation?
(land and seas, plants, trees, Genesis 1:9-13)
4. What did God create on the fourth day of creation?
(sun, stars, moon, Genesis 1:14-19)
5. What did God create on the fifth day of creation?
(creatures in the water and birds, Genesis 1:20-23)
6. What did God create on the sixth day of creation?
(animals, Genesis 1:24-25)
7. How did God create all things? *(He spoke and they were created; Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24)*
8. What did God think of His creation? *(It was good; Genesis 1:10,12,18,21,25)*
9. ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.***

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Have you ever considered how detailed God's creation is? Let's watch our video.

Show the "Unit 1, Session 1" video.

LEADER • Wow! God is so creative! He made every animal so different and interesting! What was most interesting to you? What are some things God made that you might see each day that can remind you to praise Him? ***Why did God create the world? God***

• "Unit 1, Session 1"
discussion starter
video

created the world and everything in it for His glory. We can respond to all that God created by giving Him glory, or praise, for it! This week, take time to praise God for what you see in His creation.

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

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. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)

Show the big picture question poster.

- playground balls, 1 per row
- Big Picture Question Poster

LEADER • What is the answer to the big picture question?

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

Guide kids to sit in rows. Give the first kid in each row a playground ball. Ask him to say the first word of the question and pass the ball. The next kid will say the next word before passing the ball. Continue until the question and the answer are completed. If the ball reaches the end of the row before question and answer is finished, the last kid should reverse the direction. The first row to finish wins.

Before transitioning to small groups, make any necessary announcements. Lead kids in prayer. Praise God for the great gift He has given through His creation. Ask God to help each child be thankful to Him when enjoying the beauty of creation.

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.

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
- paper plates
- markers
- jump rope
- hula hoop

Make sure the key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6, is visible for each child, either as the printed poster or written on a dry erase board. Read the verse together.

SAY • Our key passage says the everything that exists comes from God—including us! God made you and me for Himself. He wants us to live for Him. **God created everything for His glory.** Also Jesus is Lord over everything, and He gives us life!

Write the words of the key passage on paper plates and hide them around the room. Create two sets, using two different-colored markers to differentiate between the two sets.

Form two teams and assign each team a color. Place a jump rope on the ground and explain that each team will make a straight line starting behind the jump rope. Teams will take turns sending one player to look for plates until all are found. After the plates are found, designate one child from each team to hold the hula hoop a few feet from the jump rope. Guide each player to toss the paper plate through the hula hoop in the order of the verse, reading the word aloud as a team as each plate is tossed.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Encourage the kids to find Genesis 1 in their Bibles.

SAY • Where is the Book of Genesis located in the Bible? (*the first book*) Who wrote Genesis? (*Moses*) Moses wrote the Pentateuch, or the Law, which are the first five books of the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. God chose people to write down the message He gave them.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline
- paper
- tape

Use the small group timeline to show kids today's Bible story. Point to the first picture. Explain that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit have always existed. (See John 1:1-4.) God did not begin at the beginning of the timeline because He has always been and always will be. God is eternal. Our timeline begins when God created everything for His glory. Write the numbers 1-6 on separate sheets of paper and tape them around the room.

As you review the Bible story, ask kids to stand by the number that indicates what day of creation you are speaking about. Ask them to take a pencil with them so that they can list on that sheet of paper some of the things that God created on that specific day.

Read the story provided using the bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words. Pause in the story as you mention each day, giving kids time to write on each numbered sheet of paper. After finishing the story, challenge kids to go to one of the numbered sheets and write today's main point on it.

Show the main point slide or poster.

SAY • God created everything in six days, and it was all very good! **God created everything for His glory.**