



LESSON 1

**CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1-2

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** God creates the world and everything in it. His most precious creation is people, who He created in His image to look after the earth and to be in relationship with Him.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Happy Day, My God
- God's Big Story: Creation
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1–2

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

When you look in the mirror, what do you notice? Is it your flaws? Maybe a new wrinkle or pimple (or two)? Perhaps like me, you try to avoid the mirror at all costs or, at other moments, obsessively look at it to make sure your hair, your clothes, or your shoes reflect who you want to be.

In 2020, the global fashion industry was worth an estimated \$1.5 trillion, making it the fourth largest industry in the world! Have you ever wondered why we care so much about how we appear physically? Perhaps it's because image is a big deal, and we've simply forgotten who we were created to look like!

Read Genesis 1–2. What do you find in this passage that stands out to you? What did God say when He created Adam and Eve? God made us in His image—to represent God, follow His direction, and care for His creation.

What would the world be like if we lived in the confidence that we are all uniquely created in God's image instead of trying to maintain our own images? How would we treat one another? What do you think keeps us from living this way?

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

The “who” in Genesis 1–2 is God. The Bible makes it clear that God is the One who brings all things to life. And the high point of His creation is humanity—Adam and Eve, the first two people. They represent God’s image.

**WHAT?**

Genesis 1–2 shows the depth and breadth of God’s creation. From darkness to light, from tiny insects to great sea creatures, God created them all. In His good world, all is beautiful and as it’s meant to be.

**WHERE?**

Everywhere! This is the big story of the creation of the whole world. God placed Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden, near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Genesis 2:10–14). This places Eden in modern-day southern Iraq in the region of Mesopotamia.

**WHEN?**

The Bible tells us this happened “in the beginning” (Genesis 1:1). The main point is that God created everything according to His purpose. Genesis 1 focuses on the big picture of creation, and Genesis 2 zooms in on the care God put into creating humanity.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:**

In the beginning, there was no sin or suffering. The world was beautiful, and humanity walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin marred creation and people’s relationship with God. God promises to one day restore all things. All who trust in Jesus will be made new, and sin and suffering will be no more.

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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## Welcome

**Slide: Series Welcome Loop**

### As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

**Video: Countdown**

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

**RESOURCES:** Tac the Cat puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet. Introduce the kids to Tac the curious cat.

**Leader:** You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

**Tac the Cat:** Hi, kids! I have something I've been curious about ... Do you want to guess what it is? It's something very tall.

**Leader:** A building?

**Tac the Cat:** No, it's something that grows outside.

**Leader:** Oh, trees?

**Tac the Cat:** Close, but these are a little smaller than trees and bright yellow. It's a type of flower. Some birds like to eat their seeds!

**Leader:** Oh, I know—a sunflower!

**Tac the Cat:** Yes, that's what I'm curious about! Sunflowers! How do they grow so big without falling over?

**Leader:** Sunflowers are fun to look at. They make me smile! They grow big and tall because they have a thick stem and roots that go down into the dirt that help them stand up straight and tall. They're an amazing creation that God made.

**Tac the Cat:** God made sunflowers?

**Leader:** Yes, God made all the plants and animals in the earth. We'll learn all about it in God's big story today!

**Tac the Cat:** I love sunflowers. I love all the flowers! Kids, do you have a favorite plant that God created? *(Allow the kids to respond.)*

**Leader:** There are so many wonderful things that God made. He created the sun and moon, the mountains and oceans, the trees and bushes, apple trees and blueberry bushes, roses and sunflowers. He created every animal. What's your favorite animal?

**Tac:** Mine is pretty clear ... cats! Kids, do you have a favorite animal that God created? *(Allow the kids to respond.)* I can't wait for this story! I'm going to go pick some flowers now. See you later!

**Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What things in nature are you curious about?** Allow the kids to respond. **There are lots of things in nature that we can be curious about. What's the prettiest thing in nature that you've ever seen?** Allow the kids to respond. **In today's God's big story, we'll hear about how God created all the flowers and animals. Not only that—He created you and me extra special!**

**Today's Wonder Truth is GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE. Today we'll discover how God made us in His image!**

## Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

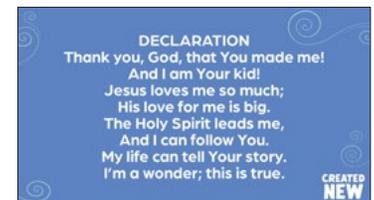
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for making each of us special and unique. Thank You for making us in Your image. Help us reflect Your love to everyone we see today. Help us hear from You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

**Today we'll learn about how God made us in His image. Let's sing and think about how God created us!**

Play Happy Day, My God and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible, and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found—at the beginning in Genesis.

**Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Today we are learning about how God created people in a special and loving way. Watch how God made humans in His image and gave them a purpose from the very beginning. As you watch, think about what it means that God made you on purpose and loves you exactly as you are.**

Watch the God's Big Story Video

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** tape, shatter-proof mirror

**RESOURCES:** [Days of Creation Sheets \(1 set/LG\)](#)

Before kids arrive, print and hang up the Days of Creation Sheets in different spots around the room by taping them to the wall. Place a mirror next to the Day 6 picture.

**Today as we hear the story, we'll look at numbers to figure out where we should go. Can you find a picture with a number one on it?** Allow the kids to respond. **Let's all stand up and walk quietly to the Day 1 picture.**

**The first book in the Bible is Genesis. It tells the start of God's big story. God's big story is about how He loves and wants to be close with His people. In the very beginning, God created everything. First, everything was dark.**

**God said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). And light came. God created the first day and night.**

**Let's see if we can look around the room and find a number two. There it is! Let's all stand up and walk to the Day 2 picture. What kind of things do you see in this picture?** Allow kids to respond. **On day two, God created the sky above and the water below.**

**Do you see the number three picture?** Have the kids follow you over to the Day 3 picture. **What do you see in our picture that was created on day three?** Allow kids to respond. **On day three, God separated the water from the dry ground, and He covered the land with all kinds of plants and trees. Can you name a type of plant?** Allow the kids to respond.

**Now, where is the Day 4 picture?** Allow kids to find the picture and then have them travel to the image with you and sit down. **Do you know what these pictures are?** Pause for responses. **On the fourth day, God made the planets and stars in the sky. Have you ever looked up at the sky at night and noticed all the stars?** Allow the kids to respond.

**Where is our Day 5 picture?** Invite kids to find the Day 5 picture and have them travel over to it with you and sit down. **What do we see on our Day five picture?** Allow for answers. **On day five, God created all the birds that fly in the sky and all the fish and other creatures that live in the seas. What kinds of birds or fish and water creatures have you seen?** Allow the kids to respond.

**Do you see our Day 6 picture? Let's walk over to our Day 6 picture and sit down. What do you see on our Day 6 picture?** Allow the kids to name the different animals and bugs on their picture. **On the sixth day, God created all the animals and insects and creatures that live on dry land. Other than the animals and insects, what else is in our picture?** Pause for answers. **Yes, there are two people in our picture.**

**Also on the sixth day, God created humans. God made the first two humans in His image. That means people show what God is like. Look in this mirror and tell me what you see ...** (Hold up the mirror and invite kids to look into it and respond.) **You see a reflection of yourself! God made people to reflect Himself.**

**God made one man and one woman to look after the world. He made people so He could know and love them. God told them to take care of the earth. He also told them to make more people to fill the earth.**



God gave the first man and woman—called Adam and Eve—what they needed. He made a garden in a land called Eden and told the first man and woman to take care of Eden. They could eat the fruit of any tree or plant except for one—a tree that God told them not to eat from. God looked at everything He had created. He made the planets and stars, plants and animals. Then God made people in His image to watch over it all. God saw it all and was glad He made it.

**Where is the Day 7 picture?** Travel with kids to the day seven poster and have them sit down and pretend to rest. **God looked at all his creation and was very happy with it. On the seventh day, God rested. Let's take a minute to sit quietly and rest and look at all the beautiful things God created.** Take a minute to allow kids to sit quietly and look at the day seven picture.

**You all did a great job resting! There are lots of beautiful things in God's creation. Way more than could ever fit in this picture. God is still happy with His creation. We're made in God's image to show what He's like. We're made to be close with God. We can follow His directions and care for His creation. God made us in His image.** You may want to leave the Day 6 picture displayed to use again in Responding in Worship.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**In the beginning, there was no sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants. The world was beautiful and good, and the first humans walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin messed up creation and people's relationship with God. God promises that one day He will fix all things and make them right again. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be made new, and sin will be gone forever!**

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for creating our world. At the end of the prayer, thank Him for making us in His image.

**We're going to pray and thank God for His creation. When I say it's your turn, you can name some things God created, and we'll thank Him. Let's pray and talk to God.**

**God, thank You for creating our world. Thank You for creating ...** (call on a few kids and encourage them to name things God has created). **Thank You, God, for making people, and thank You for making us! Thank You for making us in Your image. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** **God made the flowers and trees, the birds, and the world, and He made you and me! May you always remember that God made you special and in His image. Never forget how special you are to God and how much He loves you!**