



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

- Play Stations:
  - Shaving Cream Creations
  - Creation Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Fingerprint Fun
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Corinthians 5:17
- God's Big Story: Creation
- Circle Time: Pass the Smile
- LARGE GROUP
- Craft: Clay Creations
- Closing Game: Creation Charades





## 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

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**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.



LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image  
**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1–2  
**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Play Stations**

**SUPPLIES:** baking sheet, shaving cream, towel, wet wipes, coloring utensils, food coloring (optional)  
**RESOURCES:** Creation Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we’re getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we’ll be learning today?**

**Play Station: Shaving Cream Creations**

**Set up:** Set out a baking sheet and spray shaving cream on it just before the kids arrive. Set out a towel and wet wipes for cleanup. You can also squirt a few drops of food coloring into it.

**Play:** Let the kids create whatever they would like in the shaving cream. They can draw in it with their fingers to make their own creations.

**Play Station: Creation Coloring Sheet**

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of themselves.

## Curiosity Activity: Fingerprint Fun

**SUPPLIES:** washable ink pads, back of coloring sheet, wet wipes, coloring utensils, magnifying glass (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Fingerprint Animals Sheet \(2/SG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Fingerprint Animals Sheet. Set out washable ink pads and have each kid turn over their Coloring Sheet. Show the Fingerprint Animals Sheet which includes examples of fingerprint animals they can make. Show the kids how to place their fingers on the ink pad and then onto their papers to make a fingerprint. Use wet wipes to clean their fingers.



**God made each of us in His image! He created us unique and special.**

**Look at your fingerprint. It isn't like anyone else's fingerprint.**

Have the kids go around the room and compare their fingerprint. Point out the differences in each. You could even let the kids look at the prints under a magnifying glass for extra fun.

After the kids compare prints, display the Fingerprint Animals Sheet which includes examples of fingerprint animals they can make. Pass out coloring utensils and encourage the kids make more fingerprints on their papers and decorate the fingerprints to look like animals.

**To create means to make something. You created animals out of your fingerprints. God created real animals, and He created you! We'll learn about it in our story today.**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, whiteboards (1 per kid), dry-erase markers (1 per kid), tissues (1 per kid), paper (1 sheet per kid, optional), markers (1 per kid, optional), laminated sheets of paper (1 per kid, optional)

### WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle. Practice the Word of Wonder together as a group several times.

Hand out whiteboard and a dry-erase markers to each kid (or sheets of paper and markers). If you don't have dry-erase boards for each kid, you could give each kid a laminated sheet of paper to use.

Have the kids draw a simple picture of themselves on their boards. After a few minutes, have the kids erase their pictures with a tissue while saying the Word of Wonder together. Repeat several times.

**Jesus makes us new! Just like God made His creation perfect and new.**

**Our Word of Wonder for this series is: Jesus makes us new. This is from 2 Corinthians 5:17.**

**Corinthians is a big word. Let's say it together a few times.** Say it several times, allowing the kids to say the word with you.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for “Jesus”).
- **MAKES US**—Both hands over your heart.
- **NEW.**—Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.
- **FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **When something is new, what’s it like?**
- **What part of us does Jesus make new? How does that make you feel?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: He makes our heart new; He makes us new on the inside.)

## God’s Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Mr First Hands On or Laugh and Grow Bible, [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

### 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.

**Today we are going to hear about how God made people in a very special way. God made the first man and the first woman and gave them a beautiful garden to live in. Everything God made was good, and He had a special plan for people. As we listen, let’s think about how much God loves the people He created. Let’s hear part of God’s big story, which comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible.**

[Read the Creation Story from the My First Hands On \(younger preschool\) or Laugh and Grow Bible. \(older preschool\)](#)

## Circle Time: Pass the Reflection

**SUPPLIES:** small shatter-proof mirror (2 for larger groups)

Today we learned that God created humans. God made the first two humans in His image. That means people show what God is like. When you look in a mirror, you see a reflection of yourself! God made people to reflect Himself. We're going to play a game where we'll pass around a mirror and look into it to see our reflection. Gather kids together in a circle. Pass a small mirror around the circle and invite each kid to look into it.

The first time around the circle, encourage the kids to make a happy face into the mirror and then pass it. The second time, invite them to make a silly face. Then, they can make a surprised face. As they're passing the mirror around the circle, say, "Pause" at various times and whoever is holding the mirror can answer a question from the list.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did God make in the first five days of creation?** (*light, day and night, planets, stars, sun, moon, plants, water, sky, etc.*)
- **What's your favorite part of creation?**
- **What did God create on the sixth day of creation?** (*people; Adam and Eve*)
- **Who were the first people God created?** (*Adam and Eve*)
- **What did God do on the seventh day of creation?** (*rested*)
- **What do you think it means to be made in God's image?**
- **Because we're made in God's image, what is special about us? What makes us unique and different from the rest of creation?**

**We're made in God's image, and we can reflect His love and have a relationship with Him. We can talk to Him anytime we want to! Let's talk to God now in prayer.**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for creating us and loving us. God hears all our prayers!

## Craft: Clay Creations

**SUPPLIES:** air-dry clay (several lumps per kid), paper plate (1 per kid), sculpting tools

Set out a few lumps of air-dry clay on a paper plate for each kid. You can also set out dough sculpting tools.

**Today we're learning God created the world and how God made us in His image. We're going to make creations of our own with this air-dry clay. I'll read a list of things that God made, and you can make something out of the clay. As you create it, think about how amazing it is that God created the whole world and everything in it ... and He created us!**

Encourage the kids to listen as you say the things God made. They can make something from each day of creation using their clay and sculpting tools. It's OK if their creations are abstract!



**On day one of creation, God made light. Can you make a sun to remind you of light?** Pause to allow the kids to work.

**On day two of creation, God separated the sky and water. Can you take one piece of clay and separate it or put another color next to it to remind you of the sky and water?** Pause to allow the kids to work.

**On day three of creation, God created the land and plants. Can you create a plant? It can be a flower or a tree or a bush—anything that grows!** Pause to allow the kids to work.

**On day four, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Can you make shapes that look like the sun, moon, or stars?** Pause to allow the kids to work.

**On day five, God made birds and fish. Can you make a bird or fish?** Pause to allow the kids to work.

**On day six of creation, God made animals, insects, and people. Can you make a person or animal?** Pause to allow the kids to work.

**On day seven of creation, God rested. He said everything He created was good. You did a great job of creating different things. Let's take a rest from creating just like God did on the seventh day.** Encourage the kids to pause. **You can take your creation home and let it dry, and it will remind you that God created everything**

## Closing Game: Creation Charades

**SUPPLIES:** basket

**RESOURCES:** Days of Creation Sheets (1 set/SG)

Ahead of time, print the Days of Creation Sheets (if you haven't already). Place the pictures in a basket.

**Today we learned from God's big story that God made us in His image. God made you (point to a kid), and you (point to another kid), and you (point to another kid), and all of us and all people everywhere. 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. Do you remember what God made on each day? Let's try to name things God made in the first six days of creation.**

Pick a kid to begin and have her come up and choose a picture from the basket. Invite the kid to act out something that God created on that day of creation, and let the other kids guess what it is. To make it more challenging, have the kids shout out the day God created each thing.

