

God Creates

Genesis 1:1-30

1

Lesson



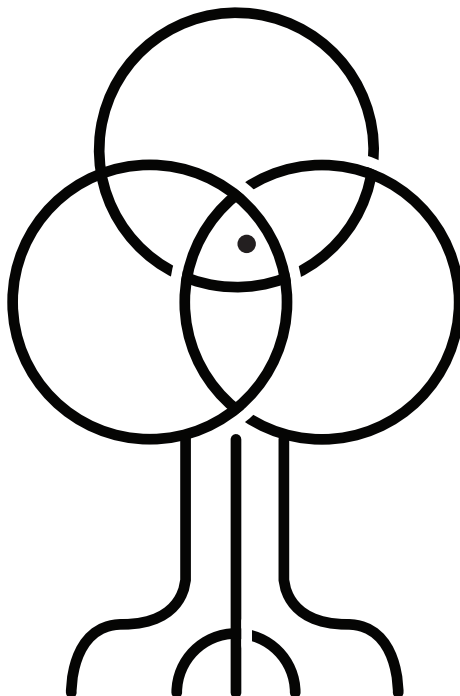
Teacher Background

What Happens: In just six days, God made everything in the world. He made a perfect place to live, and then he made his most special creation —humans. God made us in his image to rule over his creation. God created us for a reason. After he made everything, God rested.

Why It Matters: Many kids are trying to figure out what their purpose is. They may feel they have to wait until they're grown-ups to know why God created them. Use this lesson to help kids see that we can be in relationship with God at any age—and that's our purpose!

Think About: What's special about the way God made you? How have you used those special traits to serve God?

Pray for kids to feel valued and important as they learn why God made them.



Theme

In the Beginning



Main Point

God created us for a reason.



Key Verse

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER	SUPPLIES
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.	
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Make visual and audio effects of creation.	What God made and how we can care for his creation.	Bible
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Make imprints to explore how they were made in the image of Jesus	How we can sow Jesus to others.	Play dough
PLAY A GAME Run a relay where they race to dress like the teacher.	What it means to be made in the image of God.	Sunglasses Hats Scarves Upbeat music (optional) Music player (optional)
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Learn to draw animals.	The difference between how we create and how God created.	“God Creates Adam and Eve” Activity Page Pencils
PRAY TOGETHER Ask God questions and listen for his answers.	How to listen to God.	



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

CELEBRATE SMALL

Your small size means everyone can share and get to know one another!

- Thank kids for coming and have kids shake hands with friends using the *back* of their hands.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids sing “Happy Birthday” off-key.

ASK: What do you want to tell everyone today? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible

QUICK TIP

Showing kids a real Bible and reading part of the story directly from the Bible helps kids know this isn’t just a made-up story—it’s found in God’s Word!

MAKE THE EFFECTS



Open your Bible to Genesis 1, and show kids the words.

SAY: Today we’re going to learn about how God made the world! At first when God made the earth, there wasn’t much to it. Close your eyes. Pause.

But then God said, “Let there be light!” Open your eyes! Pause.

God decided to make it light sometimes and call that day. Other times, it would be dark—and that’s night. When I say “day,” you’ll open your eyes. When I say “night,” you’ll close them. Ready?

Night! Day! Night! Day! Night! Night! Day! Night! Day!

Whew! We just went through a bunch of nights and days in a row. But God made night and day in just one day.

On the second day, God made the sky by separating the waters of the earth and the water in the atmosphere. Hold your arm up and pretend you’re painting the sky. Pause.

Then God made seas and plants. Let's be trees and grow! Start out in a tiny ball, like a seed. Lead kids in growing from their "seed" position to stand up tall and extend their arms like branches. Then have kids sit back down.

On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Make your fingers twinkle like stars. Lead kids in twinkling their fingers.

On the fifth day, God made birds and fish. You get to decide whether to be a bird or a fish. When I count to three, you'll either flap your arms and make bird sounds or suck in your cheeks to make a fish face. One...two...three! Allow time for their responses.

Wow! Our room is full of fish and birds. But the next day, God had even more animals to make. He made all the land animals. When I say "moo," make an animal noise—any animal you'd like. One...two...three...moo! Pause.

Whew! God needed to make someone to take care of all these animals. So God made people, named Adam and Eve. Point to someone near you and say, "God made you!" Pause.

SAY: ➡ **God created us for a reason.** That means you! God made Adam and Eve with a purpose. Let's read what he asked them to do.

 Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:15, 19.

Adam and Eve had an important job: to take care of all the things God made! Adam even got to name the animals!

Let's name animals now. When I point to you, you'll pretend to be an animal, and everyone else will guess that animal's name. Point to several kids so they can act out animals of their choice, as time allows.

DISCUSS

SAY: God told Adam and Eve to care for his creation. And God wants us to continue that purpose today!

ASK: How do you care for God's creation today? If you have more than five kids, consider forming pairs so everyone gets a turn to share.

SAY: You don't have to wait until you're grown up and can get a job to have a purpose. ➡ **God created us for a reason.** That means he has a special purpose for you right now!



QUICK TIP

If you have mostly older kids, have them simply make animal sounds while others guess what animal they're acting out.



EXPLORE GENESIS 1:26

SAY: When God made most of his creation, he simply said, “Let there be light!” or “Let the earth produce every sort of animal!” And just like that, the world was created.

But when God made people, he said something very special. Let’s see what he said.



Read Genesis 1:26.

SAY: Wow! We were made in God’s image! We’re the only thing God made in his own image.

But there’s something else that’s pretty special about this verse. Let me read it again. Listen for the pronouns. Pronouns are words like I, you, he, she, we, or they.



Read Genesis 1:26.

ASK: Why do you think God said “Let *us* make human beings in *our* image”? Who was he talking to?

SAY: Sometimes we think God made Jesus when Jesus was born as a baby. But did you know Jesus was always around? Jesus *is* God. So Jesus was there at Creation, helping make the world.

And we were made in Jesus’ image! Pretty cool, huh?

Let’s explore what it means to show the image of something.

MAKE PRINTS

Distribute play dough. Have kids make fingerprints in the dough, then study and compare the dough prints to their actual fingerprints.

Kids can also make other imprints of things such as buttons or engraved Bible covers, comparing the original with the imprint.

ASK: How did the dough imprints show the image of what they were made from?

ASK: Share some words that describe Jesus. How can you show those qualities to others? Examples might include *loving*, *joyful*, and *kind*.

SAY: Sometimes you might feel like you’re not good enough. Maybe you see other people who are better than you at school or sports. Or maybe other people seem more popular, or you have a hard time making friends.

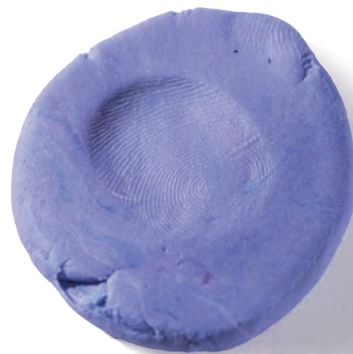
When you don’t feel all that special, just remember that you were made in the image of Jesus! God created us for a reason. And one reason is that you can show other people what Jesus is like! You can show people how kind, loving, and forgiving Jesus is...because you were made in his image!

SUPPLIES

- play dough

QUICK TIP

Want to do more study on the presence of Jesus at Creation? Read John 1:1-5.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- “God Creates Adam and Eve” Activity Page
- pencils
- crayons

SAY: In our Bible story, God created all the animals! Today you’ll get to learn how to create animals...at least on paper.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Let kids follow the step-by-step directions to draw various animals.

After kids have drawn their animals, **SAY:** Now it’s time to get really creative. In the empty box, draw an animal that doesn’t really exist! Use your imagination and create your very own animal. Don’t forget to name it! Allow time.

ASK: Tell about the animal you made up. What did you think about as you decided what to draw?

ASK: How was making up an animal like the way God made you? How was it different?

SAY: ➡ **God created us for a reason.** You weren’t just random lines on a piece of paper; you’re a wonderful work of art!

QUICK TIP

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SAY: Today we’re learning that ➡ **God created us for a reason.** Do you ever wonder what God’s reason was for making you? We’re going to take some time now to ask God and find out.

When we pray, we’re having a conversation with God. Sometimes, people spend most of their time talking to God. But just like when you have a conversation with a friend, you can talk *and* listen.

Sometimes it can seem harder to hear God rather than to hear our friends. So let’s make sure we’re not distracted. Get into a position that feels comfortable to you. You shouldn’t be touching anyone else. Pause.

Now close your eyes. If you think you’ll want to open them, turn and face away from people. That way nothing will distract you as you listen to God. Pause.

Now we’ll ask God two questions. After I say one question, I’ll pause. You can silently ask God that question and then listen for his answer.

Here’s the first question: God, what’s something special about the way you made me? Allow a minute or two for kids to listen.

God, what’s the reason you created me? Allow a minute or two for kids to listen.

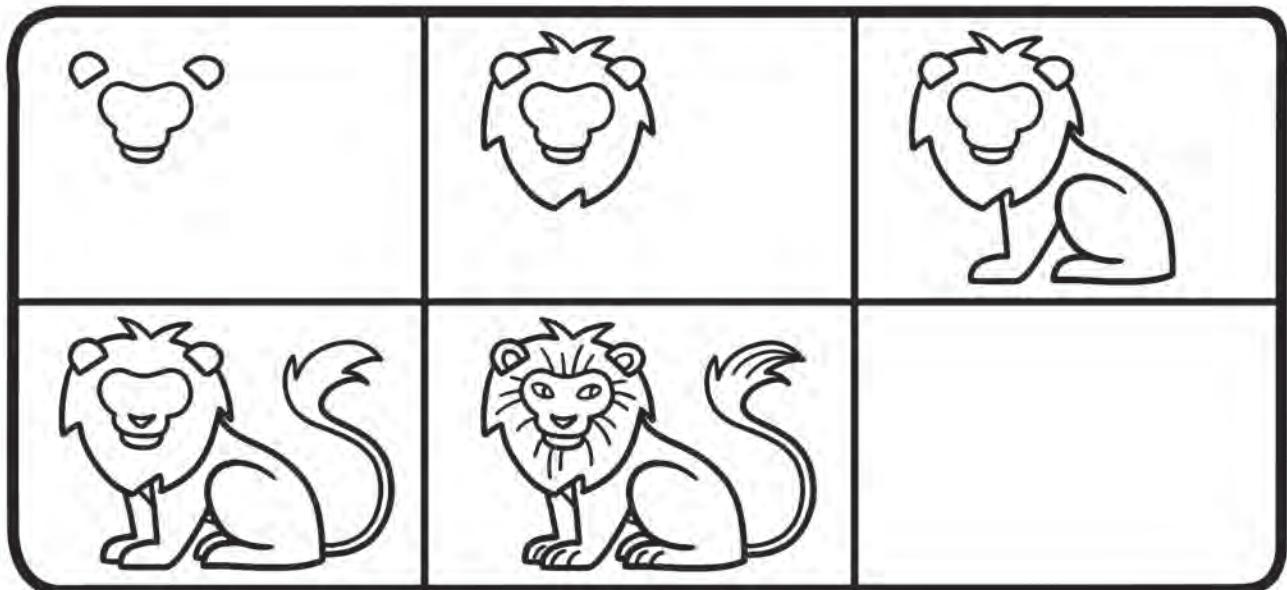
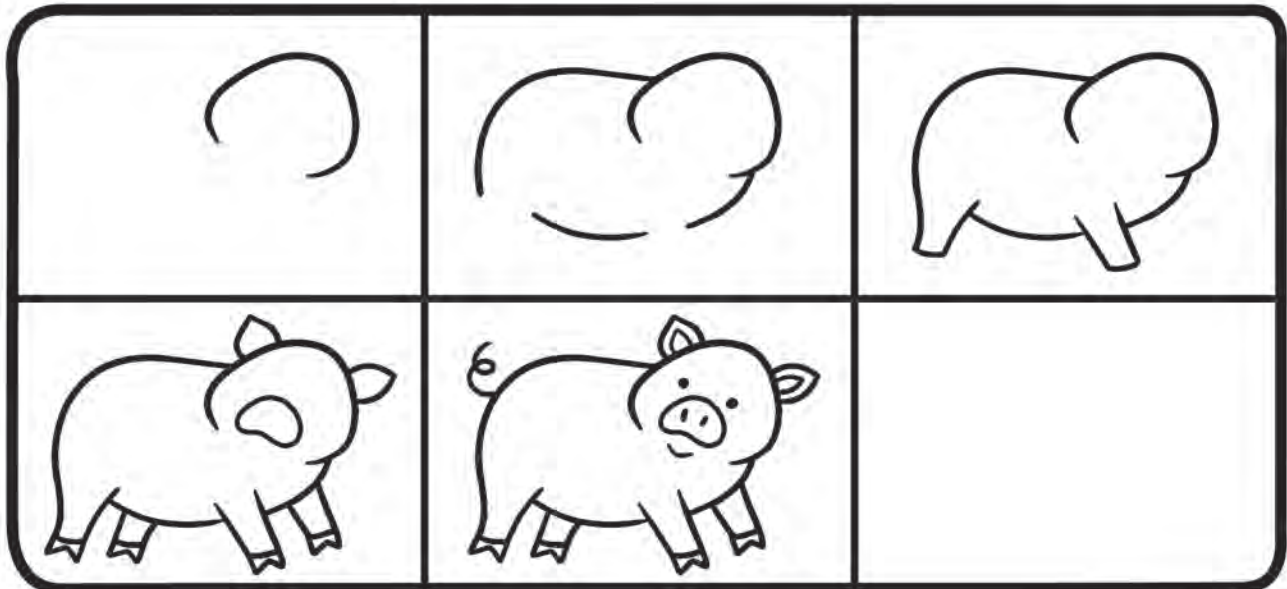
ASK: If you heard from God, what’s something God brought to your mind?

SAY: It’s OK if you didn’t hear from God today. You can keep asking and listening to him throughout your week. The more we practice listening to God, the more we’ll hear him speak to us. And this is so important for you to remember: **God created each of us for a reason!**

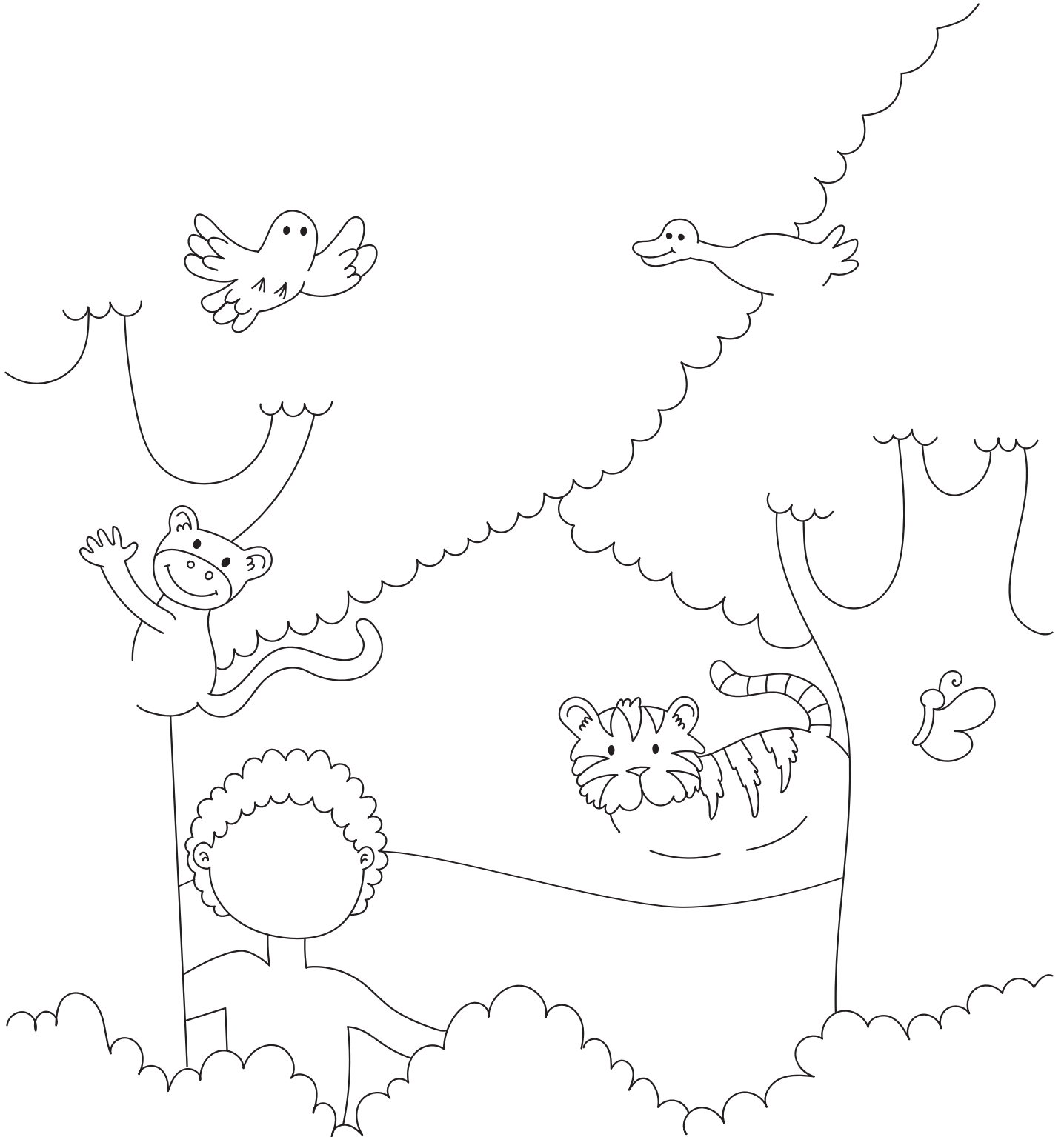
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Activity Page

Learn to draw a pig and a lion by following each step.



God Creates



Genesis 1:1–2:24: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God made the sky, the plants, the animals, and people! The first people, Adam and Eve, had a special purpose: They took care of God's garden and named the animals. *God created us for a reason, too!*