

GOD IS THE CREATOR

Creation of the World - Small Group

God is awesome
He has a big plan for me
God wants to be my closest friend

THE ESSENTIALS: GOD THE FATHER

Main point: God created everything; I am so thankful for all that He created.

FOR LEADER ONLY

God is the ultimate authority in all the world because He is the one who made it. He knows all about each one of us because He put us together. He can give us the best advice and help us in whatever situation we find ourselves because He is God. The Bible is full of stories illustrating this. Today we will study the story of creation. Through it we are reminded that God is our maker and we have so much to thank Him for. The point of this lesson is to introduce God in a very big and very interactive way. This is also the lesson in which we introduce the three principle themes of the curriculum. The story should be very interactive and fun. The story should also drive home the point that not only is God the creator of everything that they see, but God created all of this with only His words.

OFFERING

Ask the children to place any offering that they brought in the specified location.

PRAISE

Sing one of the songs that you have been singing in the large group session together as a group. Ask to use the poster board with the words written on it to hold up for the children while you are singing.

DECLARATION

The declaration is an opportunity for everyone to declare how the material that they learned today affects what they believe. Have the kids repeat the declaration after you phrase by phrase.

We're going to declare what we believe today. Please repeat after me:

God created the earth and everything in it. He made me, and He has great plans for me. He is the giver of great gifts, and I am thankful.

suggested
ages:

6 - 8 **MEMORY VERSE SCRAMBLE**

We suggest to only include this game if your class is 20 students or less. Otherwise, it would be a better idea to host a shouting competition between the girls and boys, have the kids shout the verse a few times and see who can do it louder.

The point of this game is to review the memory verse in a fun manner. The game can be played more than once - for example, the best 2 out of 3.

MATERIALS NEEDED

the memory verse scramble pieces cut out of poster board (For 5 - 6 year olds, write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece. For 7 and up, write each letter on a separate piece.) enough bags containing the pieces of the memory verse so that each group (of no more than 8 children per group) can have their own bag

We are going to play a game that will test our memory of the memory verse this week. First I'm going to give you all of the instructions and then we'll get started. So for now, just listen. In just a few minutes, I am going to split you up into teams. Each team will receive a bag. Inside the bag are all the words/letters to the memory verse, but they're all mixed up. The contest will be which team can lay out the memory verse in the correct way the fastest. You'll have to work together as a team. The team to get the memory verse written out the fastest wins. Are there any questions?

Okay, so once again, the object is to arrange all the words/letters of the memory verse in the correct order. First we'll form our groups.

Split the group into groups of no more than 8 children per group. Once the groups have been formed, hand each team a bag and let them go at it!

*Once they think they've formed the memory verse, check it: **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1***

If they've correctly formed the memory verse correctly, give a couple more minutes to the other team to see if they can finish. If they look as though they will not get it, call time. Let the winning team read the verse aloud together and then practice the memory verse once as a class altogether.

suggested
ages:

9 + **MEMORY VERSE REWRITE**

The idea of this activity is to encourage the kids think about what the memory verse means to them, how it affects their life. When they re-write the memory verse in their own words, it cements the true meaning of the verse in their hearts.

MATERIALS NEEDED

writing utensils

worksheets

a cellphone with a stopwatch

Do

Study this activity before class! Split the class into groups of three (or five). Pass out one writing utensil and one worksheet to each group/child. Ask questions and help them if they are having trouble.

Say

We are going to have a competition! We are going to split up into groups of three. Each group will get one piece of paper and a pen/pencil. Your job is to re-write the memory verse for today in your own words. You get 7 minutes, so you're going to have to think fast. Then each group will present their re-write of the memory verse to the rest of the class. After that everyone will vote on which one was their favorite.

Are there any questions?

Walk around to each group and ask these questions. The goal is to get the kids to think about and talk about how this verse can apply to their lives. Come up with your own questions and try to spark meaningful conversation. Don't forget to comment on how good of a job they are doing and help them if they need it. Think of some things that you are grateful that God has created. Explain why you enjoy these things and what they mean to you when you are talking to the kids.

- Write down what this verse means to you.

- Why is this verse important?

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Wrap up

Good job, guys. I know sometimes taking what the Bible says and rewriting it in your own words can be difficult, but it is great for us to practice this because writing Scripture in our own words helps us to understand what it is saying and puts us on a path to better apply it to our lives. The Bible is God's Word to us and His instructions for us in life. We can be thankful that our creator left us His Word to learn from. God created everything. We are thankful for all He created.

suggested
ages:

6 + THANKFULNESS LIST

The idea behind this activity is to have the kids think about the things that they can thank God about. This is the important application part of the lesson, where the kids can put action behind what they learned. Challenge the kids to think hard and then take the list home and remind themselves of all the things that they can be thankful for.

MATERIALS NEEDED

writing utensils

activity sheets

discussion questions

Do

Study this activity before class! Split the group into groups of three (optional). Pass out one writing utensils and activity sheets. Go around to each group, asking questions and helping them if they are having trouble.

Say

We just heard a lesson on how God created the entire world. He created the world because He is awesome and because He wanted you to be here and enjoy it. There are so many things that we can thank God for. He has created all of this for you and me. I want each of you to write down as many things as you can think of that we can be thankful for. Raise your hand if you think you can write down 5 things you are thankful for. Keep your hand up if you think you can write down 10. Keep your hand up if you think you can write down 15! Okay, I want to see some writing. Write down as many things as you can think of that you are thankful for.

Walk around to each group and ask these questions. Come up with your own questions and try to spark meaningful conversation. Don't forget to comment on how good of a job they are doing and help them if they need it. Think of somethings that you are grateful that God has created. Explain why you enjoy these things and what they mean to you when you are talking to the kids.

- What's your favorite thing to do? Why?
- What part of God's creation do you like most? Why?
- What do you like most about school?
- Do you like to play sports? What parts of your body do you use to play that sport that you can be thankful for?

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Wrap up

You guys did a great job. I saw some great things that we can be thankful for. Now, here's the important part: Let's not just write this list down and then forget all of these things that we can be thankful for. Take your list home, hang it up in your room, and remember to thank God everyday! Put this list somewhere where you will see it often. When you see it, simply thank God for some of the things on the list. God loves it when we thank Him. We enjoy so many things because God has created it just for us. Let's thank Him.

suggested
ages:

10 - 12 **COMIC COLORING SHEET**

Okay, you can flip over your activity sheet. On the back is a comic strip. You'll notice that some of the days of creation are filled in and some are left blank. You need to fill in the missing days. Draw what God created on those days and then you can color in all six scenes.

suggested
ages:

5 - 9 **COLORING SHEET**

The purpose of the coloring sheet is to remind the children of what they learned in the big group lesson and to prompt them to continue thinking about it. The main job of the small group teacher is to interact with the children, asking questions and helping them out. Work to create discussion and help kids think more deeply and personally about the application and the story.

MATERIALS NEEDED

coloring sheets

crayons

discussion questions

Do

Study this activity before class! Pass out coloring sheets to all the kids. Pass out crayons to all the groups. Go around to each group/child asking questions and helping them with drawing.

Say

We heard a really awesome story today in large group. Now we're going to color a picture from that story.

Walk around to each group and ask these questions. Come up with your own questions and try to spark meaningful conversation. Don't forget to comment on how good of a job they are doing and help them if they need it. Think of somethings that you are grateful that God has created. Explain why you enjoy these things and what they mean to you when you are talking to the kids.

- Who created the world?
- Why did God create us?
- Can you name something to thank God about?
- How many days did it take God to create the world?
- Is there anything too hard for God to do?
- What did God use to create the world?
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Wrap it up

You guys did a great job. Remember that God created the entire world. He created it because He is awesome and He created it for you. We can thank God for all the things that He has given us!

suggested
ages:

9 + THANKFULNESS WORDSEARCH

The purpose of the wordsearch is to remind the children of what they learned in the big group lesson and to prompt them to continue thinking about it. The main job of the small group teacher is to interact with the children, asking questions and helping them out. Work to create discussion and help kids think more deeply and personally about the application and the story.

MATERIALS NEEDED

wordsearches

crayons, pens, or pencils

discussion questions

Do

Study this activity before class! Pass out wordsearches to all the kids. Pass out pencils/crayons to all the groups. Go around to each group/child asking questions and helping them with the wordsearch.

Say

We heard a really awesome story today in large group. Right now we are going to try to find a bunch of the words of things we can be thankful for that are hidden in the wordsearch. Right here you will find all the words listed out. *(Point to the list of words.)* Don't forget that some words might be backwards.

Walk around to each group and ask these questions. Come up with your own questions and try to spark meaningful conversation. Don't forget to comment on how good of a job they are doing and help them if they need it. Think of somethings that you are grateful that God has created. Explain why you enjoy these things and what they mean to you when you are talking to the kids.

- What did God use to create the world?
- Why did _____ *(fill in the name of the helper)* wear a blindfold today?
- Why did _____ *(fill in the name of the helper)* decide to finally take it off?
- Tell me three things that you can be thankful for.
- Why did God create the whole world?
- What's your favorite thing in the world to do? Why?
- What of God's creation do you like the best? Why?
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Wrap up

You guys did a great job. Remember that God created the entire world. He created it because He is awesome and He created it for you. We can thank God for all the things that He has given us!

PRAYER

Thank you Father God for You are so awesome and powerful. You created the heavens, the earth and us. Father, we thank You for all the things you have created. You alone are good and awesome. Thank you for creating us and the earth so that we can enjoy it. In Jesus name, amen.