

God's Plan: 2 MAKE US!

Bible Story

The Creation Formulation

Genesis 1:1—2:2

Bible Verse

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth [...] God created mankind in his own image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:1,27

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Creation.
2. IDENTIFY ways we are different from the rest of God's creation.
3. THANK God for loving and creating us.
4. CHOOSE to live as a member of God's family.

Spark Principle— Gravity

When He made the world, God created all the scientific laws that govern it—laws like gravity.

Who made the world and who made me?

God, who created the universe, made you and loves you.





Sun

God said, "Let there be light." This is how the sun was sparked to life. The sun represents this first phase of God's plan, the creation of the world and humankind. When you see a sun shape, you can remember that God not only created the universe but He also created you and loves you.

Heart Prep

The design of the Bible is to reveal God's plan in the creation of the world and its redemption from sin by Jesus Christ. Let us begin where the Bible begins and trace the marvelous unfolding of His plan. As we see God's plan unfold, let us keep in mind that He is the divine architect. The plan of the ages is a great and wonderful plan. It is comprehensive and complete; the God who made it is greater than His plan.

We look around us at the universe that the Lord has created. We see its beauty. We look through a telescope and we are made aware of the immensity of God's universe. We use a microscope and we are made aware of the detail and the intricacy of the universe. And our new awareness serves only to make us wonder how we fit into the whole marvelous work. But we have a place. And that place is made for us by the fact that God who made all things loves us and wants us to know Him.

We come to know Him through His creation. But it is so great, it awes us. We come to know Him through the Bible and we see that God is holy. We come to know Him through the Lord Jesus Christ and we learn that He loves us and wants us to be with Him for all eternity. He wants this so much that He has provided a way of salvation for us so that we will be fit to dwell with Him.

We look at the universe and say, "Oh Lord, how great Thou art." Then we look at the cross and say, "Wonder of wonders, He loves even me."

Bible Story Recap

Back before the birth of planet Earth, God was here. And God made Earth. First there was water and darkness everywhere. Then God said, "Let there be light!" and there was light! Then God separated the light from the darkness and called the light "day."

On the second day, God made a big space to separate the waters and called the space the "sky."

On the third day, God moved the water on the earth so that dry ground appeared. God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "oceans."

After that, the land was covered with all kinds of plants and trees. Then God put the sun, moon and stars in the sky, so the earth would have light in both daytime and nighttime.

On the fifth day, God filled the waters and the skies with all kinds of living creatures! And on the sixth day, God made ALL the animals that live and move on land.

By now, life was everywhere! God saw that it was GOOD, but it wasn't FINISHED. God made a man and a woman to enjoy and take care of all that He had created. The Bible says they were made in God's own image. They could make choices about things; but most important of all, they could talk with God and love Him. God blessed the man and woman and told them to rule over all the earth and everything in it.

After the sixth day, God's wonderful creation was complete. And it was good. On the seventh day, God rested from all He had done.

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What worked well today? What truth did you discover from God's Word?
- As you prepare for Session 2, ask God to help you focus on Jesus during the busy VBS schedule.
- Be prepared to tell about a time when knowing a particular Scripture verse helped you do right instead of sin.

Gravity Games



Preparation

Photocopy Gravity Games Instructions and cut apart “Bal-
lerina Can” and “Nailed It!” Place each set of instructions
on a different table. Place empty soft drink cans, measur-
ing cups, pitcher of water and towels on table with “Bal-
lerina Can” instructions. Place 30–40 large flat-head nails
on table with “Nailed It!” instructions. Tie the ends of each
length of string or twine in a knot, forming a loop. Place
loops, rulers and hammers on table with “Watch Your
Feet!” instructions.

Procedure

Explain to the kids that they will be doing experiments
with centers of gravity. **As far as gravity is concerned,**

the weight of an object is concentrated at a single central point, the center of gravity. For an object to balance, its center of gravity must be directly above whatever is supporting it. Children rotate freely between the tables, trying the different experi-
ments. Make sure there is a helper at each table to lend a helping hand, read instructions for early read-
ers and otherwise supervise children's activities.

Materials

- Gravity Games Instructions (pp. 63–64)
- scissors or paper cutter
- 3 or 4 empty soft drink cans
- 2 measuring cups
- pitcher of water
- towels
- 30–40 large flat-head nails
- 3 10-inch (25.5 cm) lengths of string or twine
- 3 rulers
- 3 hammers

Conversation

How many of you successfully completed all three gravity

games? Two games? One? It's fun to explore the way things work. That's what this week is all about. We're exploring this beautiful and amazing world God made. The Bible says, “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth [...] God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:1,27). God made the world, and He made us!

What is today's Daily Plan? Pause for children to respond, “2 MAKE Us!” **Our Spark Principle for today says that when God made the world, God created all the scientific laws that govern it—laws like gravity. Whenever you drop something, you can remember gravity and how God made the world and everything in it.**

Pray, **Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We love You, too! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Lab Journal

Grades 1 and 2:

Children complete “Inventor's Lab” activity on page 5 of their *Lab Journals*.

Grades 3 and 4:

Children complete “Inventions that Changed the World” activity on page 4 of their *Lab Journals*.

Grades 5 and 6: Children complete “Out of This World” activity on page 4 of their *Lab Journals*.

Tip

Allow time at the end of each session for children to complete the appropriate theme-related activities in their *Lab Journals*. This is a good time for you to use the suggested conversation with children.

Gravity Games Instructions

Ballerina Can

What to Do

1. Try to balance an empty soft drink can on an angle, balancing on the two rims on the bottom of the can. (See the photograph.) Couldn't do it, huh?
2. Use measuring cup to measure about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water, and pour water into the empty can.
3. The can will now easily balance on an angle! It might look as if it's about to fall over, but it's really quite stable.
4. Gently give can a little nudge, and it will spin around like a ballerina.
5. Use the towels if you have a little spill!



What's Happening?

The empty can falls over because its center of gravity is in the center of the can. When the can is angled, its center of gravity is NOT directly over the two rims at the bottom of the can, and so the can falls over. When water is added to the can, the center of gravity shifts down to where the water is. And since water is a liquid, it levels out inside the can, even on an angle. Because the center of gravity is now over the rims, the can balances on an angle and is so steady, you can spin it!

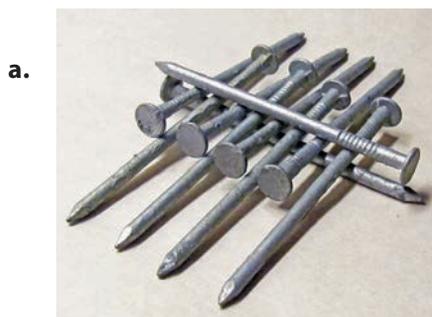
Nailed It!

What to Do

1. Lay one of the nails on the table.
2. Lay more nails across the first nail, alternating directions.
3. Lay another nail on top of the nails from the previous step (photo a).
4. Carefully hold the ends of the bottom nail and lift up all the nails very slowly (photo b).
5. Now, balance your construction on the final nail (photo c).

What's Happening?

The center of gravity depends on how an object's weight is distributed. Most of the nails are hanging well below the head of the nail they are balanced on. This means the center of gravity is actually below the point of support. In fact, the nails are hanging more than balancing!



Watch Your Feet!

What to Do

Warning! If you drop a hammer on your toes, it will hurt. So be careful.

1. Loop your string over your hammer so that the string is secured near the middle of the hammer.
2. Loop your string over your ruler. Place your string near the two-inch mark. The end of the hammer's handle should be touching the ruler.
3. Place the end of the ruler on the edge of the table. Your hammer and ruler should balance. Try nudging the ruler even CLOSER to the edge of the table. See how close you can get without it all falling off. Watch your feet!
4. If your hammer and ruler don't balance on the edge of the table, adjust the hammer, moving the head farther under the table.

What's Happening?

Think about how a seesaw works. There is a long plank resting on a support, known as the fulcrum. When no one is on the seesaw, the center of gravity is in the middle, right over the fulcrum. But if a big kid sits on one end of the seesaw and a little kid sits on the other, the seesaw doesn't work as well. That's because the center of gravity is not in the middle, directly above the fulcrum. To make the seesaw work well, you'd have to move the fulcrum closer to the big kid, because the center of gravity has shifted that way.

In our experiment, our ruler is like the plank of a seesaw, and the hammer is throwing off its center of gravity. The hammer's center of gravity pulls down on the ruler. And as long as the center of gravity (the hammer's head) stays somewhere underneath the table, the ruler stays up.

