

# God's Plan: 2 MAKE US!

## Bible Story

### The Creation Formulation

Genesis 1:1—2:2

Who made the world and who made me?

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

## Bible Verse

"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

## 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.

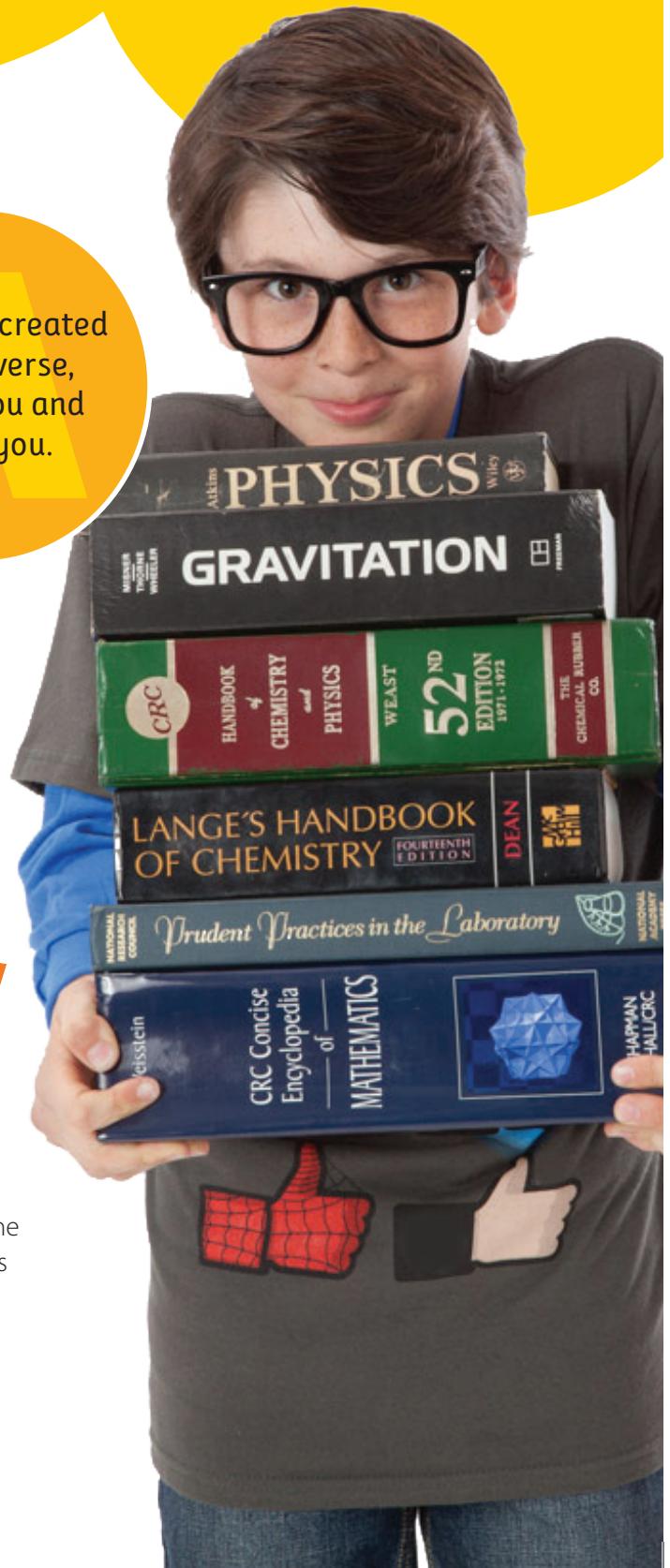
## Spark Principle—Gravity

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



### 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."

## 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.

## Materials

Optional Bible Story materials listed on page 12.

Bibles



Lab Journal



Session 1 Daily Plan Pennant



Session 1 Bible Story Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack



two chairs



markers



# Tell the Bible Story

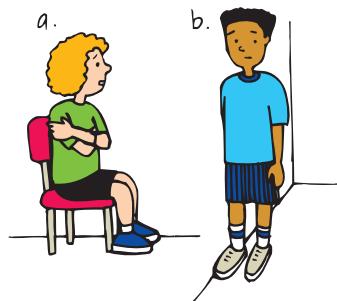
*Preparation:* Mark Genesis 1 in children's Bibles. (Optional: Use Post-it Notes to mark Bibles.) If Bibles are not available for all children, mark your Bible and ask volunteers to read verses as indicated in the story.

Place two chairs near where you will be leading the Story Starter activity.

## Story Starter

Welcome to SonSpark Labs! Here we explore the incredible universe God has made. God made many rules to keep His universe working. Those rules are called "laws." Guess what! One of those laws is acting on your body right now! Let's discover how this law works!

Divide group into two teams. Ask a volunteer from each team to sit in a chair, feet together and arms folded (sketch a). **Now try to stand up without leaning forward or moving your hands.** After a moment, encourage them, saying, **I'll give five dollars to you if you stand up!** Allow a few moments more for volunteers to try standing.



(Madison and Gabriel) weren't able to stand up because of the law God made that's working on all of us right now. If you know the name of the law, say it now! Volunteers respond. **It's gravity! Every person or object has what is called a "center of gravity." The person's weight is evenly balanced around that point. Our muscles must overcome the force pulling on that center of gravity for us to change positions. Because (Madison and Gabriel) didn't have their legs directly under them, they couldn't create enough force to stand up.**

**Let's see if someone else can break the force.** Additional volunteers try the position shown in sketch b, trying to lift left foot while pressing the right side of body against a wall.

**When God created the Earth, He made it just right for us to live here. He designed our bodies to work in Earth's gravity. What would happen to us if there were no gravity?** Volunteers respond. **In today's Bible story, we'll discover just WHY God was so careful with His creation.**

## The Creation Formulation Genesis 1:1—2:2

### God Creates the Earth

To find out why in the world we're here, we'll have to go back . . . way, way back to the beginning of everything, back before you were born . . . or your parents . . . or your great-great-great-great-great—well, you get the idea.

There's something incredibly awesome you need to know about before the birth of planet Earth. God was here. That's right! God was here before anything else! And God made Earth.

Some people think the world began just by accident, but the Bible says God created it on purpose. *Show Bible.* The Bible doesn't tell us exactly WHEN the beginning was or exactly HOW God created everything; it just tells us that He did!

**How did the world look in the beginning?**

## Bring the Bible Story to Life!

Before you tell the story, tear a sheet of paper to make the shape of something God made (tree, bear, mountain, etc.). Show the shape you made. **During the story, you may tear or cut shapes that remind you of the things God made on each day of creation.** Provide children with paper in a variety of colors and textures. As you talk about each day of creation, volunteers cut or tear papers, tell about their shapes and use pencils to label papers with the correct day of creation. Tape or post the shapes on a wall to make a creation mural.

*Large Group Tip:* Instead of tearing sheets, children draw pictures of objects from the story as the story is told.

**Let's read Genesis 1:2 and find out.** There was water and darkness everywhere. The earth didn't look the same as it does now. It was completely covered with water. Then God spoke, saying, "Let there be light!" His voice boomed out across the universe and there was light! God is so powerful. All He had to do was SPEAK and it happened! Science tells us that without the energy from light there would be no life ANYWHERE. Without God, there would be no science, light OR life!

Then God separated the light from the darkness and called the light "day." That was how the first day was created.

On the second day, God made something else necessary for life. **Let's read Genesis 1:6–8 to find out what God made next.** God made a big space to separate the waters and called the space the "sky." I know you know what the sky is, but what about the water in the sky? What do you think that might be? We call the water in the sky "clouds." *Point to clouds on Session 1 Bible Story Poster.* Clouds are made of water. So there is water on the earth's surface and water above Earth's surface, just as God said! No other planet that we know of has the same kind of sky we have. God was making THIS planet in a unique way.

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

After that, the land was covered with all kinds of plants and trees. God decided that many of the plants would grow good things to eat. Just think of all the fruits and vegetables popping out everywhere! Think about your favorite fruit or vegetable. God made that!

Then God put the sun, moon and stars in the sky, so the earth would have light in both daytime and nighttime. The sun has been shining in the daytime and the moon at night for a very VERY long time, for years and years.

The next two days got REALLY interesting! 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.

## God Creates People

By now, life was everywhere! The earth was no longer empty! God saw that it was GOOD, but it wasn't FINISHED. There was something missing. **What else did God create on the sixth day? Let's read Genesis 1:26–27 to find out.**

God made a man and a woman to enjoy and take care of all that He had created. But there was something very special about these two creatures. The Bible says they were made in God's own image. They were made to be like God in some very wonderful ways. Nothing else that God created was made in His image—not the stars, not the plants, not the animals—only the man and the woman. They were different from everything else God created. This man and this woman could think about things; they could make choices about things; and 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. **What are the names of the first man and the first woman?**

After the sixth day, God's wonderful creation was complete. He had made a world that was full of life and beauty. He had made Adam and Eve to take care



of the world and spend time with Him. God saw everything that He had made. And it was good! On the seventh day, God rested from all He had done.

### Conclusion

**This week we're going to hear a lot about God's plan for us as it is recorded in God's Word, the Bible. Every day, we're going to talk about one part of God's plan.**

Today's Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 2 MAKE Us!" God carefully and purposefully created planet Earth as a home for people who would know Him and love Him. YOU are here because God loves you and wants you to love Him, too.

Our Scripture verse for today, Genesis 1:1,27, says, "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" God made us and He loves us! God wants us to know and love His Son, Jesus.

### Skit Option

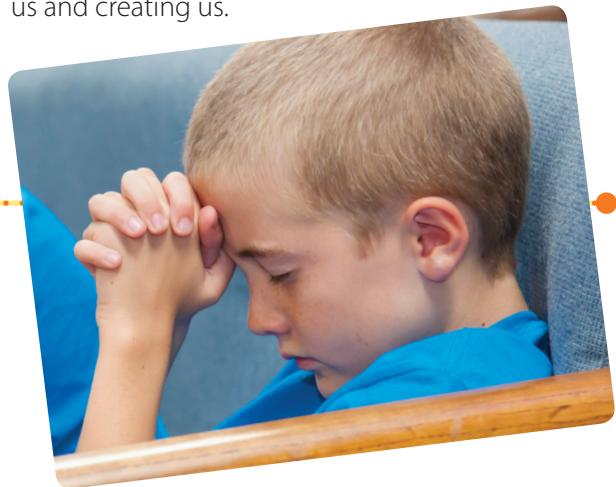
As a fun alternative or supplement to this Bible story, ask leaders, youth helpers or other volunteers to perform "In the Beginning" Bible story skit in *ShowTime! Assemblies*.



St. John Baptist de la Salle was born over 800 years ago in France. John loved God very much and decided to become a priest. There were a lot of poor children in John's town and he wanted to help them. John started free schools for these children and gave everything he had to them. Let's say a silent prayer to be like St. John and not ignore even the smallest in God's creation. (**Adapted from *John Baptist de la Salle: Caring Teacher and Mentor* by Barbara Yoffie © 2014 Liguori Publications).**)

### Prayer

**God made this world to show His love for us. What are some things God made for which you are thankful?** Begin prayer by saying, **God, we thank You for . . .** Pause for volunteers to name things God created. Conclude prayer by thanking God for loving us and creating us.



**Catechetical Connection:** One of the best parts of being Catholic is growing closer to God and his son Jesus. God is there when we're sad, worried, or ready to celebrate! In fact, the Holy Spirit came to live in your heart at Baptism. So share God's love today by loving those around you! (**Adapted from *Handbook for Today's Catholic Children*, by Francine O'Connor © Liguori Publications).**)

# Apply the Bible Story

## Bible Story Review

To review the Bible Story, lead children to complete “Who Made the World and Who Made Me?” activity on page 2 of the *Lab Journal*. As children work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- **What are some of the things God made when He created the world?** (Light. Land. Water. Plants. Animals.)
- **How did God feel about Adam and Eve?** (God loved them.)
- **What are some things people need to live?** (Food. Air. Water. Friends. Warmth.)
- **Why do you think God made the world to have the things that we need?** (God loves us. God takes care of us.)

The question in today’s Q&A is “Who made the world and who made me?” After hearing our story, how would you answer that question? Volunteers respond. The Q&A answer is that “God, who created the universe, made you and loves you.” Why is it important to know that God made us? Volunteers respond. God loves each of us, and He made us to love Him, too. When we look at the animals and plants, the sun, moon and stars, we remember that God loves us. God made this world to show His love. God wants us to be close to Him, as Adam and Eve were!

## Active Review

Divide class into pairs. One partner chooses “odd” and the other chooses “even.” Children put hands behind their backs and together count “one, two, three!” On “three,” partners thrust a hand in front of them with one to five fingers showing. If the total number of fingers is odd, players who chose “odd” tell an answer to one of the questions above. If the total is even, the other players tell answers.

## God’s Plan for Me (Life Application)

**Today’s Scripture verse is Genesis 1:1,27.** Volunteer reads verse aloud from Bible. **What does this verse tell us God made?** (The heavens and the earth. A man and a woman.) **Each one of us has been especially created by God!**

Children complete “Sunny Creations” activity on page 3 of the *Lab Journal*. Ask questions such as these:

- **According to our verse, who is it that people were made to be like?** (God.)
- **How did God show His love for us when He created the world, the animals and you?** (He made the sun so that we have heat and light. He gave animals ways to protect themselves. He made our bodies in amazing ways.)
- **What makes people different from the animals and plants God made?** (We can love God the way He loves us. We can think and talk.)
- **What are some other ways God has shown love to you and your family?**

**What part of God’s plan are we talking about today?** Pause for children to respond, “2 MAKE Us!” **All week we’re going to discover more about God’s plan for His people. The formula for this plan is GP4U = J! This stands for “God’s Plan for You is Jesus!”**

Hold up Session 1 Daily Plan Pennant. **The sun we see today can remind us that God made the sun, moon, stars and the world—and that God made us and loves us!**

**Today we’re discovering that God made us and loves us. Every day, we’ll learn more about how God loves us and how He showed this love by sending us His Son, Jesus.**