

God's Plan: 2 MAKE US!

Bible Story

The Creation Formulation
Genesis 1:1—2:2

Who made the
world and who
made me?

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

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

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

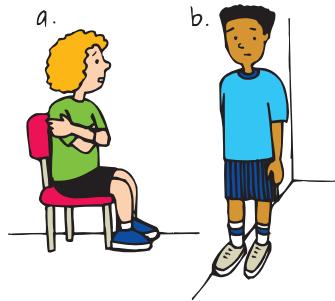
Place two chairs near where you will be leading the Story Starter activity.

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!

Preteens form 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.



(Maddy and Gabe) 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 (Maddy and Gabe) 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 Earth, He made it perfect for us to live here. He designed our bodies to work in Earth's gravity. What would happen if there were no gravity? Volunteers respond. **All research begins with a question! So as we research this account, consider the following: WHY did God make His creation as He did?**

The Creation Formulation Genesis 1:1—2:2

God Creates the Earth

To find out why God made this world as He did, we'll have to go way back to the beginning of everything, before you were born or your parents or your grandparents or your great-great-great—you get the idea. Earth's story began way, WAY, WAAAY back!

There's something incredibly awesome you need to know about the time before planet Earth existed. GOD was here. That's right! God was here before anything else! And God made Earth. **Let's find and read the very first words in the Bible, Genesis 1:1.**

Some people think the world began by accident, but this says God created it on purpose. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly WHEN the beginning was or exactly HOW God created everything—it just says He DID it!

Bring the Bible Story to Life!

Before session begins, post a sheet of butcher paper on the wall. Cut colored paper into the shape of something God made (tree, bear, etc.). Show the shape you made. **During the story, tear or cut paper into shapes that remind you of the things God made on each day of creation.** Provide paper in a variety of colors and textures, scissors, markers and tape. As you tell of each day of creation, preteens cut or tear papers, label them with the correct day of creation, and then tape shapes onto butcher paper to make a creation mural.

Large Group Tip: Provide markers. As story is told, preteens take turns to draw pictures of each day's creations on posted paper.

How did the world look in the beginning? Let's read Genesis 1:2 and find out. The earth didn't look the same as it does now. It was completely covered with water and darkness. Then God spoke! His voice boomed out across the universe: "Let there be LIGHT!" and there was light! God is so powerful. All He had to do was SPEAK and it happened! Science tells us that without light energy, there would be no life ANYWHERE. And of course, without God, there would be no light OR life—or anything!

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 it was.** 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?** The water in the sky is condensed water vapor in the atmosphere. We refer to this condensed water vapor as "clouds." *Point to clouds on Session 1 Bible Story Poster.* Clouds and the atmosphere contain water. So there is water on the earth's surface and water above Earth's surface, just as God said! No other planet we know of has the same kind of atmosphere we have. God was making THIS planet in a unique way. **Can you guess why?**

On the third day, God moved the water on the earth so that dry ground appeared. God called the dry ground "land." He called the waters "seas." **In 10 seconds, how many different bodies of water can you name?**

After that, God spoke and the land was covered with all kinds of plants and trees. God made many plants that would grow good things to eat. Just think about your favorite fruit or vegetable. God made that—and He made it partly so that YOU could eat it!

Then God put the sun, moon and stars in the sky, so the earth would have light in both daytime and nighttime. The sun, moon and stars have shone every day and every night EVER SINCE!

The next two days got REALLY interesting! On the fifth day, God filled the waters and the skies with all

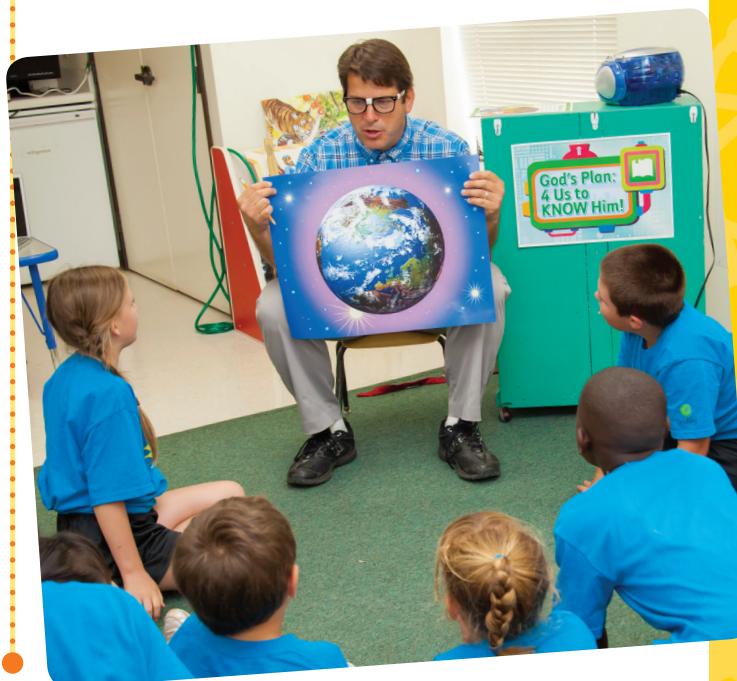
kinds of living creatures! **In 10 seconds, how many different creatures can you name that live in the sky? In the water?**

And on the sixth day, God made ALL the animals that live and move on land. **Quick! Name 10 different land-dwelling creatures!**

God Creates People

By now, Earth was no longer empty! Life was everywhere! Animals and lizards and fish and birds were having a great time! 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 wonderful ways. Nothing else that God created was made in His image—not stars, not plants, not 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 everything on Earth. **What are the names of the first man and woman?**

After the sixth day, God’s wonderful creation was complete. He had made a world 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, what do you think God did? Yes! He rested from all He had done!

Conclusion

This week we’ll research God’s plan for us as it is recorded in God’s Word, the Bible. Every day, we’ll talk about one part of God’s plan.

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

Our Scripture verse for today is Genesis 1:1,27: “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 unique—we are not like anything else He made!

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 uniquely—different from anything else in all of creation and able to know and love Him.



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 preteens to complete “Who Made the World and Who Made Me?” activity on page 2 of the *Lab Journal*. As they work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- **What do you think is the most interesting thing God made when He created the world?**
- **How did God feel about Adam and Eve?** (God loved them.) **What made them different from other creations?** (Able to reason, love, use imagination, etc.)
- **What did God make on this planet so that humans could live here?** (Food. Air. Water. Warmth.)
- **Why do you think God made the world to have the things that we need?** (God loves us. He wants us to know we matter to Him. God wants us to know He 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. When we look at the animals and plants, the sun, moon and stars, we remember that God made this world to show His love. God wants us to be close to Him, as Adam and Eve were!

Active Review

Preteens form pairs. One partner chooses “odd” and the other chooses “even.” They 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. Pairs add up fingers: If the total number is odd, players who chose “odd” tell answers to a question above. If the total is even, 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!**

Preteens complete “If You Could Ask God Anything . . .” 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.) **In what ways are people different from animals and plants?** (We can talk, think, make things, love God. We can join God’s family.)
- **How did God show His love for us when He created the world, the animals and you?** (He made the sun for heat and light. He gave animals ways to protect themselves. He made our bodies in amazing ways. He made food for us to eat, water for us to drink.)
- **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 preteens to respond, “2 MAKE Us!” Here at SonSpark Labs, we’re going to discover more about God’s plan for people. Our 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’ve researched the biblical account of how 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.