

Kids Worship Guide

VOLUME I



IN THE Beginning

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR KIDS™

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LifeWay | Kids

THE GOSPEL PROJECT™ FOR KIDS

The Gospel Project for Kids: Kids Worship Guide

VOLUME 1

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Unit 1: IN THE BEGINNING

Big Picture Questions

Session 1: Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

Session 2: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law and separates people from God.

Session 3: Why does sin separate people from God? God is holy and separate from sin.

Session 4: What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God's plan is to heal relationships.

Session 5: Who is in control? God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good.

Check out helpful articles on pages 190 and 192.

Unit 1: IN THE BEGINNING

Unit Description: God's story begins with the creation of all things. God did not have to create but chose to. Even more incredible, He made people for the purpose of glorifying Him. Man was created different from all other forms of life on the earth and as such was created in the image of God. God intends for people to be in fellowship with Him, however people are affected by sin and need redemption.

Unit Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

Unit Christ Connection: God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

Session 1: God Created the World and People
Genesis 1–2

Session 2: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3–4

Session 3: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5–9:17

Session 4: The Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1–9

Session 5: Job
Job 1–42

Teacher BIBLE STUDY

All of creation began with a word. God said it, and it happened. This method of creation is referred to as *ex nihilo* or “from nothing.” God the Father wasn’t the only One involved in creation, though. Check out Colossians 1:16-17 and John 1:1-3. Jesus was not only present at creation, He was involved. Jesus was God’s agent of creation. All things were created by Him and through Him.

The Bible also tells us that all things were created for Jesus. Have you ever wondered why butterflies exist or why the setting sun fills the sky with such vivid colors? For Jesus!

God’s creation was perfect, totally unaffected by sin. His plan was to fill the earth with all the things He saw were good: large sea-creatures, winged birds, crawling animals, livestock, and wildlife.

God’s ultimate act of creation was creating people. God created people different from everything else He created. Not only do people have a special purpose—to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7)—but we were also made to know and love God. God blessed Adam and Eve and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply.

Creation is the beginning of God’s gospel story, the story that reveals how a great God redeemed a fallen people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Every story in the Bible is a snapshot of a bigger story, a story that begins at creation.

Pray for the boys and girls you teach as you prepare to share the gospel story with them. Help kids understand that they were created for a special purpose and that God desires for them to know and love Him. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you as you share with kids the story of God’s plan to send Jesus to earth to offer salvation to sinners. This story changes everything.

Kids WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Session Title: God Created the World and People

Bible Passage: Genesis 1–2

Big Picture Question: Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

Unit Christ Connection: God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

Kids Worship

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The BIBLE STORY

God Created the World and People

Genesis 1–2

In the very beginning nothing existed except for God. God spoke and created the heavens and the earth. When He first created the earth it had no shape and total darkness covered the earth. The Spirit of God was present, hovering over the waters. God said, “Let there be light!” and light was created. God separated the light from the dark. The light was called *day*, and the darkness was called *night*. God saw the light and knew that it was good. This all happened on the first day of creation.

God began to separate the waters that were on the surface of the earth from the waters that were above the earth. God created a great expanse between the water on the earth and the water above the earth. He called the expanse *sky*. This all happened on the second day of creation.

Then God created dry land on the earth. The waters were gathered together into one place and the dry land appeared. The dry land was called *earth*, and the waters were called *seas*. God then commanded the earth to grow plants and trees. The plants and trees grew, and God knew that this was good. This all happened on the third day of creation.

Next God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to provide light on the earth, to separate day from night, and to help us track time in days and years. This all happened on the fourth day of creation.

God created all living things that are in the water and all birds that fly. God told them to multiply and fill the seas and the earth. God saw that it was good. This all happened on the fifth day of creation.

Finally God created animals to cover the earth. The animals multiplied until they covered the whole earth. God looked down at His creation and knew that it was good.

God then created people. God created people differently from everything else He created; God created people in His very own image. God took dust from the ground and made a man. God took His very own breath and breathed into the man, and the man became alive. God then took a rib from the man and created a woman to be the man’s helper and spouse. Adam

named his wife Eve. God asked the man and woman to care for the garden in which He had placed them and to take care of the earth. God told the man and woman to eat from any tree that He had created. He said that the trees were food for all the wildlife and animals as well as the people He had created. God's one warning was about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From this tree God warned the man and woman not to eat or they would die. This all happened on the sixth day of creation.

On the seventh day of creation, God rested from all of His work. He had done everything He planned to do and it was very good.

Christ Connection: Colossians 1:15-22 reveals that Christ is ruler over all of God's creation. All of creation was created through Him, by Him, and for Him. Everything was created to give glory to Christ, but people would choose not to give Him glory. The rest of the Bible reveals how Jesus would restore the relationship between God and man.

Kids Worship LEADER

Session Title: God Created the World and People

Bible Passage: Genesis 1–2

Big Picture Question: Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

Unit Christ Connection: God knew we would sin, and Jesus, our Creator, came to redeem us and protect us from the wrath of God by suffering for us.

• room decorations

Tip: Don't get overwhelmed by trying to use all of the theme decorating ideas. Pick one or two that work for your room and budget.

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: You may choose to create a stage that resembles the passenger waiting area of an airport, the runway, or the inside of a plane. Here are some ideas from which you can pick to create your decor.

Create a landing strip across the stage using long sheets of paper lined with Christmas lights or rope lights. You can create multiple strips that intersect each other as space allows. Stack some boxes and suitcases labeled for a particular destination as if they are to be loaded into a plane.

Set up the kids' seats to resemble passenger rows on a large airplane. Tape seat numbers to the chairs (example: 2A, 2B, 2C). Set up a bench or row of chairs to represent a passenger waiting area in one area of the room. Place suitcases around the chairs and room. Create a schedule board by dividing a piece of poster board into three columns. List locations in the first column, times in the second column, and write phrases such as *on time*, *arriving*, *delayed*, or *canceled*, in the third column. You may choose to make more than one poster and display them side by side or around the room.

- countdown video

Countdown

Show the countdown video playing as your kids arrive, set it to end as worship time begins.

- name tag, clipboard, and radio headset for the leader

Character insight:

This character is searching for his purpose. He is good-hearted and endearing, but makes many mistakes. As the unit progresses he will continue to seek his part of God's story as he tries a variety of jobs at Big Picture Airlines.

Tip: Don't forget to use inflection and add life to your character. Have some fun with the role, especially at the beginning of each session.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

[Large group leader enters wearing a dress shirt, dress pants, and name tag. Look at the kids and around the room while checking off items on your clipboard. You may wear a radio headset around your neck. Turn to see the kids.]

Leader • Oh, good. All the passengers are here. According to my list we are ready to go; we are ready for our flight to begin. I would like to welcome you to Big Picture Airlines, where way up high you can see the big picture. We ask that all of our passengers take a seat and fasten their seat belts. Please make sure all of your belongings are safely put away under your seat in preparation for our takeoff. My name is _____, and I will be assisting your flight engineer in the cockpit today.

Since we've just met, how about I tell you a little about myself? We can get to know each other before our flight takes off. I'm so confused because I can't figure out what God's plan is for my life. I think I am supposed to work here at Big Picture Airlines, but I don't know which job. So I have been trying all the jobs to help me figure out God's plan for my life. First I was in charge of all the bags that are supposed to be loaded onto the plane. That was fun, but the boss said I can't do that job again because I kinda, sorta, maybe put about 10 or 12 bags on the wrong plane, and they went to New York instead of Los Angeles. So last week I was the gate attendant. That person's job is to help everyone board the plane. I did a really good job until Thursday, when I got mixed up and directed all the passengers for Chicago onto a plane going

to Milwaukee.

So this week the boss said I should try assisting the flight engineer. The flight engineer is in charge of the preflight checklist; monitoring the flight to make sure we follow the flight plan; and watching our fuel, speed, and altitude to make sure we have a safe flight. They look at all the little pieces to make sure you have a safe flight and can look out your windows to see the big picture of God's creation. Oh, that is the part of flying that I love the most. Down on earth you can only see where you are up close, but on our flight you can see the big picture of where you are.

You know, that reminds me of the Bible. The Bible is full of stories about all kinds of different people. To really understand each story we have to remember the big picture of God's story. Each part of the Bible reveals something about God's plan to send Jesus. Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we are a part of the big picture of God's story. Let's look on our timeline map and see where our flight will take us today.

Guide kids to look at the timeline map.

Timeline map (1 minute)

Leader • Can anyone find our airport on the map? There it is. Since this is the first Bible story picture, this must be where we are going today. Every week we are going to hear more about God's story, and all the pictures on our map are a part of God's story. All together they form a big picture of God's plan for us to see; the big picture is God's plan to send Jesus to save us from our sin. At the bottom of our map, we can see all the stories that we will talk about and the order in which they happened. It says here on our timeline that our first story is "God

• timeline map
Tip: Point to the different sections of the timeline map as you talk about each one.

Created the World and People.” But before we can start our journey today, I have some important information that will help you on our flight.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • Every week we will be searching for an answer to a big picture question. Our big picture question will help us understand more about God’s story. Does anyone know what our big picture question is for this week? Some of you may think you know the answer, so I need you to promise not to tell anyone. I want everyone to be able to discover the answer on their own. Listen during the Bible story to see if you hear the answer to the big picture question. Today’s big picture question is ***Who created everything?***

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Invite kids to follow along in their Bibles. Tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided, or show “God Created the World and People” video.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- “God Created the World and People” video (optional)
- big picture question slide or poster (enhanced CD)
- Bible story picture slide or poster (enhanced CD)

Leader • God created Adam and Eve to know Him and love Him. God also wants us to know and love Him. That is how we are a part of God’s story. Up here, flying through the sky, we can look out and see the big picture. We can see how amazing God’s creation is. As we continue to learn more about God’s story, we will see that the Bible shows us God’s plan to send Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

Did you hear the answer to the big picture question during the Bible story? What was the question? Now if you know the answer, when I count to three, I want you to shout it out. Ready, one, two, three.

Option: Kids can whisper the answer or use a funny voice instead of shouting.

Allow boys and girls to shout out the answer.

Leader • Yes. The answer to our question is ***God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*** I am going to ask our big picture question later, and I want to hear the whole answer. So let's read it together.

Read the answer two or three times to help kids begin to remember it.

Leader • We bring God glory when we praise and honor Him. What are some ways we can bring glory to God? Allow a couple of kids and leaders to share their thoughts.

Review (4 minutes)

Ask the following questions about today's Bible story.

1. How many days did it take to create the earth and everything in it? (*six days, Genesis 1:31–2:1*)
2. In whose image was man created? (*the image of God, Genesis 1:27*)
3. What job did God give Adam to do? (*take care of the garden, Genesis 2:15*)
4. What one warning did God give to Adam? (*not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Genesis 2:17*)
5. What did God do on the seventh day of creation? (*rested, Genesis 2:2*)
6. ***Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.***
7. Who is ruler over all creation? (*Christ is ruler over all of God's creation, Colossians 1:15-22*)

Key passage (6 minutes)

Leader • Did you know that God created people different from everything else He created? God created Adam and breathed life into Adam. The Bible tells us that God

- "In His Own Image"
- key passage slide or poster (enhanced CD)
- Bibles, 1 per kid

created man in God's image. I need all my passengers to turn in their flight plans to—oh, wait. Have I told you yet about the flight plan? That is one of my favorite parts of assisting the flight engineer. Every plane has a flight plan that tells where the plane is going, the path that it needs to take, and the plan for what to do if we have to land at a different airport or fly a different way to our destination. The flight plan is our map during the flight. Many times life is a lot like flying, up and down, sometimes smooth and sometimes turbulent, and I need the flight plan to remind me that God sent Jesus to rescue me from sin. The Bible is the flight plan. So I need everyone to open their Bible to Genesis 1:27.

Lead boys and girls to read the key passage. Explain that they will have five weeks to memorize these special words from God. Sing “In His Own Image.”

Leader • Being made in the image of God means we were created to know and love God. Remember our big picture question *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.* Being created in God's image means we were created to bring Him glory by praising and honoring Him.

Group demonstration (5 minutes)

Invite five kids to join you at the front of the room.

Leader • I am going to give each of you a bag of supplies. When I say “start,” you are to open your bag and create a plant with the supplies inside.

Hand out the bags and give the start command. Kids will open the bags to find they are empty. Encourage them to create. Act like there is no problem. After a minute acknowledge that something is missing, and allow the volunteers to sit down.

- 5 lunch or gift bags taped closed
- big picture question slide or poster (enhanced CD)

Leader • God made us in His image, and we have the ability to be creative. But we have to start with or use something to create. God created the heavens and the earth from nothing. The Bible says God said, “Let there be light,” and light was created. He did not have to start with anything to create. That is how powerful God is. Tell me again, *Who created everything?*

Allow kids to answer *God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*

Sing and offering (3–12 minutes)

Leader • Let’s stand and glorify God for all that He has created and for creating us to be a part of His story. The first song we are going to sing is our unit theme song.

Provide kids with an opportunity to participate in an offering as a part of worship during one song. Choose three or four songs to sing during this time.

Song suggestions:

- “You Are God Alone” (unit theme song)
- “Indescribable”
- “Who He Says I Am”
- “How Great Thou Art”
- “God of Wonders”

Group game (10 minutes)

The amazing suitcase race

Create two teams of two or three kids each. Give each team a suitcase and explain that the goal for each team is to unpack its suitcase and put the items from its suitcase in the order that each was created. Encourage the crowd to cheer for the team without revealing the answers.

Leader • Great job, everyone. Let’s review their work. I am going to say the day, and I want everyone to shout out

- “You Are God Alone” and other songs of your choice

Tip: Select the number of songs to sing based on the amount of time you have. You may pick from the songs provided or add songs from your own song library.

- 2 suitcases
- Each suitcase needs to have items representing the days of creation.
- Example ideas:
Day 1: flashlight;
Day 2: piece of light blue fabric or paper;

Day 3: pack of seeds or small stem of flowers;
Day 4: sheet of sun, moon, or stars stickers;
Day 5: small bag of fish crackers;
Day 6: stuffed animal such as a dog, lion, or elephant, and a baby doll

something that was created on that day.

Allow the teams to correct any mistakes they made as you review all six days of creation. Review the big picture question and answer. ***Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.***

Missions (6 minutes)

Leader • God wants us to share His story about Jesus with others. Listen to this story about some missionaries who are sharing the truth about Jesus with people in another country.

Share the following mission story, “Stars in the Sky,” about two missionaries who traveled to Zambia.

Leader • Can you see the stars at night where you live? If you live in a big city with lots of smog and lights on the street, maybe you don’t see them much. But if you go camping in the country or have a picnic in a park and stay late, you probably lie on your back and look up at the sky. The stars are so pretty and remind us just how big God’s creation is.

Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.” Missionaries Daniel and Sky Scott (Yep. Her name is Sky and she loves proclaiming the work of God’s hands!) went to a remote part of Zambia where the stars were gorgeous. The stars took their breath away. Their Zambian friends thought it strange. They seemed to ask: “The stars? You’re amazed at the stars?” Daniel and Sky saw beauty and thought about the glory of God, but the Zambians just saw a night sky.

Do you think about God when you see everything that He has created? Praise God for making the world beautiful, and ask God to help the Mbunda people of

Zambia “see” Him in creation.

Leader • It would be amazing to fly to Zambia and see the stars at night, but we don’t have time to travel there today. But when we are at our homes tonight, we can look at the stars and praise God for creating them just like Daniel and Sky Scott praised God for the stars. The Scotts have a special job as missionaries to tell the people in Zambia about Jesus. This week let’s remember to pray for the Scotts.

Announcements (2 minutes)

Leader • I need all passengers to find their seats and secure their seat belts for our landing. I want to thank you for flying on Big Picture Airlines. Before we land, I have a few announcements.

Make any announcements from your children’s ministry.

Leader • Well, it has been a great flight today. I love how seeing the big picture reminds me that God does have a plan for me. One part of His plan was to send Jesus to rescue me from my sin. Hopefully I will figure out soon what job I am supposed to have here at Big Picture Airlines. Before you get ready to exit the plane, let’s remember what we learned today. Tell me again, ***Who created everything?***

Allow kids to answer ***God created the world and people to bring Him glory.***

If time allows, interact with the kids by asking for individual kids to share the big picture question and answer. You may also “quiz” some of your fellow Big Picture Airline employees (adult helpers).

Prayer (1 minute)

Leader • God's story begins with creation and continues today. Everyone is unique, and God made us to know Him and love Him. *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*

Next week we will continue to learn about how we can bring God glory as we study more of God's story. After I close in prayer, watch for the signal for you to exit the plane. I hope you will come travel with us again next week.

Close in prayer.

Dismiss

Additional idea

- paper
- markers, crayons, or pencils
- tape

Option: Use the additional idea if you have extra time or as a substitute for the group game or group demonstration. The additional idea typically will require some assistance from other leaders.

Ready, set, draw

Assign each kid in the room a number between one and six. Then tell them to find the others in the room who have a matching number. All the "ones" form a group; all the "twos" form a group; and so forth. Each group then draws something created on the day of the number it was given. Drawings can be displayed in your classroom or hallway as a reminder of God's creativity during creation.

Leader • We can be thankful for everything God created.

God created a variety of animals and plants, and it all works together. What is our big picture question and answer? *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*

Teacher BIBLE STUDY

Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” and the punishment was severe: “You will certainly die” (Genesis 2:17).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving two-way relationship with God. It was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts, so that they might enjoy the good and give thanks to God; this glorifies God. All of that changed when they gave in to the serpent’s temptation. Eve believed the lie that leads many of us to sin: Maybe God is holding out on me.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they were aware of their nakedness and felt ashamed. Surely the Lord’s heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Their sin left them cast out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, they would die and their lives and their children’s lives would be forever affected by their choice.

Adam and Eve’s sons, Cain and Abel, were no exception to the effects of sin. Cain and Abel were born into sin. Their story brings to light the deep effects of uncontrolled sin. Cain murdered his brother. God’s creation was never meant to be this way.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. The primary purpose of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection was to deal with sin. Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news, that we are all sinners from birth, rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).