

THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS



In The Beginning

FALL 2012 YOUNGER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

Ed Stetzer General Editor

Trevin Wax Managing Editor

LifeWay | Kids

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.

Younger Kids BIBLE STUDY 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 already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Small Group Opening

Welcome time	Page 3
Activity sheet (5 minutes)	Page 3
Session starter (10 minutes)	Page 3

Large Group Leader

Countdown	Page 5
Introduce the session (1 minute)	Page 5
Time line map (1 minute)	Page 5
Big picture question (2 minutes)	Page 5
Sing (5 minutes)	Page 6
Key passage (3 minutes)	Page 6
Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)	Page 6
Discussion starter video (5 minutes)	Page 6
Prayer (3 minutes)	Page 7

Small Group Leader

Key passage activity (5 minutes)	Page 8
Bible story review (10 minutes)	Page 8
Activity choice (10 minutes)	Page 8
Journal and prayer (5 minutes)	Page 9



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. God named them Adam and 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.



Small Group OPENING

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 already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Tip: As kids arrive this is a great time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

Welcome time

Arriving Activity: Build relationships

Engage kids in conversation as they enter the room. Ask probing questions to get to know each child individually.

Possible questions to ask:

Say • What did you do this week?

- What is your favorite video game, music group, or sports star?
- What sports do you enjoy playing?
- What is your favorite part of God's creation?

Activity sheet (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity sheet.

Say • God created all things from nothing! People were created for a special purpose.

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: God's creation

Invite the kids to form a circle. Make a paper wad. Give the paper wad to one of the kids in the circle. Direct the kids to pass the paper wad around the circle when they hear the music start.

They should stop passing it when the music stops. Whoever has the paper wad when the music stops will share something God created. Use the unit theme song and repeat as time allows.

Say • Today we will learn why God created everything.

Option 2: Create-doh

Give each child play dough, and ask her to create her favorite animal. Encourage each child to showcase what she made, and allow kids to guess what each creation is.

Say • What did you create? How did you create it? Today we will learn why God created everything.

Transition to large group

• play dough

- marker, 1 per child
- activity sheet, 1 per child



- "You Are God Alone"
- paperwad

Activity SHEET

Instructions: Below are some of the things God created in the very beginning. Find the words in the puzzle. Use a marker to highlight the words and uncover God's most special creation.

SKY		A B C A B C A B C A B C A B C
STAR		A B C A B C S K Y A B C A B C
MOON		A B C A B S T A R A B C A B
DAY		A B C A B M O O N A B C A B
WATER		A B C A B C D A Y A B C A B C
PLANT		A B C A B C A W C A B C A B C
SUN		A B C A B P L A N T B C A B C
TREES		A B C A B C A T C A B C A B C
NIGHT		A B C A B C A E C A B C A B C
		A B C A B C A R C A B C A B C
		A B C A B C S U N A B C A B C
		A B C A B E A B C I B C A B C
		A B C A E C A B C A G C A B C
		A B C R B C A B C A B H A B C
		A B T A B C A B C A B C T B C
		A B C A B C A B C A B C A B C



Large Group 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 already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Tip: You can decorate just a little or go all out. Just do what works best at your church for your group.

Suggested Theme Decoration Ideas: Set up the room to look like an airplane. Set up chairs in rows down the middle of the room and label seats *1A*, *1B*, and so on. Add birds, clouds, or anything else that might be seen outside the window of an airplane. Create tickets for each child. Use the tickets to help kids choose games or activities. Decorate the front of the room as a cockpit or landing strip. For a cockpit, add old televisions and old sound boards, or create a cockpit using paint and cardboard. For a landing strip, tape lines or Christmas lights on the floor. Use a couple of spot lights or large flashlights for extra effect. Direct the kids to sit in the chairs in the middle of the room.

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (1 minute)

[Large group leader enters carrying a suitcase, a piece of paper in the shape of a ticket, and a clipboard with a pretend checklist.]

• countdown video

• suitcase
• paper ticket
• clipboard

Leader • How many of you would like to take a trip on an airplane today? You know what is most amazing when you fly? You look out the little window and get this huge view of the earth below. It's like a big picture. We are heading on a journey to see the big picture of some amazing places and some incredible truths. For the next several weeks, we will do it all by air, using our imaginations. How many of you have ever flown before?

Time line map (1 minute)

Leader • Any trip needs a destination. That's why I have this map. Let's see. Is there a place any of you would like to visit? Those are all great places. As a matter of fact, why don't we see how all those places came to be. We see here on the map that "God Created the World and People." Our big picture for today will take us all the way back to the very beginning of the earth. Is everyone ready to go? I have my checklist here. Luggage, check! Tickets, check! Passengers, check!

Big picture question (2 minutes)

Leader • Flying a plane is not always easy. Sometimes you face situations or questions that are tough to deal with. No matter what you do or how old you are, everyone deals with difficult questions. You need a place to go for answers. That's why pilots have a flight manual, so they can find all the information they need to fly a plane. You, however, have something far better: the Bible. The Bible tells us about God's plan to save us and how we should live out His plan.

If you have your Bible, please hold it up high in the air. Remember to bring it every week. To help us discover the incredible truths in our Bible, we will have a question that

• time line map

Tip: During the big picture question time, leaders get the opportunity to share the importance of kids bringing their own Bible to church. You may want to show your Bible as an illustration, too.

helps us understand God's big picture. You have the task of finding the answer each week. Don't worry! We'll have plenty of clues along the way. The big picture question is: *Who created everything?*

- "You Are God Alone"

Sing (5 minutes)

Leader • The answer to today's question is actually all around us—in our Bible, at church, and even in the music we sing.

See if you can find it in this song.

Sing together "You Are God Alone."

- "In His Image"
- key passage slide or poster

Key passage (3 minutes)

Leader • Please make sure you buckle your seat belt as we get ready for take off. That's the last thing on my checklist. You know, God had sort of a checklist, too. Guess what was on that checklist? You!

Show the slide or poster of this unit's key passage,

Genesis 1:27. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse together.

Leader • It's important for you to understand you were made in God's image. We even have a song to remind us.

Sing together "In His Image."

- "God Created the World and People" video (optional)
- Bibles, 1 per child

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Leader • As we open God's Word today, we are going to take our trip. As you see creation, I want you to imagine what it must have looked like from above.

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Choose to tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided, or show the "God Created the World and People" video.

Leader • Everything was created when God spoke it into

existence. God created Adam and Eve different, however, from all other things He created. God created Adam and Eve to know and love Him. Adam and Eve were also to take care of the rest of God's creation in the garden. *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*

Glory is giving praise, honor, and respect. Everything was created to give praise, honor, and respect to God. Jesus was also very active in creation. Christ is ruler over all of God's creation. All of creation was created by Him, through Him, and for Him (Colossians 1:15-16).

Ask the following review questions:

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 task did God give the man and woman to complete? (*Take care of the garden He had placed them in, 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 is the purpose of all creation? (*To bring glory to Christ, Colossians 1:15-22, Revelation 4:11*)

- "Creation Talk" video
- big picture question slide or poster

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Leader • Some people don't believe God created everything.

You may hear all kinds of different thoughts on how the world and universe was formed. Think about that as we watch this fun in-flight video.

Play "Creation Talk."

Leader • Which of the responses by the cupcakes was the obvious answer? What would you say to someone who asked you how everything was created? Cupcakes have a baker. You have a Creator. ***God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*** God breathed His very own breath into Adam to bring him to life. God has a special plan for every person on the earth.

Well, it looks like we are coming in for a landing, so let's take a few minutes to remember what we learned on today's flight.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Leader • Does anyone know the answer to our big picture question? ***Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*** Perhaps you hear other things at school or on TV, but the truth is in God's Word. ***God created the world and people to bring Him glory.***

Guide kids on one side of the room to ask the big picture question and kids on the other side to say the answer. Then swap, allowing both sides to say the question and the answer. Turn it into a competition by seeing which group can say its part the loudest, the softest, or the fastest.

Prayer (3 minutes)

Before transitioning to small group, make any necessary announcements. Lead the kids in prayer. Pray that kids will recognize what a wonderful creator God is and how special they are to God because they are created in His image.

Dismiss to small groups

Leader Snapshots

Below are a few key points to help you use this curriculum.

Discussion starter video: Embedded in the big picture of God's story are fundamental truths that every kid can hear, know, and do. A short video is provided each week to help kids think about how each Bible story applies to their lives. The video provides the situation, but it's up to the kids in your group to figure out how to use God's Word to help them handle each situation.

Big picture question: Each week the large group leader will introduce a big picture question to help teach kids Bible truths systematically.

Christ Connection: One of the goals of this curriculum is to make sure every kid understands that each Bible story leads to God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. That's why you will notice two ways to connect Christ to each lesson. The first is a unit Christ Connection. This is used to help teachers understand how all the sessions of a unit connect to Christ. The second is for the kids and can be found at the end of each Bible story. This allows the kids to see how every lesson relates back to the big picture of God's plan.

Tell the Bible story: Leaders have two options when sharing the Bible story. One is the traditional approach, where a leader shares the story, using the Bible or the Bible story supplied. The second is through the Bible story video. Each session contains the Bible story presented by a master storyteller, accented with a variety of creative media components.



Small Group 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 already had a plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

- key passage slide or poster
- flashlight

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Make sure the key passage, Genesis 1:27, is visible to each child, either as the printed poster or written on a whiteboard.

Read the verse together.

Say • God created people to fellowship with Him, to love Him, and to follow Him. This gives Him glory. God made people to be like Him in many ways. God desires that we become more like His Son, Jesus Christ, each day. Let's see if we can remember Genesis 1:27 as we play a game.

Turn off the lights, making sure you have ambient light from a window or an open door. Take a flashlight and point it at the words in the verse, bouncing the light over each word as you say it. Read the verse aloud several times so the kids can become familiar with all the words. After demonstrating this, encourage the kids to follow the light and read the verse. Allow just the boys to read and then just the girls to read. In between readings, shine the light all around the room to keep the kids interested and responsive. Instruct the kids to follow the light wherever it goes.

- Bibles, 1 per child
- big picture question slide or poster

Tip: If you have non-readers, form groups that include an adult leader. If you only have two adults, divide days 1–3 and days 4–6. If you have three adults, divide days 1–2, days 3–4, and days 5–6.

Bible story review (10 minutes)

Ask if kids know where the Book of Genesis is in the Bible. (*First book*) Tell the kids that Genesis is part of the first five books in the Bible. These books are called the “Law.” Ask if kids can name the other books of the Law. (*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)

Lead boys and girls to find Genesis 1. Assign one day of creation to groups of two or more. Guide each group to scan the verses that relate to their assigned day of creation. Encourage each group or child to share what things were created on each given day.

Day 1–Genesis 1:1–5, light and darkness

Day 2–Genesis 1:6–8, sky

Day 3–Genesis 1:9–13, dry land, seas, plants, and trees

Day 4–Genesis 1:14–19, sun, moon, and stars

Day 5–Genesis 1:20–23, fish and birds

Day 6–Genesis 1:24–31, land animals, man, and woman.

Say • God created everything to highlight Jesus, though it would be thousands of years before Jesus walked on earth. Jesus was the reason it was all made, from the smallest plant to the largest planet. All of creation was created by Him, through Him, and for Him.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Say • Did you hear the answer to our question? *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.*



Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Creation Pictionary

Invite a volunteer to come up and draw something God created. Consider providing categories like animals, things in the

- whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- dry erase or regular marker
- tape, if using large sheet of paper

sky, plants and trees, and things in the ocean. Encourage the volunteer to whisper to you what he is drawing, and then the other kids may guess what it is. The one who correctly guesses first becomes the next to draw. Remind the kids on which day of creation each item drawn was created.

Say • *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.* Jesus holds the whole world together.

Option 2: Creation finder

Allow each child to take a container and fill it with confetti, sand, or bird seed. Guide each child to place a few creation items in the container. If kids are using a ziplock bag, make sure none of the creation items are sharp enough to create a hole. Tape the top to secure it. Once the craft is complete, call out an item and see who can find it first.

Say • *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.* Jesus is the center of all creation.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a folder and the journal page to each child. Each week the session will end with an opportunity for kids to journal either with words or pictures. Guide the kids to draw something God created or write on the journal why they are special to God. You may also use the journal to write down prayer requests or whatever you wish. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

Say • *Who created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.* You get to create a journal

- tape
- container (jar, plastic bottle, or ziplock bag), 1 per child
- filler (confetti, sand, or bird seed) 1 per child
- additional items (flowers, shells, rocks, small animal or insect toys, precut foam shapes), 1 or more per child

- folder, 1 per child
- journal sheet, 1 per child
- markers or crayons
- stickers (optional)
- Bible story coloring sheet (optional)

today—something that will help you get to know the God who created everything.

If the kids finish early, encourage them to decorate their folders. Make sure each child puts her name on her folder. Collect them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to color the Bible coloring sheet. End the session with prayer, thanking God specifically for His wonderful creation. Pray for each child by name, and thank God for creating each one.

Teacher Snapshot

As you prepare each session, it's important to understand how you can best use the elements available to you. Below are a few actions to help you do that.

1. Study the Bible story closely. Even if you are using the Bible story on video, make sure you don't neglect the section of scripture highlighted for each session.

2. Make sure you read the teacher Bible study. This will help you personally connect with the session, which will give you more insight into how to present the material to the kids.

3. Choose the activities that best fit your kids. You will have two activity options at the beginning and two at the end. While all the activities are designed to be easy and budget friendly, in each group you will notice the first has a low prep logo in the margin. This option requires minimal, easy to find supplies.

4. Get excited. If you are excited about the session, the kids will be, too. You are much more than a teacher. You are a leader, and the kids will follow.

In the Beginning

Key Passage: Genesis 1:27

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



