

**ENDURING  
FAITH<sup>®</sup>**

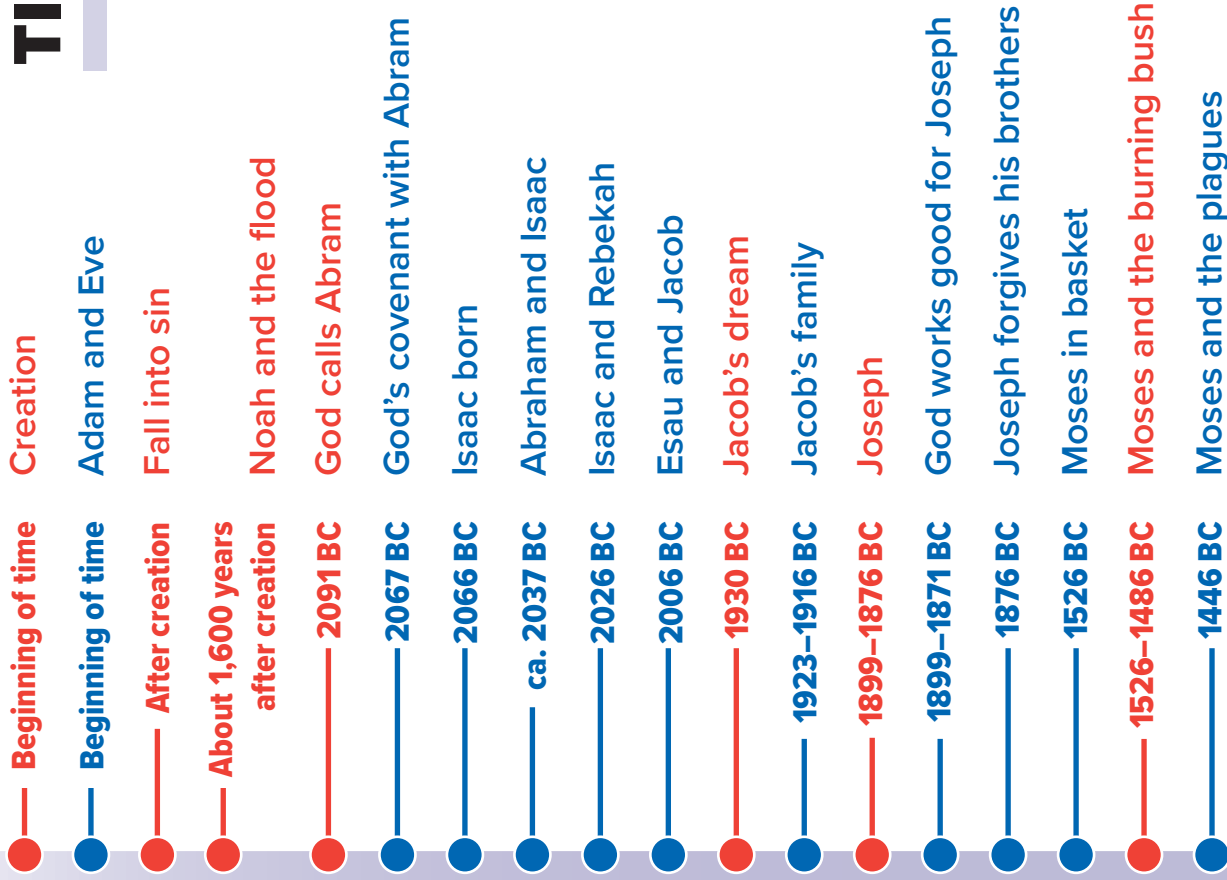
Sunday School • Midweek  
Bible Curriculum

# **EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE**

*Unit 1: God Creates a World and a Kingdom*



# TIMELINE A



The exodus—crossing the Red Sea  
God provides manna and quail

Written Sumerian language appears in Mesopotamia  
**3100 BC**  
Pyramids of Giza built  
**ca. 2550 BC**  
Stonehenge erected in England  
**ca. 2500 BC**

First permanent settlements appear in North America  
**ca. 2000 BC**

Shang dynasty founded in China  
**1760 BC**

## KEY

Bible Survey

Old Testament

Exploration

World history

Ramses the Great becomes pharaoh of Egypt  
**1279 BC**

Feudal system established in China  
**1046 BC**

The Maya settle the Yucatán Peninsula  
**ca. 1000 BC**

Water from the rock

Ten Commandments

The golden calf

Building the tabernacle

Twelve spies

Rahab believes

Joshua—crossing the Jordan

The fall of Jericho

Deborah

Gideon

Samson

Ruth

Samuel

Saul becomes king

David anointed

David and Goliath

David and Jonathan

Mephibosheth

David worships God

Solomon prays for wisdom

Solomon builds the temple

1445 BC

1445 BC

1406 BC

1217–1178 BC

1172–1133 BC

1068–1049 BC

Before 1000 BC

1060–1049 BC

1049 BC

1019 BC

1015 BC

1009 BC

975 BC

969 or 968 BC

967–961 BC

# ENDURING FAITH BIBLE CURRICULUM

## OVERVIEW

The Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum features a Christ-centered, three-year chronological survey of Bible history with uniform outlines across all levels. The materials have been designed to help you teach the Christian faith in age-appropriate ways, with the goal of helping your students grow deeper in their understanding of God’s Word.

- Year 1 is an overview of the Bible and its major themes, tracing God’s plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation.
- Year 2 looks at the Old Testament in depth.
- Year 3 looks at the New Testament in depth.
- There are fourteen lessons per unit, including a seasonal lesson that fits within the biblical chronology of the unit. Churches may choose to teach the lessons in order, or they may pull out the seasonal lesson for use on that particular holiday.
- There are four overlapping levels, plus materials for a one-room classroom. Here is a handy chart that shows the focus of the levels and how they connect:

Level	Age Range	Objective	Summary Word
Early Childhood	Preschool through Grade 1, nonreaders	Discover the Account	Know
Elementary	Grades 1 through 6	Explore the Context	Grow
Youth	Grades 6 through 12	Defend the Faith	Go
Adult	Grade 11 through adult	Equipped to Teach	Show
One-Room Classroom	Preschool through Grade 6		

## FEATURES OF THE STUDENT MATERIALS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Discover Leaflet**—You will need one set of leaflets per learner. Send the parent leaflet in the set home the first week.

### Page 1

- Bible stories are told in age-appropriate ways, with storytelling suggestions and an open-ended “I wonder” question to engage children in the story.
- Colorful, child-friendly Bible art illustrates the lesson narrative.
- A note to parents also provides a prayer and Bible Verse that parents can say with their child.
- Each lesson page is perforated so page 1 can be separated from page 2 and made into a Bible story book at home.

### Page 2

- Two in-class activities are provided on each leaflet: one to review the Bible story to help young children “know” it and one to apply the story to children’s lives today.

**Sticker Pages**—You will need one set of stickers per learner.

- Colorful stickers can be used for leaflet and craft activities.
- Stickers are perforated into grids by lesson for easy separation.

# ADDITIONAL LEADER HELPS

## MAKE YOUR OWN LIBRARY OF CPH RESOURCES

Throughout the teacher-preparation sections, we have pointed to some key resources that would be helpful to you as you prepare your lessons. You will also benefit from having some early childhood songbooks and books of finger plays.

*The Lutheran Study Bible* (CPH, 2009), also referred to as *TLSB*

*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017)

*Know the Bible Now* (CPH, 2016)

*Little Ones Sing Praise* (CPH, 1989)

*Wiggle & Wonder* (CPH, 2012)

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Go to the online digital resource center for the Planning Guide, Pastor Guide, Unit Planner, Leader Devotions, and Lesson Openings. Ask your coordinator for access to the online digital resource center to get these materials.

## MUSIC

Download music audio files from the online digital resource center. Songs are frequently repeated so children can learn them better. Young children love repetition anyway! If you aren't comfortable teaching children to sing a song, play the music in the background as students enter your classroom or work on projects during the lesson or at the end of class. Together with children, sing along and enjoy God's Word in song. Consider giving children rhythm instruments or chiffon scarves to use as they sing.

## ENDURING FAITH PAGES

Enduring Faith Pages are reproducible take-home resources that summarize each Bible lesson and provide suggestions for "taking home" Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring. Find these materials in the online digital resource center and download them for copying.

## MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

We recognize that no two classrooms are the same. We hope, however, that we have provided you with a framework of options to share the unchanging Word of God in creative and flexible ways. Choose from the options in the road map of this Leader Guide to make the lessons work best for the children in your setting. Know that we at Concordia Publishing House are praying for you as you do the important work of sharing the precious love of Jesus with His children.

**ENDURING FAITH**  
Bible Curriculum

**A MIGHTY WONDER**  
LESSON 1  
Genesis 1:1-2:3

GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

**BIBLE VERSE**  
In the beginning,  
God created the heavens  
and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1

**SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT**  
"In the beginning, God created . . ." (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.

**TAKING IT HOME**  
► *On the Go*—What are three different ways you use God's creation in your daily life?  
► *At Mealtime*—God created plants for food. Talk about which plants are your favorites to eat. Do you know which plants are eaten by animals?  
► *Something to Do*—Each day of this week, search the internet for the NASA picture of the day or another picture that shows the wonders of God's creation. Then say together, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9).  
► *Before Bed*—Pray together and thank God for something special in His creation.

**GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE**  
See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

**ADULT**  
I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

**YOUTH**  
I can identify examples of God's work in creation.

**ELEMENTARY**  
I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
I know God created everything.

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# HOW TO USE THE LEADER GUIDE

## OVERVIEW

This section lets you see the biblical foundation of each lesson at a glance. All levels share the same Bible Truth, Bible Verse, Law & Gospel, and Scripture Snapshot, allowing families to learn together. The Learner Goal is unique to each level.

## ACTIVE LEARNING

**Move** gets children moving through games and action rhymes. Children need to use their large muscles to process information. These activities allow for that.

**Snack** provides themed ideas for snacks.

**Create** gives arts and crafts suggestions that use locally provided materials and stickers from the Sticker Pages. As children make their crafts, reinforce the Learner Goal.

Do not feel like you have to do all these activities. Pick those that work best for your time and class.

## BONUS ACTIVITIES

Look here to find a variety of creative ways to complement, add to, or extend the lesson.

## PAGE 1 LEADER GUIDE

**ENDURING FAITH**  
Sunday School • Homeschool Bible Curriculum

**A MIGHTY WONDER**

Unit 1  
LEADER GUIDE  
Lesson 1

Creation  
Genesis 1:1, 2:3  
Beginning of time

**OVERVIEW**

**BIBLE TRUTH**  
God created the heavens and the earth.

**BIBLE VERSE**  
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1

**LEARNER GOAL**  
I know God created everything.

**LAW & GOSPEL**  
We forgive or even refuse to believe that God is our Creator and the giver of all good things.  
God gives us faith to believe that He created the heavens and the earth and that He continues to provide us with all good things, especially life and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT**  
“In the beginning, God created . . .” (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.

**LESSON PREP**

**BASIC** Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read “The Beginning,” “Genesis,” and “God Creates the World” on pages 8–13 of *Know the Bible Now*.

**IN DEPTH** Review the section “The First Article (Part 1)” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

**SUPPLY LIST**

**FOR THIS LESSON**

- Nature items & bag
- Plastic animals, tub & rice
- Blocks, chocolate chips, art supplies & story bag
- Ball
- Animal pictures
- Fruit & skewers
- Lunch bags, yarn or pipe cleaners & hole punch
- Praise wavers

**FOR EVERY LESSON**

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

## LESSON PREP

Use these suggestions for your own Bible study as you prepare to teach this lesson.

**BASIC** Begin here—read the full Bible text.

**MORE TIME** Read a devotion or additional article.

**IN DEPTH** Gain a deeper understanding of the Bible story and its context.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

Choose the lesson activities you wish to do, and put a check in the box so you know the supplies you’ll need to gather.

### FOR EVERY LESSON

Use this checklist as a reminder of items that you need on hand for every lesson.

## PAGE 4 LEADER GUIDE

**ACTIVE LEARNING**

**MOVE**  
Show pictures of animals (e.g., a fish, bird, dog, elephant). Have the children act out animal sounds or behaviors—roar like a lion, move hands like a fish, hop or chirp like a bird, swing arm in front of face for an elephant, and the like.  
After each pantomime, say, **God made the [lion], and God made it good. God made everything! We praise You, God!** Talk about how God wants us to care for the animals and the world He made and ways we can do this. Also talk about times we might not be kind or caring (e.g., we don’t care for our pet). Assure children of Jesus’ forgiveness and help to do better.

**SNACK**  
Make fruit kebabs. Thread six to seven pieces of fruit on each skewer. Use three colors (e.g., banana slices, grape halves, and strawberries). Have children identify the colors and count the pieces of fruit. Talk about how God cares for us by giving us good things to eat. Ask, **What are other ways God cares for us?** (He gives us clothing, a home, etc.)

**CREATE**  
Give each child a paper lunch bag and a face sticker to put on the front of the bag to make a happy-face litterer bag. Children can add flower and heart stickers and color designs on their bags. Punch a hole on each side of the bag near the top. Thread a piece of yarn or a pipe cleaner through one hole. Thread the opposite end through the other hole. Knot or twist ends in place. Talk about how God wants us to care for His creation. Encourage children to put pieces of trash in their bags to keep God’s world clean. Talk about other things the children can do to care for God’s world this week, such as watering plants or feeding pets.

**CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING**

**IDENTITY: WHO AM I?**  
God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.

**CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?**  
I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshipping and praising God and taking care of His creation.

**GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE**  
See how this lesson builds on learning for each level.

**ADULT**  
I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

**YOUTH**  
I can identify examples of God’s work in creation.

**ELEMENTARY**  
I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
I know God created everything.

**BONUS ACTIVITIES**

**SORT AND COUNT**  
15 minutes  
Bring leaves, or go outside to gather leaves. Set out construction paper in “fall” colors (green, yellow, red, orange, brown), and have the children sort leaves. If they are all green, sort them by size or texture. Ask, **Who made the leaves? What else did God make? Say, God made everything! God made it good.**

**COUNTING GAME**  
10 minutes  
Roll a die, and have children choose an action (e.g., if a child rolls a 5, children hop five times; if a child rolls a 3, children take three giant steps).  
Relate the six numbers on the die to God’s creation of the world in six days. Also point out how God made us special so we can hop, jump, crawl, sing, touch, and so forth.

**BIRD FEEDER**  
10 minutes  
Thread O-shaped cereal and blueberries (or two types of cereal) onto a pipe cleaner. Twist ends together, and thread with yarn for hanging. As the children work, talk about how God wants us to care for His creation.  
This activity also gives young children practice in fine motor skills.

## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

This section speaks to the universal questions of “Who am I?” and “What is my purpose in life?” from a biblical, Christ-centered viewpoint.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how the level-specific Learner Goals articulate each lesson’s Bible Truth in a developmentally appropriate way.

## PAGE 2 LEADER GUIDE

### LAUNCH

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**  
Greet children at eye level, and tell them where to put their offerings. Help children get to know one another as they work on an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn in the lesson. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.

**SENSORY** Place items in a bag that children can touch (e.g., a pine cone, feather, leaf, flower, carrot, orange, banana, acorn, faux fur). Tell children to reach into the bag and try to guess what one thing is by feeling it. Take the item out of the bag. Ask, **What is it? God made the [banana].** Repeat with the other items. Today you'll hear how God made everything!

**RICHE** Hide plastic animals in a tub of rice. Set out matching animals or pictures of them on the table. Have children look for the animals in the rice and match them to the ones on the table. Ask, **What animals did you find? How many are still hiding in the rice? God made all the animals.** Today you'll hear how God made everything!

**JESUS TIME**  
**SING** "We Are in God's House Today" (digital resource center) or "Happy Now We Gather" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

**SAY** Who has gone to a zoo or farm? What animals did you see? What is your favorite animal? Today you'll learn God made the animals. God made everything!

**PRAY** Dear God,\* help us use our ears\* to listen\* and to learn\* that You made everything.\* We pray\* in Jesus' name.\* Amen.\*  
\*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

### LEARN

**INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY**  
Put items you use to make things (e.g., blocks, chocolate chips, and art supplies) in a story bag. Say, **Hi, friends! I'm glad to see you here today. I wonder . . . do you like to make things? What do you like to make?** Tell children you have things in your story bag that we use to make something. Take items out, one at a time, and talk about what you could make (a building, cookies, a picture or craft). It's fun to make things, isn't it? Today you will hear how God made the whole world! When we make things, we start with something, like blocks or baking supplies or paper and markers. But when God made the world, He started with nothing! Let's listen and find out how God made everything!

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY**  
Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

**SAY THE BIBLE VERSE**  
Read the Bible Verse from Genesis 1:1. Have the children echo the words after you at each asterisk: **In the beginning,\* God created\* the heavens and the earth.\*** Have children sit in a circle. Say the Bible Verse together as you roll a ball to a child. Say, **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** Ask a child to suggest something God made as you say, **God made [a lion], and God made it good. We praise You, God!** Roll ball to next child. Repeat phrase with new animal.

## LAUNCH

**Building Relationships** helps children transition into the classroom, create friendships with classmates, and build readiness for what they will learn in the lesson. Do one or both learning activities, or feel free to start with Jesus Time when everyone has arrived.

**Jesus Time** provides a short order of worship with song suggestions and a prayer.

## LEARN

**Introduce the Bible Story** uses props or gives suggestions for Buddy puppet talks to engage children's interest as you introduce the story theme.

**Tell the Bible Story** uses the first page of the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide for storytelling and often includes suggestions for involving the children in a creative way. Check for understanding by using the questions on the leaflet or other suggestions in the lesson.

**Say the Bible Verse** provides activities and suggestions for helping young children learn the words and meaning. Remember to show your Bible and read the words from it so children associate that the words are from God's true Word, the Bible.

## SIDEBARS

Notes in the sidebars provide options to help you individualize the lesson to fit your group.

**Leader Notes** give options and helps.

**Christ Connection** shows how Jesus is central to every lesson.

**Bonus Activity** suggestions give you options for adding to or extending the lesson.

## LIVE

**Discover Lesson Truths** uses the second page of the *Discover Leaflet*, which provides two activities. The Bible story activity provides an opportunity to review the story so children will learn and "know" it. The other activity applies what was taught in God's Word to children's lives today.

**Engage in Active Learning** provides hands-on, active ways for children to apply the lesson truths through games, action rhymes, snacks, and crafts. Ideas are listed here and fleshed out on the back page of the Leader Guide.

**Check for Understanding** helps you gauge what children are learning.

## LEAVE

Wrap up the lesson with a closing song and prayer. Review the Learner Goal to remind children of what they learned in the lesson.

## PAGE 3 LEADER GUIDE

### LIVE

**DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS**  
Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Use a three-hole punch to make holes along the left side of the first page. Send the page home with each child, or put it into a binder you have purchased for each child. Send this note home with the child.

Dear Grown-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with a Bible story on it. Put these Bible story pages in a binder to make a Bible story book for your child.

Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

**SIDE 1** Connect the dots and color the tree. Count the apples with the children. Review how God made the world.

**SIDE 2** Talk about how God gives all of us the job of taking care of His world. Give children stickers to show ways they can do this too. Reassure children that even when we fail to take care of His creation, God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake.

**ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING**  
Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Don't feel like you have to do them all, but choose the ones that work best for you and the children you teach. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

<b>MOVE</b> Using animal pictures as prompts, have children act out animal movements or sounds.	<b>SNACK</b> Make fruit kebabs to talk about God's care. Sing "Thank You for the World So Sweet" ( <i>Little Ones Sing Praise</i> , p. 17) for your snack-time prayer.	<b>CREATE</b> Help children make a happy-face litter bag to use in caring for God's creation.
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**CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**  
Review the Learner Goal, and check for understanding by asking children to tell how God cares for them and ways they can care for His world. Assure them of Jesus' love and forgiveness for the times they fail to do this.

### LEAVE

**SING** "God Made Them All" (digital resource center) or "God's a Father Kind and Tender" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 30)  
Give the children colorful praise wands to wave as they sing.

**SAY** Today we learned God made everything. God made us, too, and cares for us. He gives us the job of taking care of His world.

**PRAY** Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the beautiful world You made. Help us to take care of it. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and forgiving us when we don't take care of Your world as You want. Amen.

# A MIGHTY WONDER

Creation  
Genesis 1:1–2:3  
Beginning  
of time

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God created the heavens and the earth.

### BIBLE VERSE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1

### LEARNER GOAL

I know God created everything.

### LAW & GOSPEL

We forget or even refuse to believe that God is our Creator and the giver of all good things.

**God gives us faith to believe that He created the heavens and the earth and that He continues to provide us with all good things, especially life and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

“In the beginning, God created . . .” (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read “The Beginning,” “Genesis,” and “God Creates the World” on pages 8–13 of *Know the Bible Now*.

**IN DEPTH** Review the section “The First Article (Part 1)” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Nature items & bag
- Plastic animals, tub & rice
- Blocks, chocolate chips, art supplies & story bag
- Ball
- Animal pictures
- Fruit & skewers
- Lunch bags, yarn or pipe cleaners & hole punch
- Praise wavers

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

# LAUNCH

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Greet children at eye level, and tell them where to put their offerings. Help children get to know one another as they work on an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn in the lesson. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.

**SENSORY** Place items in a bag that children can touch (e.g., a pine cone, feather, leaf, flower, carrot, orange, banana, acorn, faux fur). Tell children to reach into the bag and try to guess what one thing is by feeling it. Take the item out of the bag. Ask, **What is it? God made the [banana].** Repeat with the other items. **Today you'll hear how God made everything!**

**RICE** Hide plastic animals in a tub of rice. Set out matching animals or pictures of them on the table. Have children look for the animals in the rice and match them to the ones on the table. Ask, **What animals did you find? How many are still hiding in the rice? God made all the animals. Today you'll hear how God made everything!**

## JESUS TIME

**SING** “We Are in God’s House Today” (digital resource center) or “Happy Now We Gather” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

**SAY** **Who has gone to a zoo or farm? What animals did you see? What is your favorite animal? Today you'll learn God made the animals. God made everything!**

**PRAY** **Dear God,\* help us use our ears\* to listen\* and to learn\* that You made everything.\* We pray\* in Jesus' name.\* Amen.\***  
\*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

# LEARN

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Put items you use to make things (e.g., blocks, chocolate chips, and art supplies) in a story bag. Say, **Hi, friends! I'm glad to see you here today. I wonder . . . do you like to make things? What do you like to make?** Tell children you have things in your story bag that we use to make something. Take items out, one at a time, and talk about what you could make (a building, cookies, a picture or craft). **It's fun to make things, isn't it? Today you will hear how God made the whole world! When we make things, we start with something, like blocks or baking supplies or paper and markers. But when God made the world, He started with nothing! Let's listen and find out how God made everything!**

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from Genesis 1:1. Have the children echo the words after you at each asterisk: **In the beginning,\* God created\* the heavens and the earth.\***

Have children sit in a circle. Say the Bible Verse together as you roll a ball to a child. Say, **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** Ask a child to suggest something God made as you say, **God made [a lion], and God made it good. We praise You, God!** Roll ball to next child. Repeat phrase with new animal.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Try “Sort and Count.”



### LEADER NOTE

Sing one of the suggested songs each week, as well as other favorites. Ask your coordinator how to access the digital resource center.



### LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God’s Word are true. Read the Bible Verse from your Bible also, so children make the connection that the words they are learning come from God’s Word.

# LIVE

## DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Use a three-hole punch to make holes along the left side of the first page. Send the page home with each child, or put it into a binder you have purchased for each child. Send this note home with it:

Dear Grown-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with the Bible story on it. Put these Bible story pages in a binder to make a Bible story book for your child.

Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

**SIDE 1** Connect the dots and color the tree. Count the apples with the children. Review how God made the world. *Option:* Tell children to finish this picture at home or in church.

**SIDE 2** Talk about how God gives all of us the job of taking care of His world. Give children stickers to show ways they can do this too. Reassure children that even when we fail to take care of His creation, God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake.

## ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Don't feel like you have to do them all, but choose the ones that work best for you and the children you teach. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

### □ MOVE

Using animal pictures as prompts, have children act out animal movements or sounds.

### □ SNACK

Make fruit kebabs to talk about God's care. Sing "Thank You for the World So Sweet" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 17) for your snack-time prayer.

### □ CREATE

Help children make a happy-face litter bag to use in caring for God's creation.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Review the Learner Goal, and check for understanding by asking children to tell how God cares for them and ways they can care for His world. Assure them of Jesus' love and forgiveness for the times they fail to do this.

# LEAVE

**SING** "God Made Them All" (digital resource center)  
"God's a Father Kind and True" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 30)  
Give the children colorful praise wavers to wave as they sing.

**SAY** Today we learned God made everything. God made us, too, and cares for us. He gives us the job of taking care of His world.

**PRAY** Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the beautiful world You made. Help us to take care of it. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for forgiving us when we don't take care of Your world as You want. Amen.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

God made us and cares for us. He sent Jesus to be our friend and Savior.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Play the "Counting Game."



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Make a "Bird Feeder" to teach about caring for God's creation.

## ACTIVE LEARNING

### □ MOVE

Show pictures of animals (e.g., a fish, bird, dog, elephant). Have the children act out animal sounds or behaviors—roar like a lion, move hands like a fish, hop or chirp like a bird, swing arm in front of face for an elephant, and the like.

After each pantomime, say, **God made the [lion], and God made it good. God made everything! We praise You, God!** Talk about how God wants us to care for the animals and the world He made and ways we can do this. Also talk about times we might not be kind or caring (e.g., we don't care for our pet). Assure children of Jesus' forgiveness and help to do better.

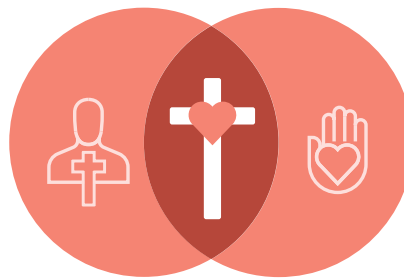
### □ SNACK

Make fruit kebabs. Thread six to seven pieces of fruit on each skewer. Use three colors (e.g., banana slices, grape halves, and strawberries). Have children identify the colors and count the pieces of fruit. Talk about how God cares for us by giving us good things to eat. Ask, **What are other ways God cares for us?** (He gives us clothing, a home, etc.)

### □ CREATE

Give each child a paper lunch bag and a face sticker to put on the front of the bag to make a happy-face litter bag. Children can add flower and heart stickers and color designs on their bags. Punch a hole on each side of the bag near the top. Thread a piece of yarn or a pipe cleaner through one hole. Thread the opposite end through the other hole. Knot or twist ends in place. Talk about how God wants us to care for His creation.

Encourage children to put pieces of trash in their bags to keep God's world clean. Talk about other things the children can do to care for God's world this week, such as watering plants or feeding pets.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshiping and praising God and taking care of His creation.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.

### YOUTH

I can identify examples of God's work in creation.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God created everything.

## ★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

### SORT AND COUNT

15 minutes

Bring leaves, or go outside to gather leaves. Set out construction paper in "leaf" colors (green, yellow, red, orange, brown), and have the children sort leaves. If they are all green, sort them by size or texture. Ask, **Who made the leaves? What else did God make? Say, God made everything! God made it good.**

### COUNTING GAME

10 minutes

Roll a die, and have children choose an action (e.g., if a child rolls a 5, children hop five times; if a child rolls a 3, children take three giant steps).

Relate the six numbers on the die to God's creation of the world in six days. Also point out how God made us special so we can hop, jump, crawl, sing, touch, and so forth.

### BIRD FEEDER

10 minutes

Thread O-shaped cereal and blueberries (or two types of cereal) onto a pipe cleaner. Twist ends together, and thread with yarn for hanging. As the children work, talk about how God wants us to care for His creation.

This activity also gives young children practice in fine motor skills.

# THE FALL AND A PROMISE

Fall into Sin  
Genesis 3  
Sometime after  
creation

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God promises to help sinners.

### BIBLE VERSE

The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.  
1 John 4:14

### LEARNER GOAL

I know God sent Jesus to save me from sin.

### LAW & GOSPEL

We are self-centered and blame others; for these and many other sins, we deserve temporal and eternal death.

**God sent His Son, Jesus, to crush sin, death, and the devil, and through Him, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The slithery serpent causes Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question, "Did God actually say . . .?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, both Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes just punishment, yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Genesis 3 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read "The Fall into Sin" on pages 14–15 of *Know the Bible Now*.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Play dough, tools & cross-shaped cookie cutters
- Plastic fruit
- Paper plate
- Construction paper or craft sticks
- Jump rope
- Apple slices & dip
- Cups, pipe cleaners, felt, wiggle eyes & stickers

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

# LAUNCH

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

**PLAY DOUGH** Set out play dough, tools, and cross-shaped cookie cutters. Show children how to make crosses and roll play dough to make a snake and a letter S.

Say, **The letter S is the first sound in *snake, sin, and Savior*. Today we will talk about all of these. We'll learn that God sent Jesus to save us from our sins.**

**SORTING** Set out plastic fruit to sort and categorize, or hide it in the room to find. Talk about fruit the children like to eat. Tell them that in today's Bible story Adam and Eve broke God's rule and ate a fruit God told them not to eat. They sinned. But God made a plan to save them.

## JESUS TIME

**SING** "We Are in God's House Today" (digital resource center) or "Happy Now We Gather" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

**SAY** Ask about things in nature the children saw this week. **God made everything good. But things didn't stay that way. Today we'll find out what happened to God's beautiful world and how God sent Jesus to save us from our sins.**

**PRAY** Dear God,\* help us use our ears\* to listen\* and to learn\* that You sent Your Son, Jesus,\* to save us from our sins.\* We pray\* in His name.\* Amen.\*  
\*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

# LEARN

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite the children to play Simon Says. Have Simon give instructions (e.g., jump, hop on one foot, touch ears). Tell children to only do the actions that begin with "Simon says." If Simon does not say "Simon says" first, they should not do the action. If the children do, have them sit down. Afterward, talk about how it is important to follow the rules in the game and do only what Simon says. Today they will learn how it's even more important to do what God says. Say, **When God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in, God gave them only one rule: God said they could eat fruit from any tree, except for one special tree in the middle of the garden. Do you think Adam and Eve did what God said? Let's find out.**

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Show your Bible before you tell the story and when you read the Bible Verse. Tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

Draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Show the faces as you tell the story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the leaflet questions to review.

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from 1 John 4:14 in your Bible, and have children say and do the actions with you. Tell them that Adam and Eve sinned, but God did not stop loving them. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins!

**The Father  
has sent His Son  
to be the Savior  
of the world.**

Point up.  
Rock baby.  
Make a cross with fingers.  
Point to everyone.



### LEADER NOTE

Remember to greet each child. Children will begin to make friends as they work on an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

The "Buddy Talk" activity uses a puppet to introduce the story. We've called him Buddy because it means "good friend." Children love puppets and relate to them as friends.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Do "Bible Verse Fun" to reinforce learning.

# LIVE

## DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with the children. Hand out the second page of the leaflets, stickers, and crayons.

**SIDE 1** Tell children to color the snake and draw a cross by Adam and Eve. Remind them that Adam and Eve sinned. We do too, but God sent Jesus to save us from our sins. *Option:* Tell children to finish this picture at home or in church.

**SIDE 2** Talk about the scenes showing sin and forgiveness. Have children connect the dashes on the cross and draw lines to connect the sin scene to its matching forgiveness scene. They can color the cross or glue two pieces of construction paper or craft sticks to it. Say, **Sin makes God angry and sad. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God when they sinned. Sometimes we want to hide our sins too. But God knows what we have done. We can't hide our sin from Him. When we sin, God wants us to say, "I'm sorry." When others sin and hurt us, God wants us to say, "I forgive you."** Practice saying this.

Tell children that when Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior. A Savior rescues us from a trouble that we cannot save ourselves from. Give examples, such as a lifeguard or firefighter. Say, **God kept His promise. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins! God forgives our sins because of Jesus.**

## ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce the lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

### □ MOVE

Use a jump rope exercise to teach about sin and forgiveness.

### □ SNACK

Serve apple slices and dip to review the story and help children think about what it means for their lives.

### □ CREATE

Make storytelling puppets to use to tell the Bible story at home.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do children understand that Adam and Eve sinned and we do too? Did they grasp that sin spoiled God's world, but God made a plan to save us? Check for understanding by asking children to give examples of sin and how it makes us sad, then telling about God's plan to save us. Say, **God sent Jesus to save us from sin. Jesus makes us happy!**

# LEAVE

**SING** "I Am Sorry, Jesus" (digital resource center) or "I'm Sorry" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 27)

**SAY** **Sin spoiled God's beautiful world. Sin causes troubles and sadness and even death. But today we learned that God sent Jesus to save us from sin. God promises to take everyone who believes in Jesus to heaven, where everything will be beautiful and perfect again.**

**PRAY** **Dear God, sin spoils everything. It makes us sad. We are sorry for our sins. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus makes things right again with You! That makes us happy! Amen.**



## CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.



## BONUS ACTIVITY

Collect Bible story books.

## ACTIVE LEARNING

### □ MOVE

Choose two children to hold opposite ends of a jump rope close to the ground to represent a slithering snake. Have the other children try to jump over the snake without the snake touching them.

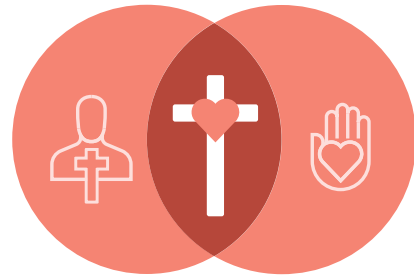
Talk about how Satan (in the form of a snake) tempted Adam and Eve to sin. He wants to trip us and make us fall into sin too. Discuss how sin hurts us. It separates us from God and one another. Help children give examples. Say, **The punishment for not obeying God's rules is death. But God sent Jesus to save us from sin! He is our Savior.**

### □ SNACK

Serve apple slices and dip. Turn the slices to show happy and sad faces as you review the story and talk about how sin makes us sad, but God's forgiveness through Jesus makes us happy! Say a table prayer; then enjoy the snack.

### □ CREATE

Make storytelling puppets. Give children stickers of God, Adam, Eve, and the tree to add to upside-down cups. Give them several pipe cleaners to twist together to make snakes. They can add wiggle eyes and felt tongues to their snakes and attach their snakes to the tree puppet. Encourage them to use their puppets to tell the Bible story at home.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has redeemed me, a sinful human, through the Promised One, Jesus Christ.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can forgive others their sins against me because in Christ, God has forgiven me.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

### ADULT

I can summarize the story of mankind's fall into sin and God's initial plan to restore creation.

### YOUTH

I can explain that humans are God's special creation, born into sin and in need of a Savior.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that I am a child of God but also a sinner in need of a Savior.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God sent Jesus to save me from sin.

## BONUS ACTIVITIES

### BUDDY TALK

5 minutes

Buddy's mom told him not to eat the cinnamon rolls, but he ate two anyway. Now he feels bad. Tell Buddy that disobeying is a sin. It makes us feel bad. It hurts others. It makes God sad too. God wants us to say we are sorry. Encourage Buddy to ask his mom to forgive him. He asks what *forgive* means. Tell him that we all think, say, and do wrong things—we sin. But God loves us and sent Jesus to be punished for our sins on the cross. Because of Jesus, God forgives us. Buddy asks why we sin. Tell him that the Bible story answers that question, and have him sit and listen.

### BIBLE VERSE FUN

10 minutes

Do the action rhyme "Sin Enters the World" with the children (*Wiggle and Wonder*, p. 33).

At the end of the rhyme, have children say the Bible Verse with you. Say, **God's Word says, "The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."**

### COLLECT BOOKS

Time may vary

Give children an opportunity to put their faith into action. Talk to them about how everyone needs to hear the Good News of God's love and forgiveness through our Savior, Jesus. Then invite them to bring a Bible story book to give to hospitals or send to the mission field for boys and girls who need to hear that Jesus loves them.