



**Growing
in CHRISt®**

Lower Elementary Teacher Guide

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

**God Creates a World
and a People**

OLD TESTAMENT 1



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Introduction

For the New User

The Lower Elementary level of Growing in Christ is an early-reader version for ages 6 through 8. It includes a Teacher Guide, Teacher Tools (teacher materials), and Student Pack (student materials).

Features of the Teacher Guide

- An easy-to-use, four-step lesson plan
- Weekly activity pages to supplement the lessons and engage students in additional projects or activities
- A weekly Bible study for the teacher titled “Preparing the Lesson”
- Age-appropriate ways to teach the Bible story and apply it to young lives
- Perforated pages to make team teaching or small- and large-group teaching easier

Teacher Tools

This packet provides resources vital to effective teaching:

- **Posters**—teaching aids and pictures
- **Storytelling Figures**—four pages of figures for use in telling the Bible stories
- **Table Tent Backgrounds**—two background scenes for use with storytelling figures
- **Attendance Chart**
- **CD** with recordings of hymns, songs, Bible Words, catechism songs, and Bible stories; melody-line scores for all music on the CD; Activity Pages, Resource Pages, and a list of the student Bible Words and song lyrics

Student Pack

You will need one for each child. This packet includes the following materials:

- **Student Book**, which contains the Bible Words, the Lesson Leaflets, and the Craft Pages
- **Sticker Pages**—three perforated pages with sections that can be separated
- **CD** with recordings of songs, hymns, catechism songs, and Bible Words songs

Additional Materials

In addition to the items on the “Materials Needed” list in the Teacher Guide, you will also need your Bible, catechism, hymnal, children’s songbook *Songs of God’s Love (SGL)*, an offering basket, and CD player each week, as well as other standard classroom supplies, such as scissors, tape, glue or glue sticks, paper, and crayons or markers. Be sure to have specialized scissors available for left-handed students. You may wish to use a device for recording and displaying media. You may also wish to order the following helps from Concordia Publishing House (call 1-800-325-3040 for cost information and to order):

- **Puppet:** Lily (a little girl; order no. 41-1028)
- **Puppet (optional):** Sprout (a little boy; if you do not have a Sprout puppet, Jelly makes a good substitute; order no. 57-1115)

- **My First Hymnal:** This is a great source of hymns for this age level (order item number 99-2268).
- **Sing & Wonder: Songs and Activities Based on the Apostles' Creed** (order item number 22-3170)
- **Wiggle & Wonder: Bible Story Rhymes and Finger Plays** (order item number 22-3130)
- **Restickable glue stick:** to allow for repeat use in attaching storytelling figures to backgrounds (order online at cph.org, or find in the office supply section of your local discount store)
- **Church Year Worship Kit:** This is a great resource for teaching children about the Church Year (includes a Leader Guide, an altar poster with parables and more, prayer posters, and a CD; order item number 44-4122)
- **Arch Books**—CPH has the following books that relate to Bible accounts this quarter; consider using them for Bible story presentation or review, or have them available before class.

Lesson 1	<i>Where Did the World Come From?</i>	59-2239
Lesson 2	<i>The Story of Creation</i>	59-1560
Lesson 3	<i>The Fall into Sin</i>	59-1577
	<i>From Adam to Easter</i>	59-2265
Lesson 4	<i>Cain and Abel</i>	59-2283
Lesson 5	<i>Noah's 2-by-2 Adventure</i>	59-1511
	<i>A Man Named Noah</i>	59-2206
Lesson 6	<i>Abraham, Sarah & Isaac</i>	59-2244
Lesson 7	<i>Abraham, Sarah & Isaac</i>	59-2244
Lesson 8	<i>Abraham's Big Test</i>	59-1502
Lesson 11	<i>Jacob's Dream</i>	59-1538

Teaching Helps

You can find many teaching helps, including updates, training helps, and links to podcasts and other resources for your weekly preparation and teaching, at our Sunday School website, cph.org/sundayschool.

Preparing the Lesson

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Date of Use

Key Point

God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. All creation is God's blessing to us.

Law/Gospel

God requires that I believe that He is the only true God, the Creator and Sustainer of the world. **God gives me faith to believe that He created the earth and heavens, and He continues to provide me with all that I need to sustain this body and life, including forgiveness for my sins, through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

Context

Genesis is a family history about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (called Israel), chosen by God. The creation account and other material in Genesis 1–11 serves as foundation for the family history that follows in Genesis 12–50.

Moses is the authority behind the first five books of the Bible, called the Torah (Law). Some material was revealed directly to Moses; other material was known to generations before Moses and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, was set down by him or immediate successors.

The Genesis accounts of creation, the preflood world, the flood, and the immediate resettlement after the flood have parallels in ancient writings that predate Moses, particularly in Mesopotamia.

Commentary

The Spirit of God hovering over the waters of the formless void shows that the Spirit brings order out of chaos. This image recurs in the Baptism of Christ (Mark 1:10), where it reminds us that in Christ we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), with the Spirit bringing order out of our chaos. The Hebrew word translated "Spirit" in Genesis 1:2 also means "wind" or "breath."

Words are formed from breath. As God proceeds to speak creation into being, the Genesis account establishes a unity between God the speaker, the Word by which He created the world, and the Spirit. This Word became flesh in Christ Jesus, as proclaimed in John 1:1–14. The words of Psalm 104:30 also portray the Spirit as an agent of creation. God's Word does what it says ("Let there be . . . and there was"). What God declares is true; God's Word is truth (John 17:17).

God begins His creation by creating light on the first day. God is the real source of light. Each day, God adds dramatically to the world that He calls "good"—heaven; earth and seas; plants; sun, moon, and stars; creatures that swim and fly; creatures that walk and crawl on the ground; and finally, man, both male and female. Some mistakenly worship the sun or other elements of creation that merely do what God assigns to them. However, they were not made to be worshiped but to be used.

The creation of people on the sixth day serves as the climax of creation. God creates both male and female in His image. Our image is not physical likeness but spiritual likeness, or righteousness. Note that man's rule over all other creatures and marriage/procreation are part of the sinless creation, which God declares "very good." God gives plants as food; death for humans and animals is not part of this perfect creation. Everything is intended to work for good.

Because God rested on the seventh day (our Saturday), the Sabbath ("rest") day was set apart ("made holy"). The ceremonial laws regarding the Sabbath have their fulfillment in Christ, who, having finished His work on Good Friday (John 19:30), rested in the tomb on the Sabbath. Christians from the earliest times met on Sundays to celebrate His resurrection. The commandment concerning the Sabbath no longer pertains to a particular day of the week but rather to setting aside time so that God might re-create us through His Word. Creation's patterns give us a sense of how things "ought to be."

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 1

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Connections

Bible Words

God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Faith Word

create

Hymn

From All That Dwell Below the Skies (*LSB* 816; CD 1)

Catechism

Apostles' Creed: First Article (CD 16)

Liturgy

Invocation

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Introducing Concepts

To Prepare: Post the attendance chart and set out the stickers (Student Pack) to mark attendance. Set out the offering basket. Make copies of Activity Page 1A and cut out so there is one nametag for each child. Use a hole punch to make holes for the yarn at the top where indicated. Around the classroom, distribute a variety of God-made items (fruit, small plants, cut flowers, pieces of wood, stones). Also put out man-made objects (ball, silverware, plastic building blocks, etc.). Attach a sticky note to each one so the children will be able to distinguish the items you have spread around the room from other classroom items that are not to be used in this activity.

Welcome your students as they arrive. Introduce yourself to any new students, and have the other children introduce themselves. Listen for special prayer requests. Invite the children to place their offerings in the basket and mark their attendance with the stickers. Allow the children to lace the tags with yarn so they can wear them, and wear one yourself.

Tell the students to search for items you marked and distributed around the room—things that God made and things that man made from things God created. Then invite the children to sort the items into the two groups. Remind them that the items you have distributed are marked with sticky notes. After sorting the items, help the children to identify what God-given materials were used in some of the man-made items.

Say In our Bible story, we will learn more about how God created the world and how the world is a blessing to us.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
Teacher Tools Attendance chart CD	Teacher Tools Poster A	Teacher Tools Poster B CD	Teacher Tools CD
Student Pack Stickers	Student Pack Lesson Leaflet 1	Student Pack Craft Page 1	
Other Supplies Resource Page 1 (optional, TG) God-made and man-made objects or pictures Yarn Activity Page 1A (TG) Sticky notes Hole punch	Other Supplies Play dough	Other Supplies Glue stick Resource Page 2 (TG) Activity Page 1B (TG) Lily puppet Index card with Bible Words	

Rituals and Routines

To Prepare: If your children gather with others for the Opening, begin teaching with part 2 of this lesson. If you prefer to develop your own opening, a suggested outline follows. For an extended opening, use Resource Page 1 in the back of this book.

Song: "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" (LSB 816; CD 1) or "God, Who Made the Earth" (SGL, pp. 60–61)

Note: The Invocation, used at the beginning of each Divine Service, is a confession of faith in the triune God.

Invocation: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Offering

Luther's Morning Prayer (CD 21)

Other Prayers

Celebrations: Birthdays and Baptism birthdays



2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

Introducing God's Word

Invite the children to use play dough to form a favorite animal. While they are working, introduce the meaning of the word *create*—"to make out of nothing."

Say Before I gave you this play dough, you had nothing in your hands. When God created the world, He made it out of nothing. Today, we will find out how God made the world. We will learn about His special words and power.

Allow time for the children to share with one another the animals they made. Then, place the animals aside so the children can participate in the Bible story.

Telling God's Word

To Prepare: Have an open Bible nearby. Use Poster A (Teacher Tools).

Keep students involved. Invite them to wave one arm over their head in an arc on the words "and there was evening and there was morning" as you whisper this phrase during the storytelling. Practice this motion before you start.

Say This is God's book, the Bible. Show the Bible. **In the Book of Genesis, God tells us how He created the world.** Lay the Bible aside. Display Poster A.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth had no shape. There was nothing to see. Cover your eyes.

But God was there, and He said, "Let there be light." And there was light. Uncover your eyes, rub them, and open them wide. **God saw that the light was good. He called light "day," and He called the darkness "night."** Whisper as you wave your arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 1.**

On the second day, God said, "Let there be an area between the water on the earth (draw waves in the air) and the water in the sky." Make swirly motions in the air. And it was so. God called that space "the heavens."

**Active
Learning
Idea!**

Key Point

God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. All creation is God's blessing to us.

Whisper as you wave your arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 2.**

Then, on the third day, God said, “Let dry land appear.” God called the dry land “earth,” or “land,” and the water became the seas, lakes, oceans, rivers, ponds, and streams. Hold your left arm parallel to the ground.

That day, God created even more. He said, “Let the earth sprout plants and fruit trees.” Place your right hand behind your outstretched arm, and gradually move your right hand up to resemble a plant growing out of the ground. **And God liked what He had created. It was good.** Whisper as you wave your arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 3.** The children should be catching on to the words of the repetitive phrase (“And there was evening, and there was morning”) you are saying. Invite them to add these words to their actions.

By now, it was the fourth day, and God said, “Let there be lights in the heavens to separate the day from the night. Let there be seasons, days, and years.” As soon as God said this, there was a moon (pretend to sleep with head tilted, resting on your hands) **and stars** (stretch your arms high and wiggle your fingers). **God made two of the lights special. The bigger light, the sun** (place your hand above your eyes as if squinting in bright light), **was for day. The smaller light and the stars were for night. And God saw that it was good.** Whisper as you wave your arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 4.**

On the fifth day, God made more. He said, “Let the waters be full of living creatures (make a fish: put your hands together, fingers pointed forward, and wiggle your hands as you move them forward), **and let birds be flying in the sky.”** Flap your arms like bird wings. **When He said this, living things in the waters were there. All kinds of birds and winged animals were made. And God liked what He had created, and He blessed the animals. It was all good.** Whisper as you wave your arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 5.**

When it was morning again, it was the sixth day. God was not finished. He said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures.” He created kangaroos that hop and hop (hop) **and monkeys that climb** (pretend to climb). **Even creepy crawly bugs and butterflies appeared.**

God created water to drink. He made lights to help the plants grow and to help the animals and people see. He made the animals, and the birds to fly and sing. Now, God was ready to make a person. He made a man in His image. He gave the man the job of ruling over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and the animals all over the world. Man was to be the ruler over everything God had made. All of creation was good. Whisper/wave arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 6.**

On the seventh day, God finished His work and rested. Pretend to be tired. Stretch your arms. Rest your head on your hands. **He blessed the seventh day and made it holy.**

Whisper as you wave your arm over your head: **And there was evening, and there was morning. Day 7.**

Option: Ask the children to identify the item pictured on their nametag and to tell on what day God created it.

Lesson Leaflet Review

To Prepare: Hand out Lesson Leaflet 1.

Look at the painting on the leaflet cover. Answer the question at the bottom of the page. Then continue with the rebus activity on the interior pages. Show the children how to read the rebus story as a review. Then direct them to look at the Bible Words.

Bible Words

God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

In the Lesson Leaflet, the Bible Words have pictorial cues to help the children understand the meanings of the words and to help them learn the words. Take time to explain the cues and their meanings.

Show the children where to find the words in the Bible and then on Lesson Leaflet 1. Invite them to repeat the words with you.

Say Look at the pictures above the words while I say the Bible Words. How do these pictures remind you of what the words say? Allow time for responses. Then repeat the Bible Words again.

You can also teach the Bible Words using the following actions:

Say God saw (Point to eyes.)
 everything that He had made, (Spread arms in front of you.)
 and behold, it was very good. (Place hands on hips and smile.)

3 We Live (15 minutes)

Growing through God's Word

To Prepare: You will need the Faith Words Poster (Poster B), the Faith Word *create* cut from a copy of Resource Page 2 at the end of this guide, a restickable glue stick (available from cph.org), an index card with today's Bible Words written on it, and the Lily puppet. Also have available Activity Page 1B and crayons or markers.

Show Poster B (Teacher Tools).

Say This Faith Words chart has lots of blanks. Each week, we will add a special word to our chart. Today's special word goes along with our lesson. It starts with the letter *c*. Can you guess what today's special word might be? Allow the children to respond. If they haven't guessed the word, tell them it is *create*.

Ask What does the word *create* mean? (To make out of nothing) God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. He didn't start with play dough. He made everything! God our Father is almighty. God can use any kind of power He wants.

Choose a student to place the word for today on the first space on the poster using the glue stick. Then bring out the Lily puppet.

Teacher: Hi, Lily! Well, I didn't know you were there. Did you hear the whole story about how God created the world?

Lily: Hi, boys and girls. Yes, I was quiet because I was listening so carefully, and I was just so amazed at God's power. God sure has powerful words, doesn't He? My words can't create anything. Even though I was listening carefully, I still have a question.

Teacher: What are you wondering, Lily?

Lily: Is God still resting? You know, He did make the world a long time ago. Sometimes I get scared and worried because I don't know whether God is going to keep on taking care of me.

Teacher: What do you think, children? Does Lily need to worry? Is God still taking care of us today? (*Students' responses may vary.*) Even though we can't see God, He still takes care of the world and the people He created. He is the one who gives us food and clothing, home and family, work and play, and all that we need for daily life. He even gives us faith to believe in Him as the Creator.

Lily: Wow! He gives me a lot. I'm sorry that I worried. I wasn't letting God be God.

Teacher: Lily, God took care of your sin of worrying too. He gave us His only Son, Jesus, who suffered and died on the cross for all our sins. He also gives us faith to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

Lily: Oh, I feel better. Thank you so much for telling me about God's care for us.

Teacher: (*Hands Lily the index card*) Lily, here's a note for you. It says, "God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:31)." You can put those Bible Words in your bag to remind you that all of God's creation is a blessing to us. You can also sing songs to help you remember God's love. The boys and girls are going to sing a song about God taking care of the whole world.



Introduce the First Article. Play track 16 on the CD. Explain to the children that the lyrics are the same as those we use when we confess the first part of the Apostles' Creed. As they listen, have them follow along with the words on Activity Page 1B and color in the pictures.

Also sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (*SGL*, pp. 56–57). Sing the following lyrics as stanza 5 of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

Sing He sent His one and only Son, our Savior dear,
He sent His one and only Son, our Savior dear,
He sent His one and only Son, our Savior dear.
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Say Boys and girls, songs about our Lord help us remember His love. The best place to sing and receive God's love is in His house, the church. There, God comes to us with His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation as His Word is preached and sung.

Craft Page

To Prepare: Set out Craft Page 1 and scissors. Have the CD ready to play.

The children will make cut-and-fold storybooks to help them retell the Bible story. Show the students how to fold the page at the center line. Then, instruct them to cut on the dividing lines to make “peek boxes” for each day of creation. While the children are working, play the CD. When the students have finished, continue.

Say Not everyone knows that God made the world. Use your project to tell them the story of creation. You can tell them God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. You can tell them all creation is God’s blessing to us. God gives us faith to believe in Him as the Creator and faith to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

If you have time, have the students practice telling the story to a partner. Consider using a device or several devices to record the children. Use social media, the church website, or email to share the video so others will know about our powerful, loving God. As always, secure parental permission before posting something publicly, or limit access to those you invite to view the video.

4 Closing (5 minutes)

To Prepare: Use the CD. Gather materials to send home.

Gather the children for the Closing. Each week, follow the same routine.

Sing “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” (*LSB* 816; CD 1) or “He Cares for Me” (*SGL*, p. 57; CD 10)



Say God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:31).

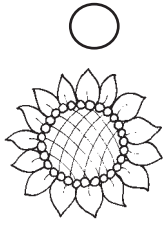
Challenge Encourage the children to think about God’s care for them as they go to bed each night this week. God isn’t still resting; He is still taking care of us. Instead of counting sheep, challenge the students to count their blessings, both God-made and man-made (using God-made materials).

Pray Thank You, God, for creating a wonderful world for me. Give me faith to believe in You, and forgive me for Jesus’ sake when I don’t trust in Your care. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

As the children leave, remind them:

Say God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. All creation is His blessing to you!

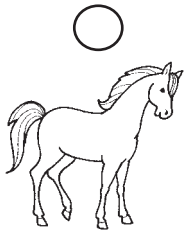
Reflect If you have time, contact your students this week to let them know that you are glad they came to Sunday School. Keep a file of pertinent information about each child, such as allergies or special learning needs.



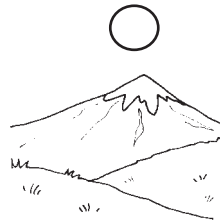
God
Created



God
Created



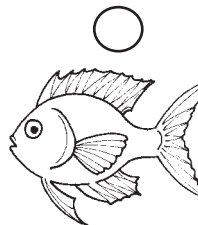
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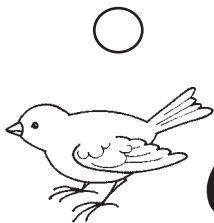
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God
Created



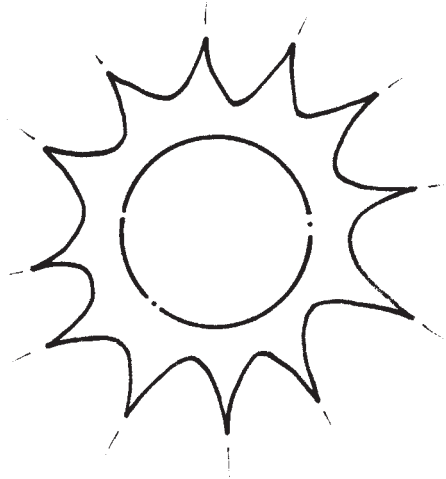
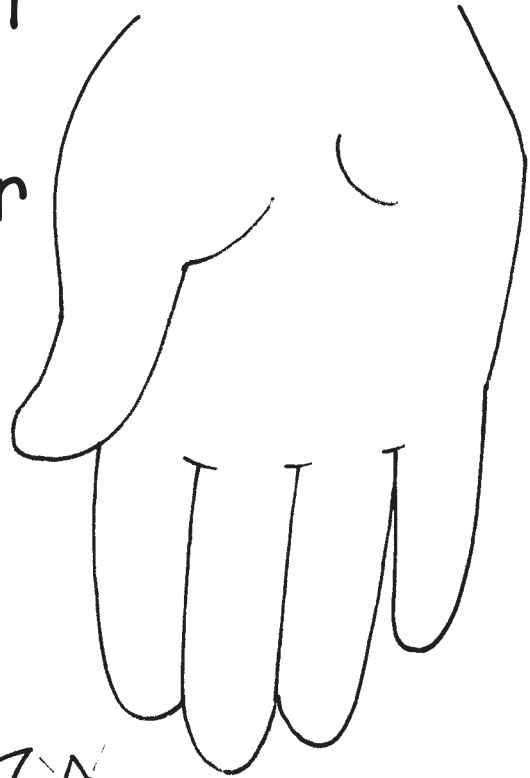
God
Created



God
Created

The First Article

I believe in
God,
the Father
Almighty,



Maker of
heaven and
earth.

Preparing the Lesson

God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26–2:25

Date of Use

Key Point

God has made us in His image, provides all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.

Law/Gospel

God appoints me as a caretaker of His creation and expects me to take care of it for His glory and the good of others. **God provides me with all good things for this life and forgives me for Jesus' sake when I put myself above Him and His creation or when I misuse or neglect my vocation to rule the earth properly.**

Context

Some have argued that Genesis 2 is a second account of creation. But Genesis 2 presupposes the five preceding days of creation. This chapter reviews in more detail the creation of mankind in Adam and Eve.

Commentary

The name *Adam* means “earth” and points to humanity’s material aspect. But the “breath,” or “spirit,” of God makes Adam a living being and gives him fellowship with God. God is the source of life—turning away from that source leads to death. Having God’s Spirit in Genesis 2 corresponds to being made in the image of God in Genesis 1. The earthly blessings that follow express the love God has for Adam.

Eden is sometimes called “Paradise” (garden). The tree of life within Eden may have been planted near running or “living” water—as in Psalm 1:3. Note that the tree of life and living water are linked again in Revelation 22:1–2.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is sometimes identified as an apple tree because the Latin words for *evil* and *apple* share the same root, *mal*. Jewish tradition pictures the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as a citron tree or a grapevine. But the actual fruit is never identified in Scripture.

Four rivers flow from around Eden, including two that were the mainstay of Mesopotamian life and civilization: the Tigris and the Euphrates. The locations of the other two rivers have not been identified, perhaps due to changes to the earth’s surface during the worldwide flood later in Genesis.

Man is given the task of working the garden. To this day, work, or vocation, remains one of our innate needs. Adam’s naming of the animals shows mastery as well as intelligence.

Note the underlying pattern, hierarchy, and priority. There are things above and below; all things are good, but some are better—or could be better. Adam in Paradise needs a “suitable helper.” The woman is created from his flesh so that he will care for her as for himself. Moses issues a command: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). The marriage relationship has priority even over parental obligations.

The man and woman were naked and without shame. They were open and trusting, with nothing to hide. A child with beautiful freckles may be made ashamed due to hurtful comments and insults and then may internalize that shame. Shame arises from evil without as well as from evil within; Paradise was free of both. Living according to God’s Law brings earthly blessing. The man Adam foreshadows Christ, the new Adam (Romans 5:12–21), who brings believers into eternal paradise (Luke 23:43).

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 2

God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26–2:25

Connections

Bible Words

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 (CD 4)

Faith Word

dominion

Hymn

From All That Dwell Below the Skies (LSB 816; CD 1)

Catechism

Apostles' Creed: First Article (CD 16)

Liturgy

Confession and Absolution

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Introducing Concepts

To Prepare: Post the attendance chart and set out the stickers (Student Pack) to mark attendance. Set out the offering basket, index cards (two for each student), and small gift bags (two for each student).

Welcome your students as they arrive. Introduce yourself to any new students, and have the other children introduce themselves. Listen for special prayer requests. Invite the children to place their offerings in the basket and mark their attendance with the stickers. Then, begin with the following activity.

Say Today, we are going to learn more about God's gift of creation. He has made so many wonderful things for our good. These things are gifts He gives us.

Here are some small gift bags and cards. On one card, draw something that God has made. On the other card, draw something people have made from things that God created. For example, on one card, you could draw a fish, and on the other, you could draw a fishing pole. God created fish, and people have learned to make fishing poles from things that God has created. When the children have finished, ask them to place their cards in their gift bags.

God made us in His image, provides all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
Teacher Tools Attendance chart CD	Teacher Tools CD	Teacher Tools Poster B	Teacher Tools CD
Student Pack Stickers	Student Pack Stickers Lesson Leaflet 2	Student Pack Craft Page 2	Other Supplies Scarves or ribbon wands (optional)
Other Supplies Resource Page 1 (optional, TG) Index cards Small gift bags	Other Supplies Activity Page 2 (TG) Chart paper or board	Other Supplies Glue stick Resource Page 2 (TG) Index cards Small gift bags Glitter (optional)	

Have the children trade bags and then look inside to see other examples of God's gifts. Then invite them to take turns sorting the cards into two groups. One group will consist of things that were created by God. The other group will consist of man-made items. Once you have completed the task, save the cards and (empty) gift bags for use later in the lesson.

Rituals and Routines

To Prepare: If your children gather with others for the Opening, begin with part 2 of this lesson. If you prefer to develop your own opening, a suggested outline follows. For an extended opening, use Resource Page 1 at the back of this book.

Song: "God, Who Made the Earth" (SGL, pp. 60–61); "Psalm 8" (SGL, pp. 36–37)

Invocation: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Offering

Apostles' Creed: First Article (CD 16)

Prayers

Celebrations: Birthdays and Baptism birthdays



2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

Introducing God's Word

To Prepare: You will need a marker or chalk to use with chart paper or a board to record the responses of your students. Design the chart with four columns large enough so that all the children can read the labels and words you will add. Label the columns with these words: *names, people, places, jobs*. In the first column, write the names of your students.

Say God has created many special things for us. His creation is a gift to people. Let's think of some special places we have been, some special jobs we like to do, and a special person that God has given us.

Give your students time to respond with one or more examples of the special places, jobs, or people they enjoy. After you add their answers, continue.

Say In today's Bible story, we will find out about a special place, some special jobs, and two special people that God created.

Key Point

God has made us in His image, provides all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.



Telling God's Word

To Prepare: Have your Bible nearby. Hand out copies of Activity Page 2 (TG) and Lesson 2 stickers (Student Pack) to each student. Play the Bible story (CD 24), or read it from the following script, adding your own musical signals. You may prefer to read the story from the Bible.

Say As you listen to the Bible story, listen for directions. Add stickers to your paper when you hear a special trumpet melody called a fanfare.

After the stickers are added to the crown, they will spell the word *Special*. The children also will add three gems to the crown (stickers in Student Pack). Start the CD.

The Bible story is “God Creates Adam and Eve.” It is based on God’s Word in Genesis chapter 1, verse 26, through chapter 2, verse 25. Show the children the Bible.

(Musical introduction) Boys and girls, did you know that people are very special to God? I can tell that from God’s Word, the Bible. Before God created man and woman, He made everything they would need to live on earth. He created dark and light; a sky to separate the waters below from the waters above; land with trees and plants; the sun, moon, and stars; fish and birds; and lots of land animals. Yes, God made everything that would support the life of man before He formed man. *(Royal fanfare)* Take your *S* sticker, and place it over the number 1. Let’s continue.

Once everything was ready, God made man in a special way. He didn’t just say, “Let it be.” No, God took the time to form people. He took dirt from the ground and shaped it into a man. Then, God breathed the breath of life into the man, and he came alive. *(Royal fanfare)* Take your *P* sticker, and place it over the number 2. Do you know the name of the first man? That’s right. His name was Adam.

Adam was placed into a special place. It was a beautiful home called the Garden of Eden. And Adam had a special job. He was to *have dominion over*, or rule over, creation, especially the garden. He also got to have dominion over the animals. He named each one. Adam had a special job and a special place to live, but Adam had no wife. *(Royal fanfare)* Add the *E* sticker where you see the number 3.

God noticed that Adam was alone and needed a special person to live with him. So do you know what God did? God made a suitable helper just for Adam. He had Adam fall into a deep sleep. Then, God took a rib from Adam’s side and used it to form a woman, and she came alive. The woman, Eve, was a wife for Adam. *(Royal fanfare)* Take your *C* sticker, and add it to your crown where you see the number 4.

God made both Adam and Eve in another special way. The Bible says that God made people in His image, or likeness. That doesn’t mean that people looked like God. It doesn’t mean that they had God’s powers, either. The people were like God in one special way—they were perfect. They were holy like God. *(Royal fanfare)* Take your letter *I* sticker and place it where you see the number 5.

Your crown looks so special. Let me tell you more about that crown. In Psalm 8, the Bible tells us how special people are to God. The Bible says that God made people to be “crowned with glory.” Wow! God loves people very much. *(Royal fanfare)* Now, place a jewel sticker on your crown, and add the letter *A* where you see the number 6.

You only have one letter left, don't you? The *L* goes where you see the number 7. You can put it there in just a bit. First, I want you to hear about something that also makes people special. When the first people, and all people after that, sinned, God made a special plan. He planned a way to save people. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. (*Royal fanfare*) Now add that *L* and the other jewels too. Because of Jesus, all who believe are once again the people of God. Praise God that He crowns us with glory and loves us so very much. (*A final royal fanfare, more conclusive than the others*)

After you have finished the Bible story, sing (or sing again) "Psalm 8" (SGL, pp. 36–37).

Lesson Leaflet Review

To Prepare: Distribute Lesson Leaflet 2 and crayons or pencils.

Hand out the Lesson Leaflets. Look at the painting on the leaflet. Answer the question at the bottom of the page. Then open to the interior pages. This week's review is a fill-in-the-blank activity. The children will write one letter per blank following the sentences. The answer to each question is *God*.

Bible Words

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 (CD 4)

Once the boys and girls have finished the review, ask them to look at the picture cues at the bottom of the page that go with the Bible Words.

Say What was the answer to every question in the review activity? (God)

Yes, God has made you in a special way. It is He who has given you special jobs, special family members, and special places to live or visit. Review the information recorded on the chart made in the section "Introducing God's Word." Then continue.

In today's Bible Words, the psalmist—the person who wrote the psalm—praised God for all that God had done for him. The psalmist was *inspired*, or moved, by God, to write these very words: "I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Show the children where the words are located in the Bible. Then, play the Bible Words song several times. Invite the children to stand in a circle facing inward, listen to the CD, move to their right on the words "I praise You," and then move to their left on the words "for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."



3 We Live (15 minutes)

Growing through God's Word

To Prepare: You will need the Faith Words Poster (Poster B), the Faith Word *dominion* cut from a copy of Resource Page 2 at the end of this guide, and a restickable glue stick (available from cph.org). Once again, refer to the list created during "Introducing God's Word." You will also need a red marker or crayon for each student. Once again, use the empty gift bags from "Introducing Concepts" and another index card.

**Faith
in Action!**

Say On the sixth day, God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. All of creation became a special gift for man, and man was to rule over it with loving care. We could also say, as the Bible says, that God gave man *dominion* over creation. You have dominion over, or care for, some things. What are they? What are you responsible to take care of? Invite the children to respond. That's right. Children can take care of pets and plants. Children can recycle cans and paper. Let's add the word *dominion* to our Faith Words Poster. Let one of the children add the word using the glue stick.

Now, let's take another look at the chart we made. Since God expects us to be wise rulers, kings and queens, over these things, let's see how we are doing. Do we *always* rule wisely and perfectly over _____? Fill in the blank as you name each item on the list. Help the children see that they don't always do what God has asked them to do. Confess that you also do not do what God expects.

Boys and girls, we don't always do what God has asked us to do. We don't always rule wisely. I feel sad about that. I want to tell God that I am sorry. I know that God hears my confession. God knows that I am sinful and that I sometimes spoil, waste, or mistreat the things He has given me to rule.

Because God knows that we are sinners and cannot be perfect, He has given us another gift. He gave His very own Son to take our punishment on the cross. His Son, Jesus, suffered and died to pay for our sins. Let's mark a big red cross by each thing on our list as a reminder of God's forgiveness. Invite the children to add red crosses.

Give each child an empty gift bag and another index card. As another reminder of God's gift of forgiveness, we will make another card for our gift bag. What can we draw on the new card to help us remember that God forgives us? Invite the children to answer (a cross), mark their cards, and place all of their cards in their gift bags. Remind them that we receive God's gift of forgiveness each week at Divine Service. We confess our sins by saying we're sorry, and then we receive absolution. The pastor declares God's forgiveness, in the stead of and by the command of Jesus. *Note:* Other drawings might include a shell for Baptism. In Baptism, we receive God's forgiveness. The children could draw a Bible also. God's Word both gives and reminds us of God's forgiveness.

What could we add to decorate our gift bag? (A bow) Let's make one to remind us that all of creation and God's forgiveness are God's gifts to us.

Craft Page

To Prepare: Get the CD ready. Hand out Craft Page 2 (Student Pack) along with scissors and tape or glue. Glitter for decorating is an option.

Make a three-layered bow from the Craft Page to decorate the gift bags. While the children are working, play the CD. When the children have finished, continue.

Say This bow and gift bag can remind you that God made us in His image, provided all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it. May it also remind you that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, including our failure to wisely rule over His creation. We really are special and gifted children of God!

4 Closing (5 minutes)



To Prepare: Use the CD. Gather materials to send home.

Gather the children for the Closing. Each week, follow the same routine.

Sing "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" (LSB 816; CD 1). If possible, give the children scarves or ribbon wands. Encourage them to wave their scarf or ribbon whenever they hear the word *Alleluia*. Consider using a device to record the children dancing. Use social media, the church website, or email to share the video with others so that they, too, can join in praising God for His gifts. As always, secure parental permission before posting something publicly, or limit viewing access to those you invite.

Say I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14; CD 4).

Challenge Suggest to the children that they keep their crown (Activity Page 2) in their bedroom. Each morning as they wake up, they can say to themselves, "I am special! I am wonderfully made. God loves me and forgives me." The crown can also remind them to wisely rule over God's creation throughout the day.

Pray Thank You, God, for creating man in Your image, for providing all things for my good, and for making me a ruler over the earth and everything in it. Forgive me for Jesus' sake when I waste or spoil Your gifts. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

As the children leave, remind them:

Say God bless you this week as you care for His creation with the body and mind He has given you!

Reflect Do you give your students responsibility to care for things in the classroom? Consider ways they can be in charge of the care of the room (e.g., turning lights on/off, pushing chairs under the desk or table, passing out and collecting materials).

