

**God Creates a World
and a People**

OLD TESTAMENT 1

ENGAGE



Opening Leader Outlines



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Welcome to Cross Explorations



Cross Explorations is a rotation model for Sunday School or Midweek School from Concordia Publishing House.

Basic course resources provide an hour-long program for children ages 5 to 12 in three main sites: **Engage** (opening), **Explore** (Bible lesson), and **Express** (crafts, music, skits, and activities).

You can easily extend the time to two or more hours with the many activities in the *Express Craft Booklet* and on the *Express Skit CD*, *Activities & More CD*, and *Music CD*.

Large-group Engage Openings are planned for fifteen minutes, but you can cut or extend this time as needed.

Engage Children in Openings

Engage Openings teach children how to worship. And because education flows out of worship, where God offers Word and Sacrament to His people, Openings help children recognize things used in both places, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed. This plants the seeds for active and meaningful worship for years to come.

Since children learn by doing, invite participation and capture attention with responsive reading, praying, singing, sharing ideas during discussions, participating in mission projects, lighting or snuffing candles, and collecting offerings.

Choose resources that best fit your needs.

Bible challenge questions encourage students and teachers to talk about a lesson topic as others arrive. Use the PowerPoint slide, and click to give the answer before starting the opening. Or read the question from the *Bible Challenge Question* PDF file.

Opening sentences and prayers change weekly. Add local needs as well as praying the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, or a thematic prayer. Consider using some time to pray in small groups.

Songs and hymns fit the themes and Bible stories for this quarter, but CD resources give you the flexibility to change them. See the music list on the back inside cover. Track numbers refer to the *Engage CD*. Hymn numbers refer to *Lutheran Service Book* from CPH.

Bible lesson introductions don't tell the Bible narrative; instead, they engage students so that they want to learn more in the Explore and Express sites.

The Apostles' Creed professes our faith in the triune God.

Special days, such as birthdays and Baptism anniversaries, are important recognitions. Get these days from your church office, or ask adults to provide them so that you can recognize all children on these days.

Offerings and mission projects help children learn to share God's love in Christ and to help others. They learn that all we have belongs to God and that we are merely stewards of His gifts.

You Need

- *Engage Leader Outlines*
- *Engage CD* (with music, PowerPoint slides & materials to print & copy, such as *Lesson Handouts*, *Lyrics*, *Posters & Melody-Line Scores*)
- Projection & audio system or CD player, pianist, or guitarist

Leader Tips

- See the quarter overview on the back cover.
- See Music & CD Information on the back inside cover.

Using Engage Resources

Pull apart the *Engage Leader Outlines* in this booklet for each week. Read the week's *Preparing the Lesson* on the *Engage CD* to understand the Bible background and lesson focus.

Prepare to use one of these options for participants' resources.

1. Show PowerPoint slides from the *Engage CD*. Choose presentations with or without linked music.
2. Or print and copy PDF resources from the *Engage CD: Lesson Handouts, Lyrics, Bible Intro Posters, Song Scores, and Bible Challenge Questions*. (*Lesson Handouts* have student parts in bold, whereas these *Leader Outlines* have the leader sections in bold.)

For both options, play music on a computer or CD player, or get a pianist or guitarist.

You can adapt PowerPoint presentations to change order and add or subtract activities or songs. To help you do this more easily, see *PowerPoint Tips*, a PDF file on the CD.

Recruit someone to operate PowerPoint slides so you can focus on leading. You may also want to recruit someone to lead singing. **Recorded music is not reproducible.** To make copies for your students or for any other purpose, call 1-800-325-0191 or email copyrights@cph.org for permission.

A Word about Lessons

This group of lessons provides a chronological study of a section of the Old Testament. It is part of a set of nine units covering the basic events in the Bible.

Set Up Your Space

If you do not already have an altar in your space, set one up with a small table. Use a white cloth to cover the table. Add a standing cross and a Bible. You might also add traditional candles or electric candle lights and paraments that correlate with the Church Year.

Church Year Connections

To better meet the stated needs of customers, Concordia Publishing House now offers two separate Church Year resources.

1. **Church Year Connections** are available for Series A, B, and C Scripture readings. It includes recordings, melody-line scores, and PowerPoint slides for hymns and songs related to each season and Sunday; weekly object lessons; collects; an order of opening worship; and teaching points for children.
2. **Church Year Worship Kit** teaches the Church Year in child-friendly, age-appropriate ways for young children in preschool through early elementary grades.

The kit includes four extra-large posters with a church altar and furnishings, the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, and a familiar image of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The Leader Guide has teaching directions and blackline patterns.

A CD features hymns and songs for the Church Year, Baptism anniversary celebrations, reproducible parent connections to send home, and PDF copies of information from the printed booklet.



Lesson 1 Leader Outline

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Bible Challenge Question

Show the *Bible Challenge Question Slide* for people to discuss as others arrive. When ready to start, click to show the answer.

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Say Our lesson today is about how God made the whole universe out of nothing. To start learning about it, let's sing "Builder of Everything."

Sing "Builder of Everything," Track 1.

You Need

- Lesson 1 Engage Leader Outline
- Engage CD
- Lesson 1 slides, projection & audio system; or print/copy Lesson 1 Handouts, Lyrics, Bible Intro Posters from the CD
- CD player

Opening Sentences

Creation Praise (Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise the LORD!

People: Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!

Girls: Praise Him, all His angels;

Boys: praise Him, all His hosts!

Girls: Praise Him, sun and moon,

Boys: praise Him, all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

People: Let them praise the name of the LORD!

Girls: For He commanded and they were created.

Boys: And He established them forever and ever;

Girls: He gave a decree,

Boys: and it shall not pass away.

Leader: Praise the LORD from the earth,

People: you great sea creatures and all deeps,

Girls: fire and hail, snow and mist,

Boys: stormy wind fulfilling His word!

Girls: Mountains and all hills,

Boys: fruit trees and all cedars!

Leader: Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

People: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Girls: Young men and maidens together,

Boys: old men and children!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

People: for His name alone is exalted;

Girls: His majesty is above earth and heaven.

Boys: He has raised up a horn for His people,

Girls: praise for all His saints,

Boys: for the people of Israel who are near to Him.

People: Praise the Lord!

Introduce the Bible Lesson

Show the *Bible Intro Slide* or *Bible Intro Poster 1*.

Ask Who made the world? How did we get here? Help students know and say that God created the world out of nothing. He spoke, and it began.

Say We'll hear how God created the world in our Bible lesson today. He put our world in a galaxy with many other stars and planets, which is named the Milky Way. Our galaxy is very, very huge!

Think about this with me. Our fastest spacecraft travels around 36,000 miles per hour. If we could ride at this speed, it would take about two billion years to travel the span of the Milky Way.

And God made many more planets and stars in many more galaxies in all directions from earth.

Scientists estimate that they can see over 100 billion galaxies with their best telescopes. Isn't that amazing? We have no idea how many galaxies spin beyond this range of our sight. Only God knows!

Song

Say Let's sing a song about God's work of creation.

Sing "Wonderfully Yours," Track 2.

Recognition

Recognize birthdays and Baptism anniversaries. Sing a birthday song, or give each person a small gift.

Offering and Mission Minute

If your Express Leader chose a mission project for the month, or if you designated offerings for a specified mission, talk about it with the students.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Pray for specific needs, and then pray or sing "The Lord's Prayer," Track 3.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Sing "God, Who Built This Wondrous Planet," Track 4.

Last Words

Tell students what they do next, and dismiss them to Explore areas.

Say May God bless your study of His Word today to show you the truth that God made the world and our universe, as the Bible says.

Lesson 2 Leader Outline

God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26–2:25



Bible Challenge Question

Show the *Bible Challenge Question Slide* for people to discuss as others arrive. When ready to start, click to show the answer.

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Sing “God Made Me,” Track 5.

You Need

- Lesson 2 Engage Leader Outline
- Engage CD
- Lesson 2 slides, projection & audio system; or print/copy Lesson 2 Handouts, Lyrics, Bible Intro Posters from the CD
- CD player

Opening Sentences

Thank You, God

Leader: For making the world and all that is in it good,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For making us and giving us wonderful bodies and minds,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For wanting us to be happy and to enjoy the world You made,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For the homes we have and the people who love and care for us,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For food to eat and people who prepare it,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For friends with whom we work and play,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For leading us to know You are our Friend and Savior,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit,

People: thank You, God.

Leader: For everything,

People: thank You, God. Amen.

Song

Say Jesus came from heaven to be our Savior. Born as a baby, He grew into a man. He never sinned, but He took our sins upon Himself and died on the cross to pay for them. In His death and resurrection, Jesus set us free from sin.

In Baptism, we participate in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Let us sing about how God has made us His children.

Sing “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It,” Track 8.

Introduce the Bible Lesson

Show the *Bible Intro Slide* or *Bible Intro Poster 2*.

Say God made the first people, Adam and Eve. Through the miracle of life, God made every person since then too. God made each of us unique with different features and abilities, likes and dislikes.

Ask Can you name something unique about the way God made you? What do you do really well? Use these questions and others like them to get a few students to respond.

Say Not everyone likes or is good at the same things. That's the way God made us. It would be very boring if we were all the same. God made each of us different and special in our own way. And that's good!

Psalm 139:13–14 says, "For [God] formed my inward parts; [God] knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise [God], for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Recognition

Recognize birthdays and Baptism anniversaries. Sing a birthday song, or give each person a small gift.

Offering and Mission Minute

If your Express Leader chose a mission project for the month, or if you designated offerings for a specified mission, talk about it with the students.

Prayers

Luther's Morning Prayer

Pray for specific needs, and then pray together:
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Song

Sing "Wonderfully Yours," Track 2.

Last Words

Dismiss students to Explore areas.

Say God made each of us fearfully and wonderfully, unique and different. Let's celebrate our differences and be glad!