

WEEK 1

LESSON GUIDE

MAKE IT OR BREAK IT

BIG IDEA

God makes good things.

BIBLE

In the Beginning:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; John 1:1-5

LARGE GROUP TIME

Hi everyone, welcome to *Make it or Break it!* For the next few weeks, we get to explore some of the very first stories of the Bible. From the making of things to the breaking of things, it's a series that reveals God's wonderful ability to create with people's tendency to destroy . . . but all is never lost because God always has a bigger plan to show us!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "The World Needs You" (Westwood Kids Worship feat. Yancy)
 - "Build My Life on You" (Lifeway Worship)
 - "This Could Change Everything" (Worship Together Kids)
 - "All Creatures" (Kings Kaleidoscope)

ACTIVITY | Make It or Break It?

- **What do you think the phrase, "make it or break it," means?** It can be used to describe how something could have two very different outcomes –complete success or complete failure.
- To get a better idea of what this looks like, let's play a game called *Make It or Break It*. It's the game that shows us the "ooo's" of success and the "yikes!" of failure.
- We'll watch people doing some crazy stunts, and the fun part is, you all get to predict whether the people will "make it" by completing their stunt successfully, or if they will "break it" and fail at their attempt.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a few of [these videos](#), specifically choosing ones where they "make it," or film new ones with your volunteer team where all stunts are successful. You can have the kids vote whether they think the person will make it or break it by raising their hands, running to opposite sides of the room, or any fun way you can think of.

- Wow, these people have skills, and we got to see *all* of them “make it.”
- Today’s Bible story will give us a glimpse of God’s spectacular skills . . . and God has a perfect record of being successful at things, so I think it’s safe to say that we’ll see another “make it” moment!

ACTIVITY | To Each Their Own Tool

- **Who loves making things?** Maybe you enjoy making things out of LEGOs or even building your own world in a video game.
- Whatever you like to make, one thing is for sure . . . you need the right stuff to help you build!
- Take *Minecraft* for example. There are a ton of different materials, like wood, sand, and stone, that you can gather in order to start building things. Having some good tools with you can make gathering these materials a lot easier.
- Let’s think out loud for a moment.
 - **What tool would you need in order to cut wood?** An axe!
 - **What about to put sand in a bucket?** A shovel, that’s right.
 - And, this one might be a tough one . . . **what about to break and remove some stone?** The tool I’m thinking about is a pickaxe.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask for three volunteers and assign them one tool, such as an axe, a shovel, and a pickaxe. Divide the remaining kids into three groups and assign them to be one material that matches each tool, such as wood, sand, and stone. Have the groups scramble themselves around the room. The goal for the volunteers is to identify and “gather” as many matching materials as they can in the specified time. For example, the volunteer with the axe will look for kids who are assigned to the wood group. Once identified, the kid will then follow along behind the volunteer in the form of a train. You might be wondering . . . how can the volunteers know which kids are what material? Try assigning a body pose to each material, or simply print pictures of the material to tape onto the kids’ backs.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Tape up the picture of the tool in different parts of the room. Then tape pictures of the different materials on each kid’s back and challenge preteens to find where they’re supposed to go by giving each other clues without speaking.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *In addition to these pairings suggested (axe/wood, sand/shovel, stone/pickaxe), provide images of more combinations such as hammer/nails, whisk/mixing bowl, paintbrush/canvas, and more. Place the images of the tools in various parts of the room and have kids play a relay game to take the corresponding images to the correct place.*
- You gathered a lot of materials! Now, let’s put our brains together. **What are some fun things you would make with wood, sand, and stone?**

QUESTION | What is one thing in nature that is your favorite?

- **What is one thing in nature that is your favorite?** Show me by making it out of bricks!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide building bricks for kids to build with.*
- These are fantastic creations, everyone! Let’s jump into our Bible story to talk about the one who made the original version of all of these . . . God!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 1:1-2:4a (In the Beginning)

- At the very beginning of the Bible, in the book called Genesis, we read all about how God created everything. This was *the* building and making of the world we live in!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you read Genesis 1:1-2:4a, play instrumental music in the background, such as [this option](#). Divide the kids into seven smaller groups, and assign each group a number. Walk to each group in the order of the creation days as you tell the story. As you approach each group, give them a pile of bricks to build their assigned number as soon as you start talking about that day.
- [Walk over to Group 1. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1-5 while the kids build the number “1.”]
 - On the very first day of creation, God made something out of literally nothing! Everything was dark and had no shape, then all of a sudden, God spoke the words, “Let there be light,” and light just . . . appeared!
 - **So what did God create on the first day?** That’s right, God created light to separate day and night.
- [Walk over to Group 2. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:6-8 while the kids build the number “2.”]
 - On the second day, God pulled the waters apart and created the atmosphere, what we know as the sky!
 - **Can you imagine what it would be like to live without a sky?**
 - So let’s recap. **What did God make on day one? What about day two?**
- [Walk over to Group 3. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:9-13 while the kids build the number “3.”]
 - Okay now it’s starting to get really interesting! Day three is where dry ground first makes an appearance. Not just the ground — God also created all kinds of plants and trees that grow on the land.
- [Walk over to Group 4. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:14-19 while the kids build the number “4.”]
 - So the first thing God made on the first day was light, but on day four, God made specific kinds of light — the sun, the moon, and the stars. It’s because of these things that day and night exist.
 - Quick review time. **What did God make on day one? Day two? Day three? Day four?**
- [Walk over to Group 5. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:20-23 while the kids build the number “5.”]
 - Let’s see, we have water, sky, land, plants, sun, moon, stars . . . what are we missing? How about some animals? On the fifth day, God made all the animals of the sky and the animals of the sea.
 - Can you name some sky or sea animals? Yup, God made them all!
- [Walk over to Group 6. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:24-31 while the kids build the number “6.”]
 - God made important and necessary things on every day of creation, but day six is special because that’s when land animals were made . . . including humans!
 - Humans were created in the image of God to take care of all the other created things. God gave the first humans everything they would ever need . . . it was a perfect world God had made!
 - Let’s run through the six days of this perfect world. **What did God make on day one? Day two? Day three? Day four? Day five? Day six?**
- [Walk over to Group 7. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 2:1-4a while the kids build the number “7.”]
 - **What did God create on the seventh day?** Nothing! God rested. That means everything that needed to be made had already been made . . . God’s work was done. God rested and made that seventh day holy. Everything had turned out exactly as God had planned!

BIG IDEA | God makes good things.

- It looks like our Big Idea is broken! Can you help me unbreak today’s Big Idea?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** To prepare, stack up a few boxes of different sizes — you can make this as large and high as you want. Lightly secure the boxes by taping them with painter’s tape in the back. Then use a thick marker to write the Big Idea in large letters across all the boxes so that the words bleed into neighboring boxes. Then remove the painter’s tape and scramble the boxes in a pile. Invite kids to come and stack the “blocks” in the correct order.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *If your preteens had gotten into Wordle at some point, create a fun [analog throwback](#) using the word “makes” in this week’s Big Idea! Draw six rows of five boxes each. Have the first kid fill out the first line with a five-letter word. Show them which letters are in the word by placing a green [cello sheet](#) over any letter that is in the correct place, and a yellow cello sheet over a letter that is in the word but not in the correct position. See if preteens can guess the word “makes” in six tries. Afterward, write out the rest of the Big Idea: “God MAKES good things.”*

- The Big Idea is . . . **God makes good things.**
- Thank you, Big Idea builders!

VIDEO | Make It or Break It, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week’s episode of [Grow TV](#).*

VIDEO | “Wonderful World”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play [this video](#) of David Attenborough’s spoken-word recording of “What a Wonderful World” set to images from his BBC show. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, read [this!](#)*
- That was incredible! We just saw animals, plants, and other things in nature that we definitely don’t get to see every day.
- This is a great example of how wonderful God’s building projects are and can remind us that **God makes good things.**
- **Which of these images fascinated you the most?**

ACTIVITY | Creation Dice Game

- God clearly thought of the perfect order to create things. **Can you imagine if God made animals and humans before creating land and plants?** That would be a very “dicey” situation for animals and humans.
- So, why don’t we recap all the good things God made on each day of creation in a super simple way?
 - Day one – God created light.
 - Day two – God created the sky.
 - Day three – God created land, seas, and plants.
 - Day four – God created the sun, moon, and stars.
 - Day five – God created fish and birds.
 - Day six – God created animals and humans.
 - Day seven – God rested!
- Now let’s play a game that will show us that God was definitely on a “roll” with making all these amazing things in the beginning . . . and it was clearly the first humans’ “para-dice!”
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, print a copy of the [Creation Dice Game printable](#), and make a large game board with seven spaces using painter’s tape on the floor. Tape down one page of the printable per space in order of the days of creation. Choose two large items to use as game tokens, and place them on the space for day one of creation. Form two teams of five kids each to play the game, and assign each team a game token. If you have a large group, feel free to play the game multiple times with different teams. Put on some upbeat music, and get pumped! Here’s how to play:*
 - *Have kids sit in a circle with their team, and give each team one dice. In this game, each number on the dice represents that day of creation. The goal is to be the first team to get their token to day seven of creation.*

- What's the catch? They cannot move their token to the next day of creation until they roll the number that their token is on. For example, they must roll a one in order to move on to day two of creation, then they must roll a two in order to move on to day three of creation, and so on.
- Have kids take turns within their teams rolling the dice one time, then passing it to the next person until someone rolls the number they need.
- Once they roll the number they need, have the team shout out what was made on that day. Then the kid who rolled last can get up and move their team's token to the next space on the game board.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Put up the days of creation images around the room. Challenge preteens to write or draw as many things as they can think of that God created on individual sticky notes. Set a timer for 60 seconds. Then have them go place their sticky notes under the correct sign.

SCRIPTURE | John 1:1-5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read John 1:1-5 with the kids.
- Hmm . . . Is it just me or do the first three words of the first verse in the book of John sound very, very familiar? **What does it remind you of?** It starts off in a similar way to the way Genesis 1 begins: "In the beginning."
- **Do you remember what God made on the first day of creation?** When there was darkness all around, God made light.
- **Why do you think it was so important that God created light?** Light helps us see, and it is super helpful when it is dark . . . and this is exactly what Jesus does for us!
- Jesus is the light we need when we end up in dark spaces. Maybe not actual darkness – like when you play hide and seek and decide to hide in a closet – but whenever we find ourselves feeling lost, afraid, angry, hopeless, or sad, we can turn to Jesus to guide us.
- Jesus is always here for us. Jesus' light is always bright and always warm, which helps us find and see the good things when we can't see clearly.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Scavenger Builders

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into groups of four to five kids who will build a nature collage together. Go outside, give each group a brown paper bag, then give them about two minutes to grab as many nature items they can find and put in the bag, such as grass, sticks, leaves, rocks . . . maybe tell them to leave the creepy crawlers outside. Go back inside, and set paper plates or construction paper on the tables and glue!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide one item for each kid in individual mystery bags. Have preteens feel inside their bag without looking to identify the item inside (leaves, pinecones, sticks, flowers, fruits, sand, etc.).
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Not all kids would enjoy the outdoor excursion, especially those with sensory issues or kids who simply don't want to touch the items found outside. Make sure to provide leaders or peers to collect items for them, or bring the outdoors inside by having a curated bin of items kids can choose from to create their collage.
- Look at all this evidence of God's wonderful creation we've collected together. Let's see what you can make out of them!
- **God makes good things,** and we can see that in the world around us!

RESPONSE | I See Good in You

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a cube tissue box along with four square pieces of construction paper to glue on the sides of their box. Then, on their boxes, have them write or draw little notes of affirmation to each other.
- On the sixth day of creation, God created . . . humans! We know that **God makes good things**, and that definitely included people.
- Let's let each other know how good and awesome God made each of us!

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 3:4 (NIV)

- **"For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."**
- **What shape has six sides?** Hexagons! Did you know that hexagons are the ideal building blocks?
 - For example, bees use the hexagon shape in their beehives because when hexagons are stacked together, they fit together perfectly to make a strong design with lots of storage space!
 - People also use hexagons when making things, like buildings, in order to make them extra strong.
- Just like hexagons, memory verses can make us stronger when it comes to building our relationship with God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Form two teams, and provide each team with a set of hexagon cut outs. If you have a large group, feel free to play the game multiple times with different teams. Let each team try to line up and stack the hexagons into a verse that makes sense and see how close they can get! After everyone has had a chance to arrange the verse, reveal the correct order of the verse.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Print and cut two sets of the memory verse printable and play a matching game with the kids. Once all the pairs are found, Put one set in order on the ground or on the wall. Invite one kid at a time to tape words from the second set over the first set, then practice saying the whole verse together.
- **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4.)**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for making everything good through your "out of this world" imagination! We love all the colorful ways you created the animals in sky, land, and sea. We also are especially grateful for the way you have made each of us so uniquely good! Thank you, thank you, thank you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Name two things that God created.
- What did God say after creating each thing?
- What did God do after everything had been created?
- Read John 1:1. Who is the "Word" that was there in the beginning when God created all things?
- What is your favorite thing on the list of things God created?
- Why do you think God made all of these things in a specific order?
- God created you, too! What's your favorite thing about yourself?

ACTIVITY | Creation Dice To-Go

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a Creation Dice To-Go printable to decorate, then show them how to cut, fold, and glue their dice together [like this](#) [6:15-8:30].

- There are six sides to your dice, and each side shows a picture of what was made on one day of creation . . . except for day seven because God rested and didn't make anything!
- Have fun sharing your knowledge with family and friends. Roll the dice and name the day of creation based on the picture.
- Knowing what was created on each day is a great way to remember that **God makes good things.**