



LESSON 1

CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

GOD'S BIG STORY: God creates the world and everything in it. His most precious creation is people, who He created in His image to look after the earth and to be in relationship with Him.

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: What is your favorite thing God made?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: Reflect Me
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Discussion Questions
- Craft: Clay Creations
- Game: Reflecting in Action

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural
- Blessing Your Kids
- Closing Game: Creation Charades

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

When you look in the mirror, what do you notice? Is it your flaws? Maybe a new wrinkle or pimple (or two)? Perhaps like me, you try to avoid the mirror at all costs or, at other moments, obsessively look at it to make sure your hair, your clothes, or your shoes reflect who you want to be.

In 2020, the global fashion industry was worth an estimated \$1.5 trillion, making it the fourth largest industry in the world! Have you ever wondered why we care so much about how we appear physically? Perhaps it's because image is a big deal, and we've simply forgotten who we were created to look like!

Read Genesis 1–2. What do you find in this passage that stands out to you? What did God say when He created Adam and Eve? God made us in His image—to represent God, follow His direction, and care for His creation.

What would the world be like if we lived in the confidence that we are all uniquely created in God's image instead of trying to maintain our own images? How would we treat one another? What do you think keeps us from living this way?

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The “who” in Genesis 1–2 is God. The Bible makes it clear that God is the One who brings all things to life. And the high point of His creation is humanity—Adam and Eve, the first two people. They represent God’s image.

WHAT?

Genesis 1–2 shows the depth and breadth of God’s creation. From darkness to light, from tiny insects to great sea creatures, God created them all. In His good world, all is beautiful and as it’s meant to be.

WHERE?

Everywhere! This is the big story of the creation of the whole world. God placed Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden, near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Genesis 2:10–14). This places Eden in modern-day southern Iraq in the region of Mesopotamia.

WHEN?

The Bible tells us this happened “in the beginning” (Genesis 1:1). The main point is that God created everything according to His purpose. Genesis 1 focuses on the big picture of creation, and Genesis 2 zooms in on the care God put into creating humanity.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

In the beginning, there was no sin or suffering. The world was beautiful, and humanity walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin marred creation and people’s relationship with God. God promises to one day restore all things. All who trust in Jesus will be made new, and sin and suffering will be no more.

Large Group or Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Created New Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the Creation Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: “What is your favorite thing God made?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Greet kids with air high-fives and fist bumps. Show kids today’s Welcome Question and have them share their answers with a few friends. For younger kids, read the question to them. Invite kids to draw their favorite things that God made and share their drawings with two or three people near them.

At your start time ...

Welcome everyone and call several kids to the front to share their answers to today’s Welcome Question: **What is your favorite thing God made?** Give air high-fives and elbow bumps to each kid who shares before he sits down.

In today’s part of God’s big story, we’ll discover what God’s favorite creation is of all that He made! But first, it’s time to be curious!

Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I’m curious ...

- What do you think it would be like to be a bird, shark, or ant?
- Why do you think God made you?

Interactive Game: Reflect Me

SUPPLIES: handheld mirror (1 or more)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Reflect Me Slide, Creation Wonder Truth Slide

During this activity, kids will pass around a handheld mirror and look at their reflections. If your group is large, keep the activity moving by providing multiple mirrors for kids to pass around.

Gather the kids together in a circle. Display the Reflect Me Slide.



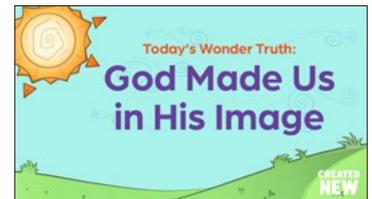
Before you came today, did you look in the mirror? Allow kids to answer. **When you looked in the mirror, what did you see?** Allow kids to respond. **A mirror is a piece of flat glass that reflects whatever is in front of it. If you look in a mirror and make a silly face, you’ll see a reflection of your silly face. Let’s try it!** Invite kids to pass the mirror(s) around the circle and make a silly face. **A mirror reflects what a person looks like and what a person does.**

Help kids pair up with partners and have them stand facing each other.

Let’s play a game called Reflect Me. One person is the mirror, and the other person is looking in the mirror. Your goal is to work together (without talking!) so that the mirror person and the person looking in the mirror are moving at almost the same time. You want to be perfect reflections of each other! The mirror person can start by making large, smooth movements with their arms and body. Once you get that down, the mirror person can try speeding up her movements or making silly faces! Allow kids time to play and then switch roles. Gather kids back together.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to use slow, deliberate movements. This makes it easier for their partners to follow.

If I were to guess, every one of you uses a mirror every single day. Way back in the beginning of time, God created people. He created people in His image. We were all created to be like Him and reflect what He is like—to be like Him in our words, attitudes, thoughts, and actions. Display the Creation Wonder Truth Slide. **Today’s Wonder Truth is GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE.**



Leader Tip: Help kids understand the meaning of being created in the image of God. This means we’re created to be like Him and reflect what He is like. Invite kids to think of some attributes of God.

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Declaration [Video](#) or Slide (optional)

Show the Declaration [Video](#) or Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

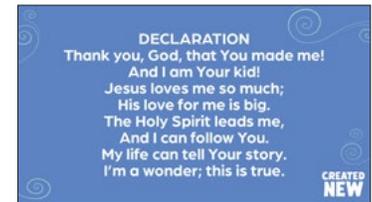
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2
WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, You are beautiful to us. Thank You for creating everything we see and for creating us to be like You. We invite Your Holy Spirit to be with us as we learn more about what it means to be like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll hear about how we're made in God's image. Let's praise Him now. Play songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found—at the beginning in Genesis.

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read from Genesis 2:4–7, 15–17, 20–22 and then Genesis 1:27 in the Bible. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: tape, shatter-proof mirror

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Video ([Early Childhood](#) or [Elementary](#))

Before kids arrive, print and hang up the Days of Creation Sheets in different spots around the room by taping them to the wall. Place a mirror next to the Day 6 picture.

Today as we hear the story, we'll look at numbers to figure out where we should go. Can you find a picture with a number one on it? Allow the kids to respond. **Let's all stand up and walk quietly to the Day 1 picture.**

The first book in the Bible is Genesis. It tells the start of God's big story. God's big story is about how He loves and wants to be close with His people. In the very beginning, God created everything. First, everything was dark. God said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). And light came. God created the first day and night.

Let's see if we can look around the room and find a number two. There it is! Let's all stand up and walk to the Day 2 picture. What kind of things do you see in this picture? Allow kids to respond. **On day two, God created the sky above and the water below.**

Do you see the number three picture? Have the kids follow you over to the Day 3 picture. **What do you see in our picture that was created on day three?** Allow kids to respond. **On day three, God separated the water from the dry ground, and He covered the land with all kinds of plants and trees. Can you name a type of plant?** Allow the kids to respond.

Now, where is the Day 4 picture? Allow kids to find the picture and then have them travel to the image with you and sit down. **Do you know what these pictures are?** Pause for responses. **On the fourth day, God made the planets and stars in the sky. Have you ever looked up at the sky at night and noticed all the stars?** Allow the kids to respond.

Where is our Day 5 picture? Invite kids to find the Day 5 picture and have them travel over to it with you and sit down. **What do we see on our Day five picture?** Allow for answers. **On day five, God created all the birds that fly in the sky and all the fish and other creatures that live in the seas. What kinds of birds or fish and water creatures have you seen?** Allow the kids to respond.

Do you see our Day 6 picture? Let's walk over to our Day 6 picture and sit down. What do you see on our Day 6 picture? Allow the kids to name the different animals and bugs on their picture. **On the sixth day, God created all the animals and insects and creatures that live on dry land. Other than the animals and insects, what else is in our picture?** Pause for answers. **Yes, there are two people in our picture.**

Also on the sixth day, God created humans. God made the first two humans in His image. That means people show what God is like. Look in this mirror and tell me what you see ... (Hold up the mirror and invite kids to look into it and respond.) **You see a reflection of yourself! God made people to reflect Himself.**

God made one man and one woman to look after the world. He made people so He could know and love them. God told them to take care of the earth. He also told them to make more people to fill the earth.

God gave the first man and woman—called Adam and Eve—what they needed. He made a garden in a land called Eden and told the first man and woman to take care of Eden. They could eat the fruit of any tree or plant except for one—a tree that God told them not to eat from. God looked at everything He had created. He made the planets and stars, plants and animals. Then God made people in His image to watch over it all. God saw it all and was glad He made it.

Where is the Day 7 picture? Travel with kids to the day seven poster and have them sit down and pretend to rest. **God looked at all his creation and was very happy with it. On the seventh day, God rested. Let's take a minute to sit quietly and rest and look at all the beautiful things God created.** Take a minute to allow kids to sit quietly and look at the day seven picture.

You all did a great job resting! There are lots of beautiful things in God's creation. Way more than could ever fit in this picture. God is still happy with His creation. We're made in God's image to show what He's like. We're made to be close with God. We can follow His directions and care for His creation. God made us in His image. You may want to leave the Day 6 picture displayed to use again in Responding in Worship.

GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO (EARLY CHILDHOOD OR ELEMENTARY)

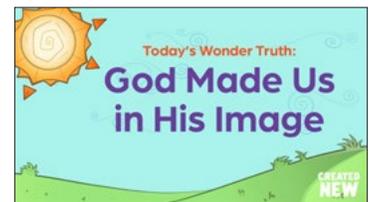


Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Truth Slide

Display the Creation Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

In the beginning, there was no sin or suffering. The world was beautiful, and the first humans walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin messed up creation and people's relationship with God. God promises that one day He will fix all things and make them right again. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be made new, and sin and suffering will be gone forever!



Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, whiteboards (1 per kid), dry-erase markers (1 per kid), tissues (1 per kid), paper (1 sheet per kid, optional), markers (1 per kid, optional), laminated sheets of paper (1 per kid, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Created New Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle. Practice the Word of Wonder together as a group several times. Hand out whiteboard and a dry-erase markers to each kid (or sheets of paper and markers). If you don't have dry-erase boards for each kid, you could give each kid a laminated sheet of paper to use.

Have the kids draw a simple picture of themselves on their boards. After a few minutes, have the kids erase their pictures with a tissue while saying the Word of Wonder together. Repeat several times.

Jesus makes us new! Just like God made His creation perfect and new.

Our Word of Wonder for this series is: Jesus makes us new. This is from 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Corinthians is a big word. Let's say it together a few times. Say it several times, allowing the kids to say the word with you.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for "Jesus").
- **MAKES US**—Both hands over your heart.
- **NEW.**—Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.
- **FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.



Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **When something is new, what's it like?**
- **What part of us does Jesus make new? How does that make you feel?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: He makes our heart new; He makes us new on the inside.)

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: small shatter-proof mirror

Today we learned that God created humans. God made the first two humans in His image. That means people show what God is like. When you look in a mirror, you see a reflection of yourself! God made people to reflect Himself. We're going to play a game where we'll pass around a mirror and look into it to see our reflection. Gather kids together in a circle. Pass a small mirror around the circle and invite each kid to look into it.

The first time around the circle, encourage the kids to make a happy face into the mirror and then pass it. The second time, invite them to make a silly face. Then, they can make a surprised face. As they're passing the mirror around the circle, say, "Pause" at various times and whoever is holding the mirror can answer a question from the list.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did God make in the first five days of creation?** (light, day and night, planets, stars, sun, moon, plants, water, sky, etc.)
- **What's your favorite part of creation?**
- **What did God create on the sixth day of creation?** (people; Adam and Eve)
- **Who were the first people God created?** (Adam and Eve)
- **What did God do on the seventh day of creation?** (rested)
- **What do you think it means to be made in God's image?**
- **Because we're made in God's image, what is special about us? What makes us unique and different from the rest of creation?**

We're made in God's image, and we can reflect His love and have a relationship with Him. We can talk to Him anytime we want to! Let's talk to God now in prayer.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for creating us and loving us. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: Clay Creations

SUPPLIES: air-dry clay (several lumps per kid), paper plate (1 per kid), sculpting tools

Set out a few lumps of air-dry clay on a paper plate for each kid. You can also set out dough sculpting tools.

Today we're learning God created the world and how God made us in His image. We're going to make creations of our own with this air-dry clay. I'll read a list of things that God made, and you can make something out of the clay. As you create it, think about how amazing it is that God created the whole world and everything in it ... and He created us!

Encourage the kids to listen as you say the things God made. They can make something from each day of creation using their clay and sculpting tools. It's OK if their creations are abstract!



On day one of creation, God made light. Can you make a sun to remind you of light? Pause to allow the kids to work.

On day two of creation, God separated the sky and water. Can you take one piece of clay and separate it or put another color next to it to remind you of the sky and water? Pause to allow the kids to work.

On day three of creation, God created the land and plants. Can you create a plant? It can be a flower or a tree or a bush—anything that grows! Pause to allow the kids to work.

On day four, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Can you make shapes that look like the sun, moon, or stars? Pause to allow the kids to work.

On day five, God made birds and fish. Can you make a bird or fish? Pause to allow the kids to work.

On day six of creation, God made animals, insects, and people. Can you make a person or animal? Pause to allow the kids to work.

On day seven of creation, God rested. He said everything He created was good. You did a great job of creating different things. Let's take a rest from creating just like God did on the seventh day. Encourage the kids to pause. **You can take your creation home and let it dry, and it will remind you that God created everything.**

Active Game: Reflecting in Action

Our Wonder Truth reminds us that God made us in His image. When we care for His creation and follow His directions, we reflect what God is like. Let's play a game where you'll reflect whatever the leader is doing by doing the same thing. When we look in a mirror, we can see our reflection, and it does everything we do. In our game, you can do everything I do!

Demonstrate how to play by clapping and encouraging the kids to clap too.

Good job! I clapped my hands, and you reflected what I did by clapping your hands as well.

Continue with various motions, such as jumping, walking, stomping, patting your head, spinning, waving your arms, dancing, and more. If you have time, let kids take turns being the leader.

You did a great job reflecting my actions! This game helps us remember that being made in God's image means we get to show what God is like because we reflect Him!

Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural

SUPPLIES: chart or butcher paper, markers, tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Reflecting God Mural Slide, [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Display the Reflecting God Mural Slide and gather the kids together. Roll out chart or butcher paper on the floor across much (or all) of the room. Set out markers. Invite kids to sit somewhere along either side of the roll of paper.



Today in God's big story, we learned that God created us in His image.

We were created to be like Him and to reflect who God is and what He is like. There are so many different ways we can reflect God! One way we can reflect God is to love others because God loves everyone. Another way is to be patient because God is patient with us. We can also show kindness, humility, joy, and forgiveness. And these are only some of the ways we can reflect Him. There are so many more!

Spend some time thinking of the ways you can reflect God and be like Him. Think creatively about the ways you want to be more like God and then draw those things on the paper. Let's create a giant mural of the beautiful parts of who God is and how we can be like Him!

Make It Inclusive: Some kids get overwhelmed working on group projects in close proximity with others. They work better in their own space. So, if needed, allow kids to draw their responses on individual sheets of paper.

Give kids time to draw on the mural. As they draw, write "God Created Us in His Image" in large letters across the top or invite a kid with nice handwriting to write it. Play music from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids draw.

Leader Tip: A variation of this activity is to turn the lights down and shine black lights across the roll of paper. Let kids use highlighters instead of markers to draw. The black lights will make the drawings glow in the dark. When we reflect God in the way we live, His light shines through us!

As kids finish their drawings, continue talking with them. **Wow! Your drawings display such wonderful ways to reflect God’s image!** If time allows, invite several kids to tell the group about their drawings. **God understands that because of sin—the wrong things we say and do that pull us away from God—being like Him is hard. We can’t do it on our own! That’s why He gives everyone who follows Jesus the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to help us reflect God better!**

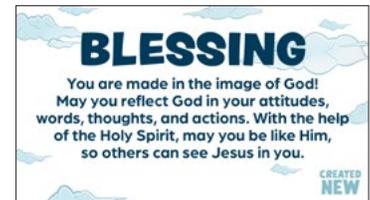
When everyone is done drawing on the mural, invite kids to help you tape the mural to the wall. If possible, leave it up for several weeks as a reminder that we’re made in God’s image and can reflect Him.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Blessing Slide

After several minutes, close your time by saying a blessing over kids. Ask kids to receive the blessing by holding their hands in front of them with palms up. Display the Creation Blessing Slide.

Blessing: You are made in the image of God! May you reflect God in your attitudes, words, thoughts, and actions. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may you be like Him, so others can see Jesus in you.



Closing Game: Creation Charades

SUPPLIES: basket

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Days of Creation Sheets

Ahead of time, print the Days of Creation Sheets (if you haven’t already). Place the pictures in a basket.

Today we learned from God’s big story that God made us in His image. God made you (point to a kid), **and you** (point to another kid), **and you** (point to another kid), **and all of us and all people everywhere. God is still happy with His creation. We’re made in God’s image to show what He’s like. We’re made to be close with God. We can follow His directions and care for His creation. God made us in His image. Do you remember what God made on each day? Let’s try to name things God made in the first six days of creation.**



Pick a kid to begin and have her come up and choose a picture from the basket. Invite the kid to act out something that God created on that day of creation, and let the other kids guess what it is. To make it more challenging, have the kids shout out the day God created each thing.