



Date: April 21, 2013
Series: The Story, Lesson 1

Creation, His Story

Bible Basis: Genesis 1

Key Verse: Genesis 1:27, "So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

In today's society, nature is often admired, but seldom is God given credit as the almighty being who fashioned it. One reason for this is that if people recognized that God created our world, then they would also have to recognize that God created them and all people. Then all people would be accountable to him. That is an uneasy thought for many. However, for those who know he has marvelous plans for his creation, it is a comforting thought.

Children need comfort in knowing a loving creator made them unique. They need to know that God has a purpose for his creation. They need to have confidence in the Bible's account of God's six-day creation that has ample scientific credibility. As they admire God's creation, it tells them how awesome their wonderful God is. It tells them a little bit about God's history, or HIS story. It is God who made a perfect world that was broken by sin. It is God who then sent his Son Jesus so his creation might be restored.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through observing creation, we can know God's power and majesty. Only through the gift of Jesus can we come to receive his saving grace and his mercy for us.

Jesus in us: Through Jesus' power, we can live in harmony with God, be accountable to him, and be responsible for the earth that we oversee.

Jesus through us: We can witness to God's glory as we proclaim the creative goodness of God.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring the worship symbols forward such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *ten blocks*
- *a table*
- *a blanket or sheet*

Have ten blocks randomly displayed on a table for all the kids to see. Then start by introducing "The Story" series, which you are beginning today. This series will continue for 31 weeks, taking everyone in the church through the entire Bible - together. It will be best if you say the words introducing *The Story* (below) as written, with dramatic emphasis, so that those who regularly attend will have the words etched in their memories and hearts by the end of the series...

The Bible is one big story made of many little stories.

The big story is God's story. It goes like this: God wants to be close to you. And he would do anything -- including sending his Son Jesus -- so that you would be his child forever.

The many little stories in the Bible are real people who were loved by God. Some said "yes" to his love -- and some said "no."

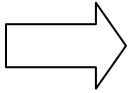
What happened this past week? How many of you read your “Story for Children” (hold up book) at home? Encourage them to read it next week, and to get a copy for their family if they don’t have one yet...

Today we will learn about HOW GOD MADE THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT – ESPECIALLY PEOPLE! RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU ARE PEOPLE...

Your life is a story also...and your story is important to God! Say “yes” to God every day, and make your story a great one!

As the series continues, the presenter may want to interact with the audience by leaving out certain words and having people from the audience fill in the blanks!

I wonder what’s going to happen today?! Let’s take a look at an overview of HOW GOD MADE THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT...



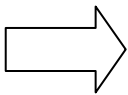
Show The Story: Teen Curriculum, Session Videos. Play Story Scene #1...

Now let’s zoom in for a closer look at a part of today’s Story...a true story from the Bible.

Invite two children to come forward and hold up a blanket or sheet in front of the table to hide it and the blocks. Next, while the blocks are hidden, rearrange them to form a pyramid starting with four blocks on the bottom, then a row of three, then two, then one. Take the sheet or blanket from the two volunteers and have them return to their seats. Then say:

Okay, how did these blocks get stacked? *Kids will answer that you did it.*

How do you know for sure? Did you see me do it?



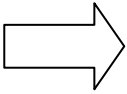
For something to be a scientific fact, it needs to be

- **Observable—something you can see,**
- **Testable—something you can prove by a test, and**
- **Repeatable—something that happened more than once.**

If it cannot meet these requirements, then it is a *theory* or *belief*.

There are two possibilities or theories for how these blocks were arranged into a pyramid. One, it just happened, or, two, someone with a plan stacked them.

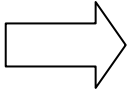
That’s like the two different theories about how this world came into being. Either it just happened, or God made the world with a purpose. The Bible gives us historical and reliable evidence that God *did* create the world.



Notice how the blocks are arranged in a pyramid so they point up to God. This is a reminder that God's creation points to him and was made to give him praise. The Bible says, "The mountains and the hills will break into songs of joy in your presence, and all the trees will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12) So, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6 NIV) Let's worship the God of creation.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!



You're Worthy of My Praise – **Swamp Stomp** DVD
You're Powerful – **Swamp Stomp** DVD

The Power of the Cross:

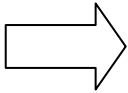
Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Tell a story using one boy and one girl volunteer.

One little boy named _____ (insert the boy's name) built himself a toy car (hold it up for all to see). He called his precious toy car "Zoom Zoom." They would play together for hours.

One day, Zoom Zoom decided he didn't want to belong to _____ (insert the boy's name) anymore. He zoom zoomed over to _____'s (insert second child's name) house. They became fast friends, playing together for hours at a time. Zoom Zoom said to _____ (insert child number two's name), "I love you. You are my very best friend."

How do you think that made _____ (insert first child's name) feel?



Did you know that is what it says in the Bible about people who refuse to believe God made them and that they belong to God? Listen to Romans 1:20: "From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made. As a result, people have no excuse."

The Bible says no one has an excuse for not believing God is real. They can look at everything he created, including themselves, and know God made them. But if they say, "God really didn't make me and I don't belong to him; I can do whatever I want!" This is rebelling against God.

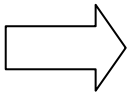
Anytime we disobey God and pretend we can do whatever we want instead of what he wants, we are just like that. But God made it possible for us to be forgiven when we disobey him. He gave his Son Jesus, who gave his life for us on the cross. Jesus paid the punishment that our sin deserves so we could be forgiven and become friends with God again.

Let's pray and ask forgiveness for any times that we have disobeyed and gone our own way.

Dear God, thank you for making us. Thank you for being such a mighty and wonderful God who made all creation. Sometimes, even though we belong to you, we pretend we don't. We disobey you when we do mean things to others or when we don't do what you want. But we trust that Jesus gave his life for us and in Jesus' name we ask for forgiveness. Don't hold our sin against us. Instead, let us live as part of your family and do what you want. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.



You Are My King – **Swamp Stomp** DVD

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *several hula hoops*

Place hula hoops on the floor and say:

These hoops remind us of the world. God made everything in the world. Everything in the world is God's. When we give some of what we have back to God, we are reminded that it all belongs to him anyway. We are his. As you bring your offerings forward, stand in the hula hoop as a way of saying to God, "All I am and all I have, I give to you."



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- a hula hoop for every four children
- foam ball for every four children

Divide the children into groups of four. Give each group a hula hoop and a foam ball. Ask the groups to invent and play a game using the hula hoop and the ball.

After a few minutes, stop the children to interview the groups. Ask them about the games they created.

Each one of these games tells me something about the group that created it. Groups that like to throw made throwing games. Groups that like to run made running games.

What does it tell you about God when we look at his creation?

Take a few suggestions from the audience.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Genesis 1 will be presented in one of the ways below.

Application #1: Video

Supplies:

- video: *Six Short Days, One Big Adventure!* (*Answers in Genesis Ministries, Gospel Communications, 2002*) or order from <http://www.campuscrusade.com/Kids/six.htm>

Show the 35-minute video, *Six Short Days, One Big Adventure!*

Application #2: The Story for Children

Read the first chapter in the book, “The Story for Children.” If your group is small, you can show the children the pictures in the book as you read it. Or – especially if your group is large - you may want to scan the pages into a projection software and project them onto a screen. (Or take a picture of each pair of pages in the book and download the pictures into your projection software...)

Application #3: Art Mural

Supplies:

- *6 lengths of butcher paper or poster board*
- *paper*
- *several markers, crayons, or paint*
- *glue*

Provide six pieces of butcher paper or poster board with ample markers, crayons, or tempera paint. Assign to each group one of the days of creation. Have them read Genesis 1 and illustrate on the mural their assigned day. Another option here is to give each child a separate piece of paper to draw on and then paste them on a larger piece of paper or poster to illustrate that day of creation.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Tell about something that God created that you think is amazing. This might mean you describe a time you visited the Grand Canyon, looked into a telescope, or studied an ant! Tell how this makes you feel about God who created it!

Prayer:

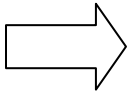
Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.



My God – **KidStuf Classics** DVD

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- ten blocks
- a table
- a blanket or sheet

The Power of the Cross:

- toy, preferably some type of model toy that can be built by a child

Offering:

- several hula hoops

Learning Game:

- a hula hoop for every four children
- foam ball for every four children

Application #1

- video: *Six Short Days, One Big Adventure!* (Answers in Genesis Ministries, Gospel Communications, 2002, www.GospelDirect.com) or order from <http://www.campuscrusade.com/Kids/six.htm>

Application #2

- six lengths of butcher paper or poster board
- paper
- several markers, crayons, or paint
- glue

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