

Group

Leader Guide



Children's Church

It's church...just for kids!



FALL

Leader Guide

FALL • CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.



KidsOwn Worship®: FaithWeaver® Children's Church, Leader Guide, Fall

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Don't just teach about the Bible. Change lives!

KidsOwn Worship® is a resource God will use to change the lives of the children in your church.

KidsOwn Worship sessions encourage people to focus on the one most important thing in life: *a growing relationship with Jesus*. In Luke 10:41-42 (the Martha and Mary story), Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed." Every session in

KidsOwn Worship helps students focus on this one thing, a growing relationship with Jesus. Whether they're studying Bible stories from the Old Testament or the New Testament, learners will be challenged to grow closer to Jesus every week.

You'll be thrilled at the way KidsOwn Worship encourages learners to weave faith into life. By providing meaningful activities, great discussions, and personal challenges, KidsOwn Worship takes learners past head knowledge of the Bible and into heart- and life-change.

With KidsOwn Worship, students of all ages will

- experience God's story in fresh, fun, meaningful ways;
- understand God's Word by doing surprising, fun stuff;
- discover the adventure of applying God's truth to everyday life;
- build a forever friendship with Jesus—the best friend they could ever have!

Welcome to KidsOwn Worship: Church for your kids.

Children's church is where your preschoolers and elementary children build their worship foundation. It's where they focus on God in a personal way—and experience children's worship through uplifting songs and fun, memorable Bible learning.

We know you don't want to just teach about the Bible in your children's church; you want to change lives through worship that touches minds and hearts in amazing ways! Thanks to KidsOwn Worship, your preschool and elementary children will experience worship through memorable songs and impactful Bible learning. It's flexible, easy-to-plan and—most importantly—effective in helping your kids grow a personal relationship with Jesus.

While KidsOwn Worship can be used in conjunction with any Sunday school curriculum, it works particularly well with FaithWeaver NOW and FaithWeaver Friends. Together, your families will learn about the same important Bible passages—allowing them to grow in faith as families.

We're so glad you've decided to touch the heart of God and change the hearts of your kids with KidsOwn Worship. We know you'll help kids grow closer to God!

Thom Schultz
Joani Schultz

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.

**Weave faith
into life!**



KidsOwn Worship also works hand in hand with FaithWeaver NOW and FaithWeaver Friends. All three of these great programs follow the same Scope & Sequence to help reinforce the Bible message throughout the week. FaithWeaver NOW is available for infants–adults.

Staffing Your Children's Church

To help make your children's church experience strong, it is important that you have at least one adult helper no matter how many children attend your children's church. In addition, we recommend that you recruit at least one helper for every 15 children.

Song Leader

You may want to recruit a song leader who can lead your children in a powerful worship experience. Give the DVD to the song leader, and let your song leader know which songs and what discussion he or she is responsible for each week.

Preschool Leader

You may decide to keep all the children together during the entire worship time or to separate the preschoolers and elementary students during "Let's Learn the Point!" If you decide to separate preschoolers for this section, recruit a preschool leader, and make sure there's a room where the preschoolers can meet.

Staffing for Your Children's Church Size

If your children's church is made up of 30 or fewer children, you'll be able to run an effective children's church program with two leaders—one to present material or lead worship songs, the other to gather supplies and help children with their individual needs.

If you have more than 30 children in your children's group, we suggest that you use a small-group format, which we call Praise Crews, for discussions. Using Praise Crews will change both the number of volunteers and the kind of volunteers you'll need (see the margin box). Each Praise Crew will need a responsible teenager or an adult helper to build relationships and help with individual needs.

Involving Older Children

If you have older elementary children or preteens who want to be involved in children's church, consider forming a children's worship team. It's a great way to help children learn to serve, and you'll find that many children are eager to participate on a worship team. Hold regular rehearsals to help the worship-team children learn the song lyrics and motions. Be sure to rotate children into the worship team often so that many children get a chance to learn how to serve.

Important Legal Information

When you purchase a *KidsOwn Worship DVD* or kit, you also buy the right to use the songs and lyrics as often as you like within your church.

What Do Praise Crew Leaders Do?

- Arrive early and be ready to welcome the kids in your Praise Crews.
- Worship enthusiastically! If you put your heart into worshipping God, kids will, too!
- Listen carefully to directions and help each child participate in the worship activities and the discussion that follows.
- Gently redirect kids who get off track or start misbehaving. It's your job to help kids have an awesome experience at KidsOwn Worship.

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3



Worship Theme:



God's creation is awesome.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise God for different aspects of creation.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)	Sing • "Got a Reason for Livin' Again" • "God Is for Me" • "Genesis 1:1" • "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship</i> DVD Classroom Supplies: Video equipment

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)	1, 2, 3; What Do You See? Interact with items that represent the seven days of Creation.	Classroom Supplies: Flashlight, sack, items to represent days of Creation (see activity)
	Praise Pop-Up Play a game of praise.	Classroom Supplies: 7 sheets white paper, pen, tape
	* Animal Antics Pretend to be animals and play a guessing game.	Classroom Supplies: 2 cleaned and peeled carrot sticks per child, several stuffed animals

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	In the Beginning "Travel" back in time to before God created the universe.	Classroom Supplies: Bible, several sheets black plastic, duct tape, fan, music player, high-energy music
	* Prayer Squares Make prayer squares to celebrate the seven days of Creation.	Classroom Supplies: 1 sheet of each for every 20 children: yellow, light blue, dark blue, green, black, purple, and brown construction paper; foil for a 2x2-inch square for each child; 7 large sheets of newsprint; 1 marker per child; 1 chalk per child; scissors
	* Day by Day Create mosaic banners from their prayer squares.	Classroom Supplies: Bible, masking tape, glue sticks, prayer squares and banners from preceding activity

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Offer their gifts to God.	Classroom Supplies: Bowls, mosaic banners from "Day by Day" activity
	Great Wonders Praise God aloud with a song about the wonders of God's creation.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment
	Closing Prayer Gather prayer requests, pray, and sing a song of thanksgiving.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let's Learn the Point!

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Note that this is not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Neither is it just the beginning of our world. It is, rather, the beginnings of God's working with humans. That's the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new Sunday school year than at the beginning of God's story!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It's interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God existed in three persons, the action of creating the universe was a unified action. One God, three persons, one plan.

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus is not so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read, "God said" and then some variation of "It was so." God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated "good" here is a common Hebrew word that means "just as it should be." God looked at what he had done and knew that it was right. He didn't mess up. God knew what he was doing.

What God was doing was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he would create last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but "seed-bearing plants and trees...according to their various kinds"; not just one star, but "lights in the expanse of

the sky"; not just one fish, but "every living and moving thing with which the water teems"; not just one horse, but "all the creatures that move along the ground." God prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy.

And then God created humans. We are a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth "in all their vast array," he rested. Why? God wasn't tired. God didn't need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. It became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.

Devotion for Leaders

God's creation is inspiring, and the gift of his Son is lifesaving. Thank God for the beauty of life in nature and in our hearts through a relationship with Jesus!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: What in nature amazes you? Oceans? Beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God's design, and consider how God has designed your life as well. Show love for God's creation to the children in children's church, and help them see that the Creator of nature and life has given them new life through Jesus as well.

Why We Worship for Leaders

Children are delighted by what they observe in creation. They're fascinated by amazing animals and unusual plants. They're intrigued by fossils and weather and biology and physics, and they're captivated by what they learn about how the world works.

It's natural to connect children's enchantment with the natural world to the Creator. God's creation is awesome, and it tells us of our awesome God. God designed creation so it would teach us about him and draw us into a relationship with him. Through the activities in this worship session, children will find out that God made everything they see in the world and that God made it good. Use this worship session to lead children in praising an infinitely creative God.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready.

In the Beginning—Before the worship session, set up your meeting area so it's pitch black when you turn off the lights. Tape black plastic to any windows (large trash bags work well). Keep the plastic to use in other worship sessions.

Prayer Squares—Gather the following colors of construction paper: yellow, light blue, dark blue, green, black, purple, and brown. Cut enough 2x2-inch squares of construction paper so each child will have one square of each color. Cut extra squares so each child can select a color. Cut one 2x2-inch foil square for each child.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let's Praise God!

Play KidsOwn Worship music videos as children arrive. Greet each child by name.

Say **You're a part of God's creation, and God's creation is awesome!**

You may want to choose a couple of children to stand at the door and act as greeters. When everyone has arrived and been greeted, begin worship.

Say **Hello, everyone! Today we're going to praise and worship God because he created everything—the earth, the seas, the animals, the stars. God made them all! Our God is powerful and creative and deserves our worship. Worshipping God means we show God how much we love and admire him, we tell God that we recognize who he is, and we tell God that we're devoted to him. Worshipping is not something we do just for ourselves; it's something we do for God. Let's stand up and worship God together by singing.**



Sing "Got a Reason for Livin' Again."



God enjoys hearing you sing. He enjoys your worship and your energy and your smiles. Today we're going to worship and thank God, who is great enough to make everything. Let's praise God for his power by singing "God Is for Me."



Sing "God Is for Me."

After the song, have the children sit down.



God's creation is so awesome. It's a blessing, a wonderful gift. Let's praise God by telling him which parts of creation are our favorites. Think of your favorite part of creation, and then raise your hand. When I point to you, stand up and call out your answer to God.

Give kids a moment to think. Then choose volunteers to call out their favorite parts of creation. If your group is large and you're using a sound system, either walk among the kids with a microphone or invite the children to come to the front of the worship area and talk into the microphone. Encourage many children to participate.



God made our world, and we're thankful. Genesis 1:1, the first verse in the Bible, reminds us that God made the world. Let's not just say it; let's sing it!



Sing "Genesis 1:1."



Singing a Bible verse is a great way to remember it. Singing is also a good way to worship God and to let him know we think the world he made is awesome. We have to remember, too, that this world belongs to God.

Let's sing about God's world, our heavenly Father's world. We can be comforted or content when we think about how God holds all the things he made. Let's sing this song together.



Sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

After the song, have the children sit down.

Say ▶ Let's think for a while about what God made. Think of the tall, majestic mountains. Think of sandy beaches. Think of fragrant wildflowers. Think of noisy thunderstorms.

Ask ▶ • What does thinking about all the things God made tell you about God the creator? (God has a great imagination; God is powerful and awesome.)

Say ▶ Creation tells us about God. From God's creation we know that God is creative and powerful, that God loves beautiful things, and that God has a purpose for what he made. God's creation is awesome. That means God the creator is awesome too. Let's be very quiet for a while; we're going to praise God in our hearts. Close your eyes and be very still. Let's think about what God created.

Think of something big that God created. Silently praise God for that creation.

Think of something small that God created. Silently praise God for that creation.

Think of something colorful that God created. Silently praise God for that creation.

Think of something beautiful that God created. Silently praise God for that creation.

Think of something mighty that God created. Silently praise God for that creation.

Think of something delicate that God created. Silently praise God for that creation.

Pray ▶ God, you are an awesome God, a mighty God, a creative God. You thought up all of creation before anything existed. With your words, you created all things. Your creation is beautiful and good. We praise you for creating our world. We praise you for creating us. Thank you, God. Be with us as we learn more about you. Teach us about you so we can worship you more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worship Leader Tip

The more commotion you create for this activity, the more effective it will be when you turn everything off. You might bring in a second radio and tune it to an all-talk station. You might even try adding a food that has a strong scent, such as freshly baked cookies, and tell kids they will travel back in time even before food was created! Just be sure to mention each noise or item before you turn it off or remove it.

Because this activity will be more effective if you lead your discussion in complete darkness, you might want to memorize what you'll say and ask after you turn off the lights. If you need to, however, you can use a small flashlight to read the discussion questions.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 13-14

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Give the Preschool Activities page to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities In the Beginning

Have the music player ready to play, and set out a fan.

Say **Today we're going to do a little time traveling. In fact, we're going to travel backward through time! So get comfortable. Close your eyes, and keep them closed until I tell you to open them. Are you ready? Away we go!**

Make sure all the kids' eyes are closed, but leave the lights on. Then create a commotion by turning on the fan and the music.

Say **Let's imagine that we can float back through time. We're going to take a long trip today! We're going to travel way back... back before music was invented. Turn off the music. We're going back to before there were people, so you can't talk or whisper! Believe it or not, we're going back to before there were animals, trees, mountains—even before there was water. We're going back in time to before there was wind. Turn off the fan. We're going so far back in time that there wasn't even light yet! Turn off the lights.**

Have the children open their eyes, remain very quiet, and pause for a minute of silence.

Say **Here we are—back before God even created the universe.**

Ask • **What is it like to be here before God created everything?**

(Lonely; quiet; dark and ugly.)

• **What do you think God was thinking and feeling before he created the universe?** (God wanted someone to keep him company; God was feeling lonely.)

Say **The book of Genesis says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty" (Genesis 1:1-2a). Then God's Spirit hovered over the waters, and God said, "Let there be light." Turn on the lights to continue your discussion.**

(continued on page 15)

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Worship Theme:



God's creation is awesome.

Easy Prep for Leaders

1, 2, 3; What Do You See?—Gather a sack of items that represent each day of Creation. The items might include the following:

- Day 1—a flashlight to represent light
- Day 2—a piece of blue paper to represent the sky
- Day 3—a full spray bottle to represent the seas, a resealable plastic bag full of dirt to represent land, and a leaf to represent plants
- Day 4—a moon, star, and sun cut out of white paper
- Day 5—a toy fish and a feather to represent the sea creatures and birds
- Day 6—a toy animal and action figure to represent animals and man.

Praise Pop-Up—You'll need tape and seven pieces of 8½ x 11 (or larger) white paper, each with a simple drawing of one day of creation. See the sample illustrations on the next page. If you don't want to draw, cut out magazine pictures and glue them to the paper.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Bring out Theo when you talk about God making the animals. The children can pet Theo and talk about their favorite animals.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



1, 2, 3; What Do You See?

Gather the children around you.

Say Hello, everybody! We'll have fun learning about God's creation today. God made everything good.

Before God made the world, everything was dark and empty. Close your eyes to make it dark. Keep your eyes closed! Then God had an idea. God said, "Let there be light!" Open your eyes! What do you see? It's the light! That's the first thing God created—the light. Let's pretend everything is dark and empty again. God said, "Let there be light!" Say that with me.

When children say, "Let there be light," turn on the flashlight. Let children take turns turning on the flashlight while everyone says, "Let there be light."

Put the flashlight away, and hold the sack in front of you.

Say After God made the light, he created something special every day for the next five days. I have things in this bag that show what God made. Let's say together, "One, two, three; what do you see?" Then I'll pull something out of my bag, and you can tell me what it is that God created.

As you pull each item from the sack, say things such as, "What do you see? It's a piece of blue paper. When you're outside and you look up, what do you see that's blue? God made the sky, and it's good. Let's say, 'Thank you, God, for making the sky.'" Put each item back in the sack before pulling out the next item.

Continue the game, allowing children to take turns pulling items out of the sack one at a time. Be sure to thank God together after discussing each item. It's all right if children pull the same item out of the sack more than once.

Give everyone a chance to pull something out of the sack.

Say After God made all these things, he looked at everything and said, "It is good!" Then he rested. Can you show me how you look when you rest? Now we're all rested up for our next activity!

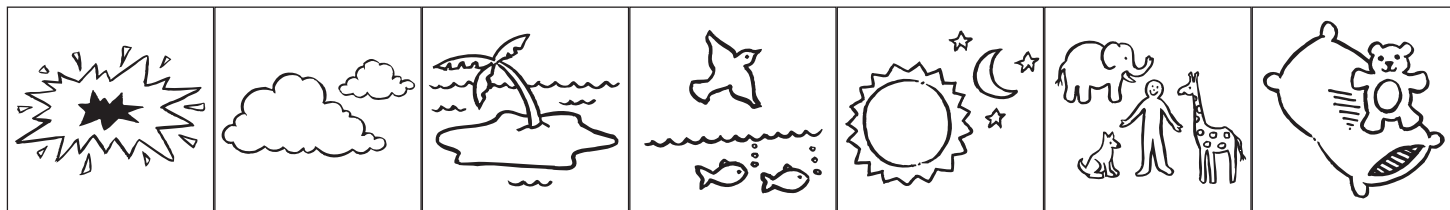
Praise Pop-Up

Post the papers around the room on walls or chairs, or if you have more than 20 children, ask seven children to each hold a drawing and scatter around the room. Have children sit on the floor.

Say God made everything, and everything God made is good. God's creation is awesome! Let's play a game to praise God for everything he made. When I say a word, pop up and say, "God's creation is awesome!" Then we'll all move to the picture of that day of creation.

Call out words to the children from the following list, or make up your own list: the moon, red apples, a chubby hippopotamus, a tiny yellow parakeet, a little boy with freckles, puffy clouds, huge snowy mountains, twinkly stars, fresh air, pretty flowers, hammerhead sharks, daddy or mommy, a pear tree, a woolly lamb.

After everyone pops up and gathers around the picture that shows which day that item was created, pray together and say things such as, "We praise you, God, for making the air we breathe." Have children use various types of movement to get to each area. For example, ask them to run, hop, skip, jump, or twirl.



* Animal Antics

Say God created animals and people on the sixth day. What fun God must have had! God made the big strong lion, the itty-bitty mouse, and the long-necked giraffe. Then God thought up fuzzy rabbits, furry cats, and howling hyenas. Let's act out some of these animals. Can you roar like a lion?

Call out several animal names, and have children act out each with actions and sounds. Encourage children to name other animals to act out.

Say God made all the animals, and they are good. Let's play a guessing game with our actions. We'll take turns acting as if we're a certain animal, and everyone can guess what we are.

Preschool Leader Tip

Raw carrots can be a choking hazard for children under three. If you have young preschoolers in your children's church, steam the carrot sticks the night before church until you can easily pierce them with a fork. Store the carrot sticks in the refrigerator overnight. Also be aware of any food allergies children may have.

If children need help, suggest such actions as waddling like a duck, flying like a bird, and swimming like a fish.

After children act and guess for each other, place several stuffed animals on the floor, about 3 feet apart, leading to and ending at the story area.

Say Isn't God's creation awesome? Let's jump like frogs now and leap over the animals to the story area.

When children are seated, have them act like quiet bunny rabbits. Distribute the carrot sticks and pray, thanking God for creating the animals. Talk about how God took care of the animals by providing food that animals like to eat. Talk about what foods various animals eat.

If you do this activity with elementary children...

first have the group do a few animal actions together to warm up. Then have children form small groups of two or three, making sure that older children are paired with younger children. In addition to having groups pantomime animals, encourage groups to choose and dramatize an aspect of creation, such as sprouting and growing like plants, twinkling like stars, or resting like God. Have each group perform for the rest of the class, and have everyone guess what part of creation the group is pantomiming.

- Ask** • **Why do you think God created the universe?** (God wanted to be creative; God wanted to see something beautiful.)
- **Why do you think God created us?** (God wanted a friend; God wanted to have a part of his creation to love.)
- **Why is God's creation so awesome?** (It's powerful and beautiful; it shows us who God is.)

Read aloud Psalm 19:1.

Say **God created everything so he would be glorified. Everything God created celebrates his awesomeness—the sun, the moon, the heavens, and especially us! We can see the glory of God in everything he made. Let's try to do that now.**

* *Prayer Squares*

You'll need the construction paper squares and foil squares prepared before worship. Set out markers and chalk for everyone to use. You'll also need seven large sheets of newsprint that are about 3 feet wide and 5 feet long.

Say **Only God could do something cool like create a planet or a star—or you and me! God's creation is so awesome, and we can celebrate God's glory by praising him for all the things he created. Let's talk about the first seven days of Creation.** Hand out the prayer squares. Make sure each child has one square of each color, one foil square, and one extra square of his or her choice.

After I tell you what God created each day, I'll tell you what color of square to use. I'd like you to take that square and turn it into a "prayer square." You'll write or draw something you can praise or thank God for that relates to what God created that day. For example, God created light on the first day, so you might write "sunshine," "flashlight," or "fire." Or you could write something you can do because of the light God gave you, such as "read" or "play outside." You can draw a picture instead, if you want. Use markers to write on the light squares and chalk to write on the dark ones.

Let's go ahead and work on your prayer square for the first day. You can use your yellow square to represent the light God created. While the kids work on their prayer squares, begin a banner using one sheet of newsprint. Write "Day 1: God created light" on the newsprint, and draw a large yellow sun close to the words.

On the second day, God created the sky. Write something on your dark blue square about the sky that you can thank God for. While the kids work on their prayer squares, write, "Day 2: God created sky," on another sheet of newsprint. Draw a large dark-blue cloud near the words.

Say

On the third day, God created land, plants, and the sea. On your green square, write down something about land or plants that you can thank God for. While the kids are working on their prayer squares, write, "Day 3: God created land, plants, and the sea," on another sheet of newsprint. Draw a large green tree near the words.

On the fourth day, God created lights in the sky. This time, use two squares: the black one and the light blue one. Write one thing about nighttime lights and one thing about daytime lights that you can thank God for. While the kids are writing, take another sheet of newsprint and write, "Day 4: God created sun, moon, and stars." Draw a line down the middle of the banner, and draw a light blue sun on one side and a black moon and black stars on the other side.

On the fifth day, God created birds and water creatures. On your purple square, write one thing about birds or water animals that you can thank God for. On the fifth sheet of newsprint, write, "Day 5: God created birds and water creatures." Draw a large purple whale and a large purple bird.

On the sixth day, God created land creatures and people. Again, you're going to use two different squares. On your brown square, write something about land creatures that you can thank God for. On the color you chose, write something about people that you can thank God for. It doesn't matter if the color you picked isn't the color of a person; we just want to remember that God made people in all different colors! While the kids write, title the sixth sheet of newsprint, "Day 6: God created people and land creatures." Draw a black outline of a person and a brown dog.

On the seventh day, God did something special: He rested. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy" (Genesis 2:3a), and he made this day so that we could worship him. Get out your foil square. We'll follow God's example and rest for a moment instead of writing something on the square. While you're resting, think of three reasons to worship God. On the seventh sheet of newsprint, write, "Day 7: God rested." Draw a large black cross on the newsprint.

When the kids have finished making their prayer squares for all the days of creation,

Say

Look at all these colorful squares that represent all the great things God made! Think back to the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. Remember what it was like? The earth was formless and empty, and God filled it with love and glory. We can celebrate the awesome act of Creation by remembering all the good things that have come from God.

* *Day by Day*

Place the newsprint banners from the previous activity in sequential order on the floor. Place several glue sticks near each one. Have kids form seven groups, and have each group gather near one of the banners. The children will need their prayer squares.

Say Now we're going to make mosaic banners out of our prayer squares. When I tell you to begin, start gluing your squares to the drawing that's on your group's sheet of newsprint. You'll be able to tell which color of square to glue to the newsprint by the color of marker I used for the drawing. For example, you'll glue your yellow square on the yellow sun, and you'll glue your purple square on the purple whale. On the person shape, glue the extra color that you chose yourself. Glue your foil square on the cross.

Glue the squares tightly together, and be sure to put the glue on the blank sides of your squares so we can read what you've written. When I say "Move," your group will move to the next banner.

Have the kids begin to glue their squares on the newsprint banners. Every few minutes, tell the kids to move to the next banner. When the children have visited all seven banners, gather kids together in the middle of the room. Have adult or teenage helpers tape the banners to the walls around the room.

Say Look at these beautiful worship banners. Every square represents a reason for worshipping God. God is awesome, and God's creation is awesome, too. We have a wonderful God who's worthy of all our praise. There's a psalm that talks about how God's creation worships him. Get into a comfortable position, and listen as I read this psalm. You can look at the colorful banners as I read; or, if you'd like, you can close your eyes and think about God while I read.

Read aloud Psalm 148:1-13.

Say Our God is great and mighty! Let's worship God by offering gifts to him.

3 *Let's Pray!*

The Offering

Place small bowls or paper cups on the floor by each banner.

Say God did more than just create us. Every day God gives us good gifts. We have food, shelter, and clothing. We have families, friends, and teachers. We also have God's wonderful creation to enjoy. God has given us many good things. Part of worship is to offer back to God a part of what he's given to us. That's what the offering is. It's a time to say "thank you" to God for his gifts.

For our offering today, go and stand by the banner that shows a part of creation you're especially thankful for. If you brought an offering today, put it in the bowl that's by the banner.

Allow children to give their offerings to God. Then have the children return to their seats.

Great Wonders

Say ▶ **Let's sing another song that will help us worship God.**



Sing "God of Great Wonders" (Psalm 77:14). The video shows God's wonderful creation.

Closing Prayer

Say ▶ **God, the awesome creator of the universe, is glad when we come to him in prayer. Praying is just like having a conversation with Jesus. God created us to have a friendship with him through his Son Jesus, and he wants us to pray to him. That's one way we can get to know Jesus as a close friend. Let's pray now. What are some things you'd like to pray about?**

Have children share prayer requests or concerns they have for the coming week. Give several children an opportunity to pray aloud, and remember the requests.

Then have children pray together, "Thank you, God, for your awesome creation! Yea, God!"

Say ▶ **Let's end our time together by singing a song of thanks for what God has given us.**



Sing "God Has Given to Me."



Encouragement for Leaders

Dear God, thank you for the encouragement I can always find in your Word. Help me remember your teachings and always speak encouraging words to the students in my class. In Jesus' name, amen.

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WEEK	BIBLE STORY	THEME
Week 1	God Creates the World	God's creation is awesome.
Week 2	God Creates Adam and Eve	We are God's handiwork.
Week 3	Adam and Eve Sin	God is holy.
Week 4	Cain Kills Abel	God deserves our best.
Week 5	Noah Builds the Ark	God is always right.
Week 6	God Floods the Earth	We can count on God.
Week 7	People Build a Tower at Babel	God is all we need.
Week 8	Abram Follows God's Direction	God is our guide.
Week 9	Lot and Abram Divide the Land	God brings peace.
Week 10	God Makes a Covenant With Abram	God knows everything.
Week 11	Abraham's Visitors/ Sodom and Gomorrah	God works in many ways.
Week 12	Isaac Is Born	God's promises bring us joy.
Week 13	God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael	God hears our prayers.