

FRIENDS WITH GOD

BIBLE LESSONS

13 Surprising Visitors Bring the Bible to Life



COMPANY'S COMING!

Imagine what it would be like to have Abram himself drop in and share about the night God showed him a sky full of stars and made a life-changing promise.

Or picture Moses delving into his adventures and bringing kids along to Egypt, the Red Sea, and freedom!

And if Naomi visited your classroom, how powerful would *her* story be, drawing kids into an epic journey with Ruth?

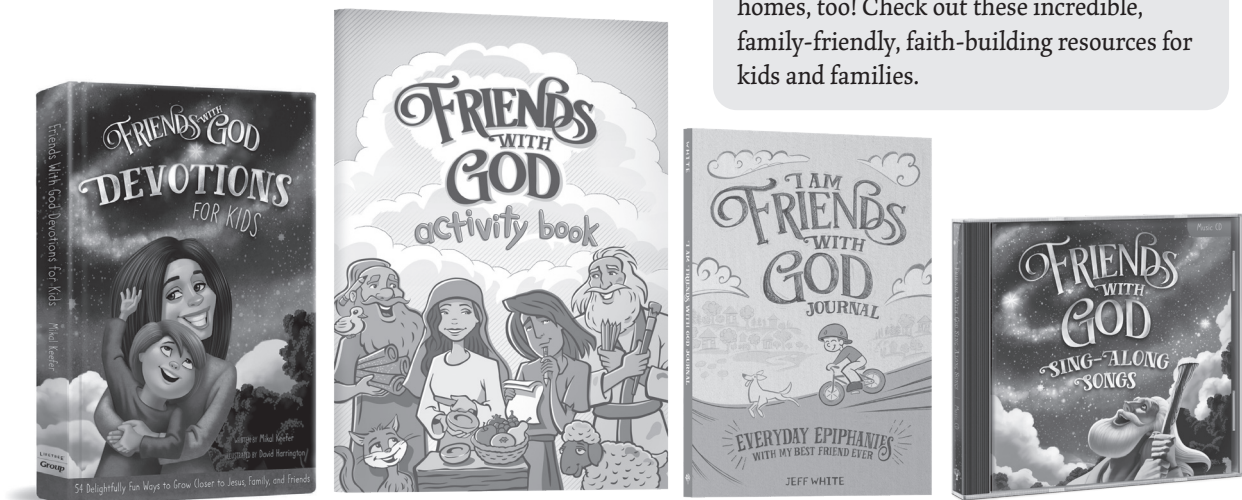
Well, *that's* just how real, surprising, and memorable your ministry is about to become! Each of these hour-long lessons includes an interactive script in which a Bible character drops in on your classroom to share his or her incredible, *true* adventures—and bring kids along for the ride. Each of these biblical accounts is told in the first person, inspired by the delightful *Friends With God Story Bible*. As kids explore the Bible story along with “the source,” they’ll discover that these action-packed, emotion-filled stories *actually* happened to *real* people.

All you need is a hammy volunteer who can look over the script and be familiar with it—and be willing to have fun with the role. You’ll be on hand to distribute props and lead kids in joining the Bible adventure with all their senses. Oh, and of course each lesson includes friend-making icebreakers, giggle-inducing games, creative crafts, and powerful prayer times to reach every kind of learner.

But, hey, company’s coming! Sweep the floor and get ready to open the door to a whole new way to bring the Bible to life!

...And for Kids and Families

These surprising friends of God can visit homes, too! Check out these incredible, family-friendly, faith-building resources for kids and families.



You're about to have 13 surprising visitors come to your Sunday school class...and change the way kids look at the Bible!

Wow! Just, Wow! THE DAY GOD MADE ME



BIBLE STORY: God creates Adam and Eve. (*Genesis 1–2:24*)

BIBLE POINT: God made you.

BIBLE VERSE: “Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it” (*Psalms 139:14*).

Bible Insight

- ▶ In Genesis 1:26, God speaks of himself in the plural form when he says “Let us make human beings in our image.” This is often thought of as a reference to the Trinity, as well as an acknowledgment of God’s majesty. However, you may not know that throughout history, kings traditionally used plurals when referring to themselves. This “royal we” is known to have occurred in the Hebrew language and fits with the idea of the Trinity.
- ▶ Genesis isn’t the only book that gives us the image of people made from dust or clay. Job 4:19 and many passages throughout Psalms refer to people being created from earth. Not only did God shape and form us from dust, but he breathed his own breath into our lungs to give us life!
- ▶ It’s interesting to note that after God created human beings on the sixth day, he looked at all he had made and saw that it was *very* good—not just good.
- ▶ Scholars have found that ancient Near Eastern literature appears to be devoid of any narrative relating to the creation of woman. Only the Bible shares the unique account of God making woman.

Kid Insight

Do you remember dreaming when you were a kid about what you might be when you grew up? It’s likely that over the years you explored possibilities and changed your mind as you discovered your gifts and abilities. Yet today’s kids are under intense pressure to excel, specialize, and succeed—even as young children! Our culture is quick to label kids, and when kids haven’t yet discovered their gifts, they often struggle with feelings of inadequacy. Use this lesson to celebrate the magnificent, marvelous, and even mysterious way God created each of us! You’ll remind kids that they’re crafted by God’s hands and designed *exactly* the way he wants them to be.



You'll need:

- ☐ kid-friendly Bible
- ☐ photocopies of the “Buddy Bingo” cards (1 per child, p. 15)
- ☐ pens or pencils (1 per child)
- ☐ volunteer to play Adam
- ☐ Bible-times costume for Adam
- ☐ spray bottle of water, set to “mist”
- ☐ brown modeling dough (small handful per child)
- ☐ variety of craft items such as pompoms, wiggly eyes, cardboard tubes, chenille wires, and construction paper
- ☐ glue
- ☐ washable ink pads
- ☐ index cards (1 per child)
- ☐ wet wipes (1 per child)
- ☐ *Friends With God Bible Lessons Music* CD and music player

If you can't find a volunteer to play Adam, modify your script slightly and play the role yourself. You'll simply need to have kids close their eyes and put on their imaginations while *you* don the Bible-times costume. If you're female, tweak the script and play this as Eve.

Getting Ready

Make a sample Creative Critter to use as your example.

THE LESSON

Friend-Maker Icebreaker (10 minutes)

BUDDY BINGO

Welcome kids and introduce yourself.

Say: **When we get together here at [name of your church], you're surrounded by friends. But I'll bet you have lots of people you like to hang out with *outside* this building, too. That makes me wonder something! Ask:**

☞ **Tell about your closest friend and why you like to spend time with that person.**

Give your own example first, sharing about a friend or family member you like to spend time with and why. Then let kids share with people sitting near them.

Say: **There are probably friends here you know really well and some you've never met before. This game will give you a chance to get to know each other a little better.**

Hand each child a Buddy Bingo card and a pen or pencil. Explain that kids will have about five minutes to see how well they can fill up their cards with signatures. Tell kids that when they find someone in the room who matches a description on the card, that person will sign his or her name in that box. Tell kids their goal is to get as many different signatures as they can to fill up their cards (but people *can* sign twice if they meet more than one description).

Have kids begin by filling in something unique about themselves in the "Free Space!" and then signing their names in that spot.

Play "Made for This" from the *Friends With God Bible Lessons Music* CD for about five minutes, allowing kids to interact, get to know each other, and gather signatures. After five minutes, turn off the music and have kids sit down. Ask:

☞ **What did you learn about your friends?**

☞ **What was the most surprising thing you learned?**

☞ **How is this like or unlike the way you get to know friends in real life?**

Say: **One friend who's with us here today—and every day—is God. You may not think of God as your friend, but the Bible tells us that God calls us his friend! Wow! Today we'll get to know someone else in the Bible who was a friend of God. In fact, you might say he was God's first friend!**

Set the cards and pens aside for the next activity.



Bible Adventure (20 minutes)

MEET ADAM

Place the modeling dough where “Adam” can reach it. Adam should enter and begin a dialogue with kids. You may be needed to assist Adam with props or lighting. Join in the fun and surprise of talking with this friend of God!



Wow! Just, Wow! THE DAY GOD MADE ME

(Enter and begin enthusiastically.)

Wow! I mean, WOW! *(Look around at all the kids with joy and excitement.)* **Look at all of you INCREDIBLE creations!**

(Walk among the kids, commenting on God's creativity in how he made each one. Have fun noting kids' cool eye colors, hair textures, limbs, and even freckles!)

Aren't people AMAZING? My name is Adam. God gave me that name himself. Ask:

🗣️ **Who gave you your name?** *(Let a few kids share their responses with the group, then continue.)*

I have to tell you what's been happening to me. You see, it all started with God. He's been REALLY busy the last few days. First there was nothing. Shout out your very favorite thing that God made. *(Pause and let kids call out their favorite creations.)*

Well, none of that existed! It was a little like this. *(Have the leader dim the lights.)* **Then every day God made something new. Light** *(have the leader turn the lights back up),* **the ocean** *(have the leader mist kids with a spray bottle),* **the sky, the sun and moon, plants, trees, flowers, fish, birds—you name it. Everything was made for a reason, and it was good.** *(Lead kids in giving a thumbs-up sign to show that those things are good.)*

Yesterday God made these things called animals. They're wonderful creatures! *(Look closely at the kids.)* **Some of you remind me of those animals. Maybe you can act like YOUR favorite animal.** *(Pause while kids act like different animals. Guess which animals kids are acting out.)*

God made big ones and small ones. Furry ones and tough ones. Spotted ones and striped ones. Some have long necks, and others have sharp teeth. Each one is unique. God is so creative!

And then God made something extra special. God made ME. *(Stick out your chest proudly.)* **God took some dirt from the ground—the freshest dirt you've ever seen—and shaped me into the first-ever, brand-new, pleased-to-meet-you human being! THAT'S something only God can do. Let me show you what I mean.**

(Have the leader help you hand out a small handful of brown modeling dough to each child. Give kids a couple of minutes to each sculpt a person from their dough. Comment on the different ways kids make their people.)

Then God breathed the breath of life into me! Wow! How does that work with the creations YOU made? *(Let kids breathe on their creations.)* **Ask:**

🗣️ **Why didn't your creations come to life?**

Only God has such awesome, creative power to create LIFE! Wow. *(Have kids set their creations against one wall.)*

God's world is awesome. But God wasn't done after he made me. There was something even better coming along! First, God made me go to sleep. Then God took one of my ribs *(touch your side)* **and turned it into the most dazzling creature I've ever seen: a woman! God named her Eve...and she's beautiful! Now she's my wife. We watch over the animals and take care of the garden we live in—the Garden of Eden—together. God has given us everything we need.**

God must REALLY love us.

(Look closely at the kids again.)

God made each and every one of YOU with his very own hands. When God made people, he said THAT creation was VERY GOOD!

(Have kids join you in giving two thumbs up to show that people were called “very good.” Then show off some of the “very good” things you’ve discovered you can do, such as clap your hands, jump up and down, and dance in a silly way.) Ask:

🗣️ **What are some “very good” things YOU can do?** *(Let kids each demonstrate things such as snapping, crossing their eyes, skipping, and standing on their hands. Applaud after each “very good” thing.)*

God CHOSE to make you! God wanted you to be a part of our very special world. God made you exactly as you are, and God never makes mistakes. And you know the best part? God made us because he loves us so much. And God will never stop loving us. Isn’t that amazing?

Well, I need to go. It’s my job to feed the giraffes today, and I don’t want to miss that!

(Wave goodbye and exit.)



“THAT’S ME” TAG

Say: **When God made you, he used the same care, creativity, and attention he used when he made Adam and Eve! Let’s play a game to keep getting to know each other and celebrate the way God made each person here.**

Listen as I call out a description. For example, I might call out, “You have green eyes.” If that’s true of you, you’ll hold up a hand and keep it up as you run! Everyone else—people whose eyes are *not* green—will be “It” and will try to tag you. If you get tagged, freeze until I call out the next description. Got it?

Call out the following descriptions and have kids play along:

- Your favorite food is pizza.
- You have brown eyes.
- You can touch your tongue to your nose.
- You play on a sports team.
- You have blond hair.
- You have braces.
- You like to dance.
- You haven’t been tagged yet!

If you don’t have a large room, kids can take giant steps rather than run. Choose a few kids to call out descriptions if they have some creative suggestions. Then gather kids together. Ask:

- 💬 **How did you feel when I called out something that described you?**
- 💬 **In real life, do you ever wish God made you differently? Why?**

Since this is a more personal question, be sure to share your own example. You might share that you sometimes wish you were taller or better at sports so you could play with your kids. Then let kids share with a few friends seated nearby. After a minute or two, take a few responses from anyone willing to share with the larger group.

Say: **In the Bible, a guy named David *celebrated* the way God made him. Listen to this!** Read aloud Psalm 139:14 from a kid-friendly Bible translation. Ask:

- 💬 **How do you feel when you hear these words?**
- 💬 **Why is it sometimes hard to remember that we’re God’s workmanship—something he lovingly created?**

Say: **God made you!** And the Bible says that as something God made, you’re marvelous and complex. That means you’re detailed and complicated and wonderful! Wow, you!



Creation Station (10 minutes)

CREATIVE CRITTERS

Set out a variety of craft supplies (this is a great time to clean out your craft closet!). Include things like pompoms, wiggly eyes, chenille wires, cardboard tubes, construction paper, and glue.

Let kids craft and create their own unique animals using the supplies you've provided. Kids can make models of real animals, combinations of animals, or their own unique creations. While kids work, point out how *our* creativity comes from God because we were made in God's image with some of his characteristics. Let kids share any fun facts they know about animals or about creation.

After eight minutes, have kids clean up and then set their animal creations near their clay creations from the Bible Adventure. Celebrate the fact that God made us and the amazing world in which we live.

Prayer Pals (10 minutes)

THUMB-THING SPECIAL

Form a circle and have kids sit down.

Say: **Each person is crafted and created by God. God made you exactly the way he wants you to be—inside and out. Sometimes we don't feel very special. We feel ordinary. Or worse, we feel *less* than ordinary! But you carry something with you to remind you of just how unique and special you are.**

Set out ink pads, and give each person an index card. Have kids form pairs where they're seated. Direct each child to make a fingerprint on his or her card. Have partners compare their fingerprints to see how different they are.

Say: **Did you know that you got your fingerprints while you were still in your mom's tummy? Even before you were born! The fluid that surrounds a baby before it's born swirls by the baby's fresh skin and leaves these marks. How awesome is that? The Bible book of Psalms says to God, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." Let's use our fingerprints as we talk to God.**

Pray: **God, thank you for loving us and creating us. We can't imagine how much you love us. Sometimes the world around us makes us feel not-so-marvelous. We don't feel wonderful. Listen as we silently tell you the times we feel hurt, small, or not special.**

Have kids silently pray as they each make a thumbprint on their cards.

Continue praying: **God, thanks for making us in your image. *You* breathed life into us. When we feel sad or unimportant, help us remember that we were lovingly created by your hands. Speak a word of love or comfort to our hearts right now.**

Have kids listen and rest in God's peace as they make a second thumbprint, overlapping the bottom of the first one to make a heart.

Close your prayer: **God, thank you for loving us enough to make us so wonderfully complex. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Distribute wet wipes so kids can clean the ink from their fingers. Let kids take their index cards home as a reminder that they were lovingly crafted by God's hands.



Buddy Bingo

Ask around to see who matches these descriptions.

I'm the oldest kid in my family.	I can do a cartwheel.	I wear glasses.	I can play an instrument.	I can do a handstand.
I have freckles.	I love reading.	I've lived in the same house my whole life.	I don't drink milk.	I baked something in the past week.
I can speak a different language.	I can blow a bubble with gum.	Free Space! I can...	I have curly hair.	I've been in a play.
I have a birthday in March.	I do <i>not</i> know how to whistle.	I've broken a bone.	I'm left-handed.	I'm a twin.
I'm afraid of the dark.	I've moved more than three times.	I ride my bike to school.	I want to be a singer.	I've had a lemonade stand.



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and change the way kids look at the Bible!



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Or picture **Moses** recounting his adventures, bringing kids along to Egypt, the Red Sea... and freedom!



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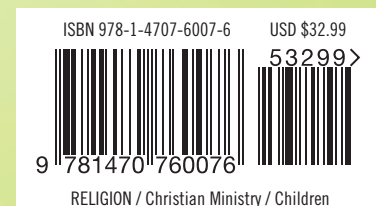


Fun Music
Inside!



Each of these biblical accounts is told in the first person, inspired by the delightful **Friends With God Story Bible**—a great companion resource for your students.

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