

PRESCHOOL (ages 3 & 4)

Fall



Teach as Jesus Taught!®



Preschool (ages 3&4)

Teacher Guide • Fall
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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.



Group

Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Preschool, Ages 3 & 4, Fall

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Welcome to the Adventure!

So, you've signed up for the preschool class! These kids have a natural love for God, for you, and for everything that makes noise. They may have short attention spans, but they are still soaking up everything you show them and tell them. Whether you're a veteran or a novice, you are going to have a fun year! You can be the one who shows them the love of Jesus. What a blessing for you and for them!

Three- and four-year-olds think very concretely. They need to experience, see, touch, taste, and smell what they are learning about. They are experimenting with physical movements and making sounds. They accept much about the world that they are discovering. Jesus is as important to them as he is to you. The love of Jesus will become real to them through the love they experience from you. You will be an example of Jesus that they can touch firsthand!

Your children will learn best by experiencing new things. What they see and experience from you they will transfer to what Jesus is like. What they experience during activities will translate into what they know about the Bible story you are teaching them. You will change their lives as you help open their minds and hearts to the most important person in their lives, Jesus.

Here are a few helpful do's and don'ts to make experiential learning work best for you and the children:

- **Do think outside the learning-space box!** Move tables so students can move around freely and work in groups. Use blocks and blankets to create unique spaces.
- **Don't expect them to sit still.** Allow children to move through experiences—touching, manipulating, tasting, smelling, and making noise—all for the glory of God.
- **Do take advantage of teachable moments.** Watch how your children act, and weave what happens into the lesson. Look for ways to bring in tastes, smells, and sounds to your classroom and use them during the lesson.
- **Don't show children the contents of the Learning Lab®** before they are used in the lessons. Keep them guessing what's coming next!
- **Do get to know your children.** They are anxious to share what they are learning. They will look for you every week.
- **Don't forget—experiential learning is fun and captivating!** Enjoy it! A positive experience learning about God within the safe boundaries of your classroom will lead to more positive experiences with God outside the classroom. What a great way to encourage your students to discover the joy of the Lord firsthand and to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their kids may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully, as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

Making the Most of Your Hands-On Bible Curriculum®

 WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—

Learning Lab may contain small parts. Not for children under 3 years.

Module Introductions Within each quarter of Hands-On Bible Curriculum, there are three modules. Each module has a theme that runs throughout the lessons. The introduction to each module includes an overview of the lessons and a chart listing the Bible Point and Scripture used in each lesson.

Bible Point There's one point that you want your children to take home at the end of your lesson. That's the Bible Point. You'll see it referenced in the margin as well as italicized and underlined in the lesson. We've designed for it to be repeated numerous times during the lesson so no one will miss it.

Bible Verse These words, taken directly from God's Word, show the biblical basis for the lesson. The Bible verse appears in boldface in the lesson.

Teacher Enrichment This part of the lesson is just for you. If you can, read it early in the week. It includes an explanation of the Bible passage and some suggested ways to pray during the week so you'll be prepared, heart and mind, for your important hour with your children.

This Lesson at a Glance This valuable chart shows you the big picture for your lesson. You can quickly see what supplies you'll need and what needs to be done before you begin. A minute on this page will save you 10 during your lesson!

The Jesus Connection To us, this is the most important thing—making the connection between the story and Jesus, the reason for the story. You'll find a Jesus Connection in every lesson, set apart in a box. We want children to find Jesus every week in your class, so don't miss this part of the lesson.

Teacher Tips You'll find these in the margin throughout the lesson. They're just to give you additional ideas to enhance what you're doing. They vary from alternative ideas for activities to age-level insights.

Take-Home Papers These photocopiable pages that you send home with your families every week will help reinforce the lesson and encourage learning all week long!

“There is only one thing worth being concerned about.”

—Luke 10:42

What is this one thing? It’s the whole reason for this curriculum—

it’s the whole reason for Sunday school. It’s what we (and you) want your kids to know! Check out what Thom and Joani Schultz (Group’s chairman and chief creative officer) have to say about the one thing and what it means in your life.

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha. As Martha worries about preparing dinner and being a busy servant, she gets upset because Mary isn’t helping. But Jesus tells her, “There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Martha was doing good work. In fact, she was serving the Lord. But Jesus made his priority for us clear. He wants to have a loving relationship with us even more than he wants us to serve him.

Many might say Jesus is the one thing. But no, it’s a **growing relationship with Jesus**. Martha would have identified serving Jesus as the one thing. But Mary better understood the *real* one thing.

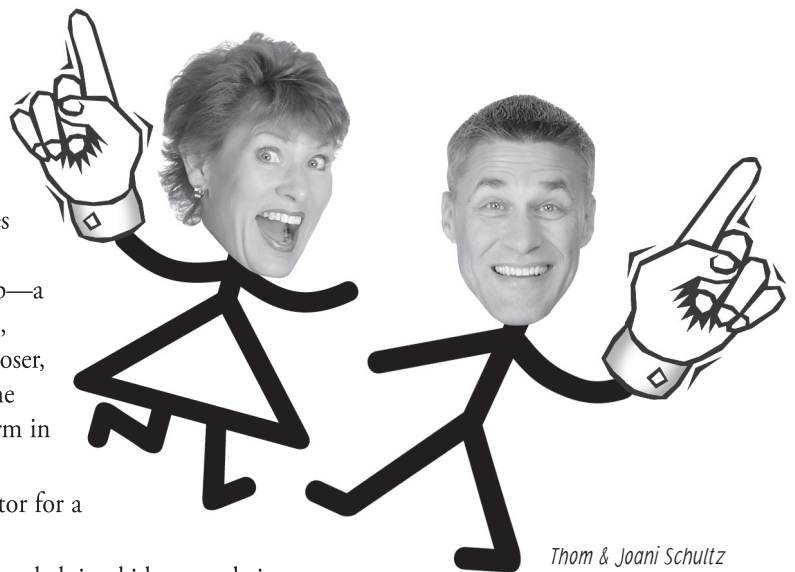
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals, theological disputes, solemnity, rituals, and more. To the spiritually hungry, churches often seem more preoccupied with these distractions than the one thing.

If the church wishes to pursue a growing relationship with Jesus, it will need to rethink and reprioritize its ministry. A one-thing ministry emphasizes relationship. And we believe a relationship with Jesus resembles in many ways a human-to-human relationship—a friendship. The process of attraction, getting acquainted, enjoying one another’s company, having fun, growing closer, and forming a bond of love and devotion is a natural one that lends clues to how a one-thing relationship may form in the context of church ministry.

How can we build a church that becomes an incubator for a one-thing relationship, for *real* friendship with Jesus?

That’s what Hands-On Bible Curriculum is all about—helping kids grow their friendships with Jesus. As they experience the Scriptures and do the activities, they’re building that relationship in a real and relevant way.

What’s the most important thing your church can do for kids? Help them choose the one thing. And use tools like Hands-On Bible Curriculum to make it a reality.



Understanding Your 3- and 4-Year-Olds

Physical Development

- Have lots of energy.
- Walk and run with confidence.
- Can draw recognizable shapes.
- Can work simple puzzles.

Emotional Development

- Are generally happy.
- Are influenced by the reactions of other children.
- Are sensitive to the moods and reactions of adults.

Social Development

- Boys usually play with boys, girls with girls.
- Prefer short group experiences.
- Use language in dramatic play.

Mental Development

- Can recall some facts and events.
- Can memorize stories, songs, or finger plays.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Have an attention span of no longer than 10 minutes.

Spiritual Development

- Hear and enjoy Bible stories.
- Recognize their own church.



Creation

The book of Genesis gives an amazing account of God's creation of our world and the beginning of human history. Simply by speaking, God caused light to invade the dark void. God's words separated the waters and called up the dry land. God spoke into being the sun, moon, and stars, and an incredible variety of plant and animal life. Finally, God created people in his own image. This powerful scriptural account reveals a loving creator God who possesses an infinite capacity to create beauty and variety. Believing we have been made in the image of God gives us confidence to create beauty in our world.

Take delight as you watch your preschoolers express their God-given creativity. Three- and four-year-olds love to create things. They take pride in their creative work and love to have it displayed and appreciated. As they learn the story of how God made our world, they'll be excited to realize that their own creativity is a gift from God. Use these four lessons to teach children that God made our world and that people are God's most special creations.

Four Lessons on Creation

Lesson	The Point	Page	Bible Basis
1	God made our world.	11	Genesis 1:1-19
2	God made our world and the animals.	25	Genesis 1:1-25
3	God made our world and you and me.	39	Genesis 2:7-22
4	God made our world and wants us to take care of it.	53	Genesis 1:28-31



Bible Point

God made our world.

Bible Verse

God made the world (adapted from Genesis 1:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- explore the different seasons God made,
 - create pictures of the world God gave them,
 - teach Whiskers that each of God's creations needs special care, and
 - sing a song and thank God for making a beautiful world.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God creates the world.

Genesis 1:1-19



The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. What better place to start a new Sunday school year!

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 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus is not so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Many 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.

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 "every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit"; not just one star, but many—"two great lights...He also made the stars." God prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy.

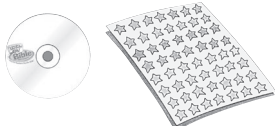
Prayer

- Read Job 38:4-7.
- How often do you overlook God's miraculous creativity? What can you do to be more mindful of it?
- Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for the awesome earth you made for us. Help me to notice and appreciate more of your creativity every day. And please help me transmit some of the wonder and awe I feel when I see your creation to the children I teach.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Animal Name Tags" (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Rock Pile —Sort and paint rocks, and learn that God made rocks.	Rocks, water, bowl, paintbrushes	
	Option 2: Signs of the Seasons —Dress up in seasonal clothes, and talk about how God made seasons.	Seasonal dress-up clothes	
	Option 3: Let's Create Colors —Blend colored chalk, and talk about all the colors they see in God's world.	Black construction paper, colored chalk	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Talk about their favorite seasons.		
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear how God created the world we live in.	Bible	
	Starry, Starry Night —Create a night-sky picture with a glowing star.	Bible, black construction paper, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Work together to make a creation wall mural.	Tempera paint, plastic spoons, bowls, cotton balls, seeds, newsprint, paint shirts	
Closing 	Growing Things —Teach Whiskers that plants, animals, and people need different food to grow.	Cheese	
	Everything Was Good —Sing a song about God's creation, and thank God for the world he made.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Animal Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God made our world.**
- Give each child a photocopy of an animal name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags, and pin or tape the tags to their clothing. You may want to cover the name tags with clear adhesive plastic.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What light did God make so we can have daytime?” or “What’s your favorite thing that God made?”

■ Option 1: Rock Pile

SUPPLIES: rocks (the size of your fist or slightly larger), water, bowl, paintbrushes

Set out rocks, containers of water, and paintbrushes. Let children paint designs on the rocks with water. As they work, talk about all the different kinds of rocks and where we might find them. Have children point out any natural colors and designs they notice in the rocks. Remind children that ► God made our world and God made rocks.



■ Option 2: Signs of the Seasons

SUPPLIES: seasonal dress-up clothes

Bring in seasonal dress-up clothes for children to try on. Include items such as sunglasses, raincoats, umbrellas, winter coats and hats, mittens, and boots. As children try on the clothes, have them tell you what they like about each season and how they might need to dress for that time of year. Remind children that ► God made our world and God made each season different from the others.



■ Option 3: Let’s Create Colors

SUPPLIES: black construction paper, colored chalk

Set out black construction paper. Explain that before God created the world there was nothing but darkness, like the black paper. Then hand out colored chalk, and let children create pictures of God’s world. Encourage them to draw their favorite things that God has made. As they’re drawing, point out that their black papers have become bright and beautiful—like the world God made.

teacher tips

Naturally, each child's artwork will be unique. As you encourage their creativity, remind children that they are each God's creation and that he made them different from each other just as each chalk drawing is different.

teacher tips

If your preschoolers have trouble making transitions, say: **In a few minutes it will be time to put our toys away. You have five more minutes to play. Then we'll put our toys away and do some other fun things.**

If you don't have a sink in your room, be sure to provide a wet cloth so children can wipe the chalk off their hands before they move on to the next activity.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You'll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up. At first, they may need a little encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will become a familiar routine.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: none

Tell children that when you turn the room lights off and then on again, they're to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

When everything is cleaned up, gather everyone in a circle on the floor.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Painted rocks; played dress-up; colored with chalk.)

Say: **Some of you played with rocks, some of you tried on dress-up clothes, and some of you colored pictures with chalk. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're learning that ► God made our world. God also made four different seasons for us to enjoy in our world.**

Ask: • **Right now the season is fall. What kind of weather do we have in the fall?** (Cold; sometimes sunny; it makes the leaves fall down.)

• **What are some fun things you like to do in the fall?** (Jump in a pile of leaves; go to preschool.)

Say: **If you like fall, stand up and then gently fall back down.**

Ask: • **What kind of weather do we have in winter?** (Snow; cold.)

• **What are some fun things to do in the wintertime?** (Make a snowman; play indoors; get presents for Christmas.)



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **If you think winter is fun, stand up, shiver; and say “brrr!” Then sit down.**

Wait for children to follow your directions. Then ask:

- **What kind of weather do we have in the spring?** (Rain; wind; flowers grow.)
- **What are some fun things to do in the springtime?** (Pick flowers; jump in puddles.)

Say: **If you like spring, spring up and wave your hands in the air, and then sit down.**

Wait for children to follow your directions. Then ask:

- **What kind of weather do we have in the summer?** (Hot; sunshine.)
- **What are some fun things to do in the summertime?** (Go swimming; go on vacation; play outside.)

Say: **If you like summer, swim to the door, and then swim back to our circle and sit down.**

Wait for children to follow your directions. Then say: **God made fall, winter, spring, and summer. ► God made our world. Let’s bring out our Bible and find out more about the world God made.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I’ll choose someone to be our Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Every one of you will get a chance to be the Bible helper one week. Before I choose today’s Bible helper, let’s learn our Bible song. As we sing, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I’m so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
I’m so glad for God’s book today.
I’m so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’—
Keep me learnin’ all about his way.**

**Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Let me hear ’bout God’s love for me.
Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Let’s shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)



If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible®*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *world stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *world stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Open the Bible to **Genesis 1**, and say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. The story tells about the very beginning of our world, and we can find the story at the very beginning of the Bible! Let me show you where it is.**



Hold the Bible up so the children can see that Genesis is the Bible's first story. Then turn to **Colossians 1:15-16**, and show children the verses that talk about Jesus. Say: **The Bible also tells us that Jesus made the things we can see and even the things we can't see! Let's look in our Bible Big Book to find pictures of some of his creations.**

Open the *Bible Big Book: God Made Our World*. Show children the pictures on pages 1 to 3 as you read the corresponding text printed on the back cover of the book.

After you read the text, turn back to page 1. Hold up the picture. Say: **Before God made our world, everything was dark. But then God began adding things to make our world a beautiful place.**

Turn to page 2, and show children the pictures of the water and plants. Say: **God made so many pretty plants to grow in our world. How many different plants can you see in this picture?**



BIBLE POINT

Encourage children to point out trees, bushes, grass, and different kinds of flowers. Then say: **God made land where little seeds could be planted. Seeds need dirt and water so they can grow up into plants.** Point to the water and ask: **Where are places we can find water?** (Swimming pool; river; ocean; drinking fountain.)

Let's crouch down and pretend we're little plants sprouting up from seeds. I'll come around and sprinkle some pretend water on you, and then you can grow up into big, tall plants.

Walk around the children and pretend to sprinkle them with water. As they're "growing," say things such as "My, these plants are growing fast" or "These plants must be very thirsty. They're drinking a lot of water."

After you've "watered" all the children, have them sit down. Turn to page 3 in the *Bible Big Book*. Say: **Another thing plants need in order to grow is light. What did God make that gives our world light?** Point to the light in this picture.

Let children point to the sun. Say: **God made the sun to shine in the daytime, and he made the moon and stars to shine at night. Let's pretend it's morning and the sun is just coming up into the sky. Put your arms over your head and slowly stand up like the sun rising.**

Pause for children to stand up. As children are standing up, set the *Big Book* aside. Say: **Now let's walk around our room one time and shine on everything we see. Wiggle your fingers like shining sunbeams.**

Lead children around the room and then back to your story area. Open your Bible and say: **Our Bible verse is from Genesis 1:1, and it tells us that ►God made the world. We've talked about how God made water and God made plants. God made the sun, the moon, and all the stars. Let's make a picture that will remind us of God's light in the darkness.**

◀ BIBLE VERSE

■ *Starry, Starry Night*

SUPPLIES: Bible, one sheet of black construction paper for each child, CD player



Before this activity, remove the *glow-in-the-dark star stickers* from your Learning Lab. Set them in a place where they have direct exposure to a light source such as a window or lamp. This allows the stickers to absorb plenty of light so they'll glow brightly.

Hold up a sheet of black paper. Say: **Before ►God made our world, everything was completely dark, like this paper. There was nothing in the world—not a sun or a moon or stars. Let's close our eyes to see what that might have been like.**

Close your eyes, and direct the children to do the same. Tell children to keep their eyes closed until you say to open them. You might suggest that they put their hands over their eyes to make it "extra" dark. While their eyes are still closed, ask:

- **What do you see?** (Dark; nothing.)
- **What would it be like if our world was like this all the time?** (Boring; scary; dark.)

Say: **In the Bible, the first thing God said was "Let there be light." And the world became bright! Let's call out together, "Let there be light!" just as God did. Then we'll open our eyes and see what happens.**

◀ BIBLE POINT



Have the children call out with you: “Let there be light!” When they’ve opened their eyes, ask:

- **Now what do you see?** (Everything; my friends; you; the room.)

Say: **Giving light to the whole world is something only God can do! Only God can make light as bright as the sun or as pretty as the stars.**

Give each child a sheet of black construction paper.



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **Let’s add something special to our dark pieces of paper to remember that when ► God made our world, God gave us light, too. You may each put one of these star stickers on your paper. When you place your sticker on your paper, say, “Thank you, God, for making our world.”**

Distribute the *glow-in-the-dark star stickers*, and let children place stickers on their papers as they say, “Thank you, God, for making our world.” When everyone is finished, say: **Now turn your paper over so you can’t see your star. When I turn off the light, let’s all call out, “Let there be light!” just as God did. Then we’ll flip our papers over again, and we’ll see a big surprise!**

Be sure the children have turned their papers star-side down before you turn off the lights. Then, when they’ve turned their papers back over to show their stars, say: **Wow! Our papers look brighter now! Because God made light, our world looks brighter, too.**

Encourage the children to place their starry pictures next to their beds at home so they’ll remember God’s gift of light even when it’s dark outside.

BIBLE VERSE ►

Open your Bible to **Genesis 1:1**, and show children the verse. Say: **The Bible tells us that ► God made the world.** Have the children repeat the verse with you. **I’m glad God put lights in the sky so we could see all the wonderful things he has made. Let’s sing a song about how God made the world.**

Have children join you as you sing “God Made the World” (adapted from Genesis 1:1) with the CD (track 5) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”



SING

God made the world.
Oh, God made the world.
We thank him for creating it.
God made the world!

God made the light.
Oh, God made the light.
We thank him for creating it.
God made the light!

God made you and me.
Oh, God made you and me.
We thank him for creating us.
God made you and me!

Say: **That was fun! Now let’s work together on a big picture to show more of the things God made.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: newsprint, tempera paint, plastic spoons, bowls, cotton balls, seeds, paint shirts

Tape several large sheets of newsprint together, and lay them on a table. To protect the floor, cover it with newspapers or a vinyl tablecloth. Set out bowls of blue, yellow, green, and brown tempera paint.

Gather children around the table. If you have more than 10 children in your class, you may want to set up two tables and make two murals.

Say: **This paper is empty, just as our world was empty before God started creating things to live in it. Let's fill up this paper with the creations that God made. We're going to make lots of things to go on our picture, and everyone will get a turn to help.**

Ask: • **What did God make for us to walk on?** (The floor; the ground.)

Say: **God made the ground. Let's put some dirt in our picture. I'll pass out spoons to paint with, and then I'll ask three people to paint some dirt at the bottom of our picture.**

Give plastic spoons to three children, and show them how to use the backs of the spoons to paint the brown paint onto the newsprint. Have children set their spoons in the brown paint bowl when they're through.

Ask: • **What grows in the ground?** (Seeds; plants; trees.)

Say: **God made plants to grow in the ground. Plants start out as little seeds. [Name] and [name], will you sprinkle some seeds on our ground?**

Give each of the two children a spoonful of seeds. Have them start at opposite ends of the newsprint and sprinkle their seeds in the "dirt."

Ask: • **What kinds of plants should we put in our picture?** (Trees; bushes; flowers; grass.)

Say: **God made lots of different kinds of plants. He made trees, bushes, flowers, and grass. Let's put some grass in our picture first. I need three grass painters.**

Give spoons to three children, and have them paint grass above the dirt. Then invite other children to add green bushes, brown tree trunks, green treetops, and blue or yellow flowers. Make sure each child gets a turn to paint. Have children return their spoons to the appropriate paint bowls when they're through.

Say: **What a beautiful picture of God's world! What should go at the top of our picture?** (Sky; clouds; sun.)

God made the sun and put it up in the sky. Let's put a sky and a sun in our picture.

Choose two children to paint a blue sky and one child to paint a yellow sun. Distribute cotton balls, and let children stick "clouds" in the sky. Then let all the children paint several raindrops.

Ask: • **What else did God make that's missing in our picture?** (Animals; the ocean; the moon and stars; people.)

Say: ► **God made our world and everything in it. Next week we'll learn about all the different animals that God made. God made some big animals and some quiet little animals. I have a quiet little animal friend named Whiskers the Mouse who would like to come and visit us. Let's leave our creation picture and tiptoe like little mice over to our story area and see if Whiskers might come out to see us.**

teacher tips

Make sure seeds are small enough to avoid a choking hazard, and watch that children don't eat any of the seeds.

teacher tips

If the seeds or cotton don't stick to the paint, have children glue the items onto the picture.

◀ BIBLE POINT



Leave the creation mural on the table for about an hour to dry. When the paint is no longer wet, you can hang it up in your classroom to remind children of God's creations during the following weeks.

Have children wash their hands and then tiptoe over to the story area.

Closing

■ Growing Things

SUPPLIES: *piece of cheese*

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Say: **Let's see if we can get Whiskers to come and visit us. He's shy, and we don't want to scare him, so let's call him with our quiet voices. Whiskers!**

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse along with a piece of cheese. Follow the puppet script below, and then after the skit, put Whiskers out of sight while you finish the day's lesson.



Whiskers: *(Looking closely at a piece of cheese he's holding in his hand)* Hmm.

Teacher: What are you doing with that piece of cheese, Whiskers?

Whiskers: I'm inspecting it. Does it look OK to you? *(Hands cheese to teacher.)*

Teacher: It looks fine to me, Whiskers. Do you think there's something wrong with it?

Whiskers: *(Nodding)* Well, it looks OK, and it smells OK. *(Takes a little bite.)* And it even tastes OK. But there must be something wrong.

Teacher: Why do you think there's something wrong with the cheese, Whiskers?

Whiskers: Because I've been feeding it to my plant, and my plant is dying. You should see it—it's all wilted and droopy. *(Flops over like a droopy plant.)* I promised my mom I'd take good care of the plant—I guess I'd better try a different kind of cheese. Maybe it would like Swiss cheese. That's my favorite.

Teacher: Whiskers, cheese won't make your plant grow.

Whiskers: Why not? My mom says that if I eat lots of cheese, I'll grow up to be a big, strong mouse. Why won't cheese make my plant grow?

Teacher: Children, I don't think Whiskers understands how to take care of his plant. Let's tell him what we learned about taking care of the plants God made.

(Lead children in explaining how plants need water and sunlight to grow, not cheese.)

Teacher: ► God made our world, Whiskers. He makes plants grow with water and sunshine. Only people and animals can grow by eating cheese and other healthy foods.

Whiskers: Oh. Well, I guess that means I get to eat this cheese then! Oh yummy!
I better go water my plant so it will stop drooping. Goodbye.

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■ Everything Was Good

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: ►God made our world. When God looked at all the things he had made, he saw that everything was good. Let's learn a song to help us remember about all the good things God made for us.

Lead children in singing "Everything Was Good" (track 6) with the CD to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."



Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.
God made light and day
and night,
And everything was good.
Growing plants,
Stars, moon, sun—
Playing in God's world is fun!
Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.

Long ago God made the world,
Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.
Animals and people, too.
And everything was good.
God made [name].
God made [name].
God made [name] and [name]
and [name].
Long ago God made the world,
And everything was good.
And everything was good.

When you finish singing, say: ►God made our world. Let's thank God for all the wonderful things he's made. Dear God, thanks for making such a wonderful world for us to live in. Be with us as we enjoy your creation this week. In Jesus' name, amen.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Sing a Song of Creation**



track 5

Form a circle, and have children join hands. Walk around the circle as you sing “God Made the World” (adapted from Genesis 1:1) with the CD (track 5) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”



SING

God made the world.
Oh, God made the world.
We thank him for creating it.
God made the world!

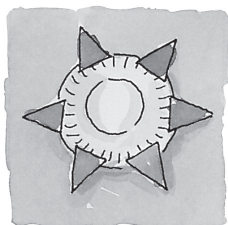
God made the light.
Oh, God made the light.

We thank him for creating it.
God made the light!

God made you and me.
Oh, God made you and me.
We thank him for creating us.
God made you and me!

Let children add their own verses by filling in specific things that God has made. For example, they might sing, “God made the trees” or “God made the stars.”

■ **Make to Take: Shining Suns**

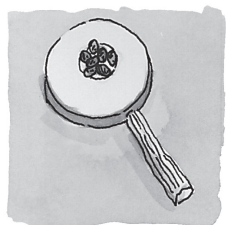


Before class, cut yellow or orange construction paper into triangles. You'll need at least six triangles for each child.

Give each child a paper plate and six construction paper triangles. Set out glue, and let children glue the triangle “sun rays” to the paper plates to make suns. Let them color their suns with markers or crayons.

As children work, remind them that ► God made our world and God made the sun.

■ **Treat to Eat: Edible Flowers**



Give each child a paper towel, two dried apple rings, a few chocolate chips, and a cookie stick. Show children how to assemble their edible flowers according to the illustration in the margin. As children enjoy their snacks, talk about how God created flowers and fruit for us to enjoy. Remind children that ► God made our world.

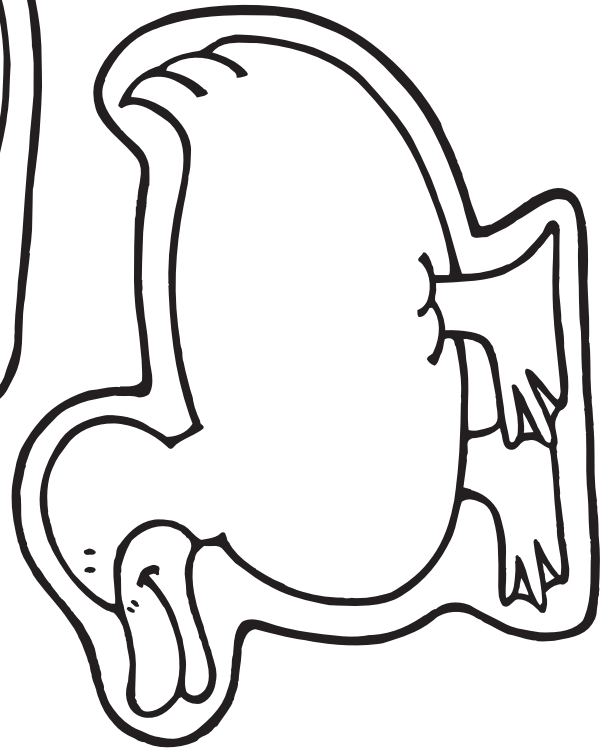
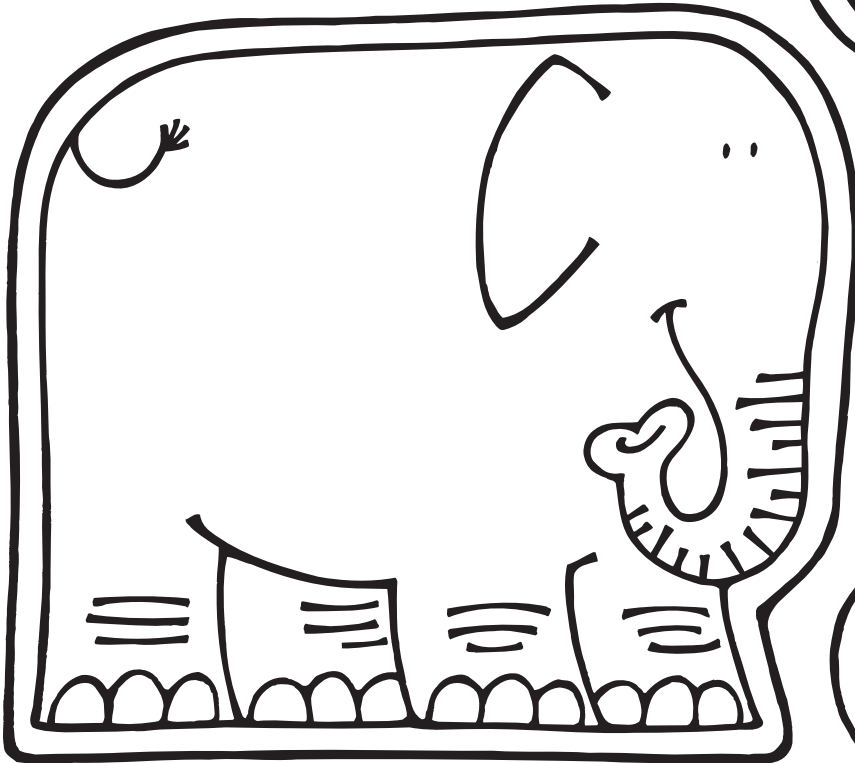
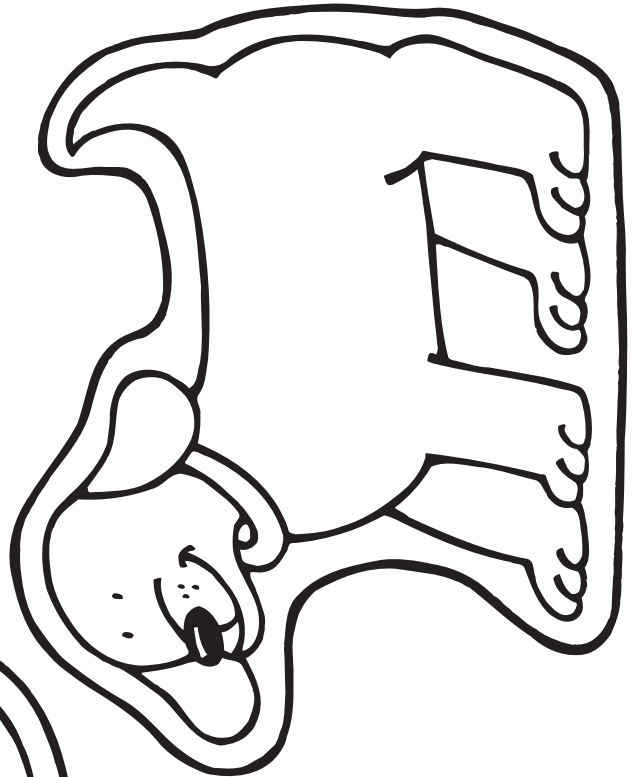
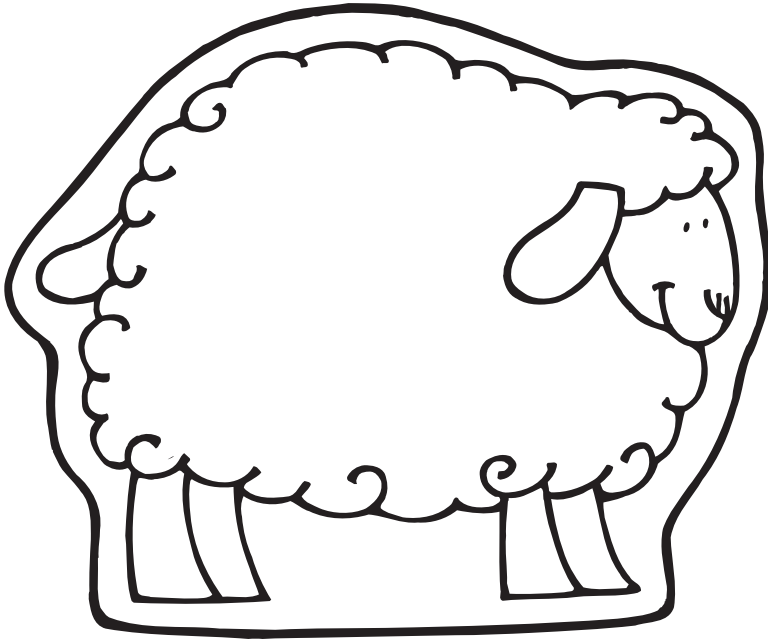


■ **Story Picture: The World God Made**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Let children color the picture first. Then set out cotton balls and glue, and help children glue cotton to the clouds in the picture. As children work, ask them who made all the things in the picture. Remind them that ► God made our world.

Animal Name Tags

Photocopy and cut out the name tags.



Today i learned... @

@ God made our world.

Help me learn this:

God made the world (adapted from Genesis 1:1).

Ask me:

- Who made our world?
- What's your favorite thing that God made?
- How can our family enjoy God's world together this week?

Family Fun

- Sing this song with your child to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."

Long ago God made the world,

And everything was good.

God made light and day and night,

And everything was good.

Growing plants,

Stars, moon, sun—

Playing in God's world is fun!

Long ago God made the world,

And everything was good.

**God Made
Our World**
(Genesis 1:1-19)





Teacher Guide

PRESCHOOL (ages 3 & 4)

Fall

Teach as Jesus Taught!®

JESUS USED EVERYDAY OBJECTS—a mustard seed, a fig tree, a lost coin—to teach his disciples the truths that would change the world. With Hands-On Bible Curriculum, you can teach as Jesus taught, using fun surprises that children can touch, see, and smell to relate eternal truths they won't forget.

This quarter your Preschoolers will learn these important Bible lessons:

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-19	God made our world.
Genesis 1:1-25	God made our world and the animals.
Genesis 2:7-22	God made our world and you and me.
Genesis 1:28-31	God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

NOAH

Genesis 6:9-22	God takes care of us.
Genesis 7:1-16	God takes care of us and helps us.
Genesis 7:17-24	God takes care of us in scary times.
Genesis 9:8-17	God takes care of us and keeps his promises.

ABRAHAM AND SARAH

Genesis 12:1-5	God loves us and helps us follow him.
Genesis 12:7-9	God loves us and wants us to love him.
Genesis 13:1-18	God loves us and gives us what we need.
Genesis 15:5 and more	God loves us and calls us by name.
Genesis 18:1-16 and more	God loves us and gives us good surprises.

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