



CREATED NEW

LESSON SAMPLE



LESSON 1

CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

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

WORD OF WONDER: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

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

- Welcome Question: What is your favorite thing God made?
- Curiosity Questions
- Elementary Interactive Game: Reflect Me
- Preteen Interactive Game: Wave of Mirrors
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

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

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

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

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

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

- Elementary Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural
- Preteen Responding in Worship: God Reflections
- Blessing Your Kids

Wonder@Home™

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

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

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

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

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

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

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

WHAT?

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

WHERE?

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

WHEN?

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

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

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

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

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

Welcome Question

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

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Welcome Question Slide

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



As kids arrive ...

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

At your start time ...

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

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

Curiosity Questions

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

I’m curious ...

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

Elementary Interactive Game: Reflect Me

SUPPLIES: handheld mirror (1 or more)

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Preteen Interactive Game: Wave of Mirrors

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Wave of Mirrors Slide, Creation Wonder Truth Slide

Display the Wave of Mirrors Slide and gather the kids.

How many of you looked in a mirror before you came today? Encourage kids to respond by raising their hands. **When we look in a mirror, we see a reflection of whatever is in front of it. Today we're going to play a game called Wave of Mirrors and get a chance to reflect each other's movements.** Invite kids to form a circle and remain standing. Have all the kids rotate their bodies to the right so that they are looking at the back of the person that was beside them. Designate one person as the leader. **The leader will begin by making slow, simple movements that are visible to the person behind her.** Model some large movements, keeping your arms out to your side. **The person behind the leader will pause for about one second and then mirror the leader's movements by doing the exact same thing. The next person in the circle will pause for about one second and start mirroring the person in front of her. Everyone in the circle will follow this pattern until the leader sees her own movements being done by the person in front of her (but delayed by many seconds). Our goal is to create a wave of mirrors!** Once the wave has made it all around the circle one or two times, pause and designate a new person as the leader.



Leader Tip: This activity works best if the leader is not a part of the circle. Instead, watch closely to make sure the mirror wave is working. If someone isn't paying attention or is struggling to keep up, come beside them to help.

Make It Inclusive: If kids have limited mobility, set up chairs in a circle and have kids do this activity from a seated position. Just encourage them to use very large arm movements that the person behind them can see clearly.

After a couple rounds, gather kids back together. Great job reflecting each other's movements! Way back in the beginning of time, God created people. He created people in His image. We were all created to be like Him and reflect what He is like—to be like Him in our words, attitudes, thoughts, and actions. Display the Creation Wonder Truth Slide. **Today's Wonder Truth is GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE.**



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

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Declaration Slide

Display the Creation Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

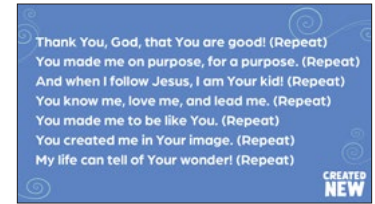
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You made me to be like You. (Kids repeat.)

You created me in Your image. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer of Invitation

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

Worship

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

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

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Title Slide, [Creation: Made in God's Image God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the Creation Title Slide. Tell kids today's story is found in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament. Open your Bible and show kids how to find the first book. Ask older kids to help younger kids find the passage.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Read Genesis 2:4–7, 15–17, 20–22 and Genesis 1:27 aloud while kids follow along in their Bibles. Then

do one or both of the following:

- Use the following Creation: Made in God's Image Experience It! Script
- View [Creation: Made in God's Image God's Big Story Video](#)

LESSON 1 CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

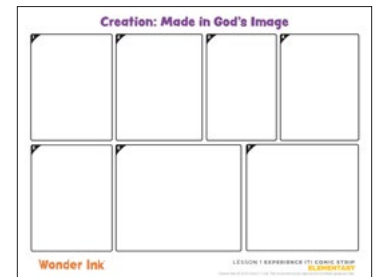
SUPPLIES: Bible, coloring utensils, pencils, easel or flip chart with large sheet of paper, marker, clipboards (optional, 1 per kid), dot markers (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Experience It! Comic Strip (1 per kid)

Leader Tip: Some kids aim for perfection when drawing and like to take their time on every detail. That's OK! Rather than rush kids to finish now, encourage them to take their comic strips home to finish later.

Make It Inclusive: Provide a variety of utensils and simple adaptive tools for kids with varying dexterity levels, such as thick markers, jumbo crayons, and pencil grips. Also consider drawing in pencil on several comic strips ahead of time and making those copies available to kids who might struggle to draw their own pictures. Invite them to trace or color the pencil drawings.

Before kids arrive, print one Experience It! Comic Strip for each kid. If using, preload the clipboards with one Experience It! Comic Strip each. Set out coloring utensils and pencils. Set up the easel or flip chart on your stage area and prep it by drawing seven boxes with a marker that reflect the layout of the boxes on the Experience It! Comic Strip. Place a set of coloring utensils and dot markers (if using) on stage within easy reach. Also, set the Bible within reach.



As you tell the story, pause to allow time for kids to draw/design each day of creation in each box of their comic strip.

Today you'll need ears and eyes on high alert because you'll be creating your own comic strip showing this part of God's big story! Let's practice being on high alert: Get first your paper, grab a pencil, and write your name in the corner. When you're done, set down your paper and pencil and look up at me.

Hand out the Experience It! Comic Strips, pencils, and coloring utensils. Allow time for kids to complete the task, then continue.

In the very beginning, before time began, the one and only God created the world. Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and hold it up for kids to see. **The first book in the Bible, Genesis, shares the start of God's big story about His relationship with people and His plan for the whole world, and it begins with God's creation of the universe. First, God made spaces to fill with all kinds of beautiful things. When there was nothing but darkness, God said, "Let there be light!" (Genesis 1:3). And at God's command, light appeared!** Pick up yellow and black coloring utensils, coloring light and dark in the first box of the comic strip. **Let's draw what God created on that first day.**

Direct kids how to portray *light* and *dark* in box one. Remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part of the story.

By creating light and separating it from darkness, God created the first day and night. Let's draw what God created on the second day. Pick up a blue coloring utensil and draw in the second box as you talk. **On the second day, God created the sky above and the water-covered earth below.**

Invite kids to draw clouds in the upper part of their second box and water in the lower part of the box. Remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready to move on.

On the third day, God separated the oceans from the dry ground and covered the land with plants. Grab green, brown, and blue coloring utensils to draw in the third box. **Let's draw what God created on the third day.**

Invite kids to draw land, plants, trees, flowers, bushes, mountains, etc. in the third box. Remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part of the story.

Over the next three days, God filled those spaces. On the fourth day, God placed all the planets and stars in the skies. Let's draw together.

Invite kids to draw a sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, etc. in the fourth box as you do the same on the large paper. Remind them to put down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal that they're ready for you to continue.

On the fifth day, God made the birds that fly through the air and the fish and sea creatures that live in the oceans. Let's draw together.

Invite kids to draw birds, fish, and other swimming creatures in the fifth box as you draw those things on the large paper. Remind kids to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part of the story.

On the sixth day, God created animals to live on the dry land. Then, as God's final act of creation, He made the first two human beings in His image, one man and one woman, to look after the world He had made and to be in relationship with Him. Let's draw together.

Invite kids to draw animals and two stick people in the sixth box as you draw on the large paper. Remind kids to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part.

First, God made the man, molding his body out of dust and breathing into it the breath of life. Then God made the woman, because human beings are not meant to be alone. God caused the man to fall asleep and took part of his side and formed the woman from it. God blessed the man and the woman and created them to be companions for one another and to fill the earth with more human beings.

The one and only God created human beings in His image. What do you think that means? Allow a few responses. **Great thinking! God made us in His image to represent Him and look after the earth. We get to reflect what God is like!**

God provided for the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He planted a garden in a land called Eden, and He commanded them "to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15 NIV). God gave them

the freedom to eat the fruit of every tree and plant except for one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them if they eat of that tree, they “will certainly die” (Genesis 2:17).

God looked at everything He had created—the vast universe and all of its beauty, the plants and animals, and the people He made in His image to watch over it all—and God was very pleased with it. Let’s leave the last box blank because when God was finished with His creation work on the seventh day, He rested.

God is still pleased with His creation, and just like Adam and Eve, we’re meant to represent God as we follow His directions and care for His creation. Flip your papers over and trace your hand on the paper. Allow time for kids to trace hands. Let’s write “God made us in His image” above your hand. Write this phrase “God made us in His image” on the large paper and encourage kids to copy this phrase onto their own sheets. Again, remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they’re ready to move on.

God made you in His image!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Truth Slide

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



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

In Awe of God’s Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God’s story.

What did you wonder about in today’s story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When God created people, what do you think He wanted most for them? Allow kids to answer freely.

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), note cards (1 per kid), pens (1 per kid), stopwatch

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide (optional), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series talks about being made new! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#). Introduce kids to 2 Corinthians 5:17 by reading it several times together.

Give each kid a note card and a pen. Assign each word (or phrase) from the verse to a different kid. Then have them write the words on the cards and put the cards in a pile in the middle of the circle. (Encourage older kids to help younger kids if needed.)

Divide the group into two teams. One team will be the timers. The other team will be the players. Allow each team to see how fast they can put the verse in order while the other team tracks time. Record the time and switch roles. Repeat a second time to see if teams can beat each other (or even their own time).

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Write on the note cards ahead of time. Then invite the whole group to work together (with your help!) to put the cards in verse order.

Elementary Questions

- **What did God create? Be as specific as you can.** (See Genesis 1 for details. Kids might share general categories [like “sea creatures”] or name specific things/species [like “great white sharks”]. Either is great!)
- **Who were the first two people God created?** (Adam and Eve)
- **What was different about the way God created people versus how He created everything else?** (God molded man out of dust and breathed life into him. He formed woman from a part of the man. God created everything else by speaking.)
- **What do you think was the best part of God’s creation?**
- **What does God think about you?** (Remind kids that God’s thoughts about them are good! Consider reading Psalm 139:17.)
- **God made people in His image to reflect what He’s like! What’s something about God you can reflect?**

Isn’t it amazing to look at all that God made? He is such a creative God! He is reflected in all of creation and especially in you! Look at your friend and say: **God made you in His image!** Allow kids to respond.

Preteen Questions

- **What did God create and do each day? See if you can name them in order.** (Day 1: day and night; Day 2: sky above and water below; Day 3: separated oceans from dry ground and made plants; Day 4: all planet and stars; Day 5: birds, fish, seas creatures; Day 6: animals and humans; Day 7: God rested.)
- **What responsibilities did God give the first two people to do in the garden of Eden?** (to work the garden and take care of it)
- **What did God think of His creation?** (He was pleased with it)
- **When God made people, He made them in His image. What does that mean to you?**
- **In what ways do you reflect God well?**
- **What can you do this week to reflect God more clearly?**

The light, the dark, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, trees, grass, flowers, and oceans show us God’s power and creativity! He is bigger than we can imagine—what an amazing thought! And His most precious creation that reflects Him best is you! Look at a friend and say: **God made you in His image!** Allow kids to respond.

Leader Tip: As kids discuss how they can reflect God more clearly, acknowledge that because of sin, we can’t be like God on our own! But we’re not on our own! God gives Jesus-followers the Holy Spirit to guide us, give us strength, and help us be more like Him!

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share their praises and prayer requests. Encourage kids to focus today’s prayer time on simply praising God for creating us in His image. Have kids get in groups of two and pray a prayer of thanks to God for each other and for ways that they see God’s image reflected in their partners.

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Elementary Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural

SUPPLIES: chart or butcher paper, markers, tape

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Preteen Responding in Worship: God Reflections

SUPPLIES: small craft mirrors (1 per kid), fine-tipped dry-erase markers (1 per kid), paper (optional, 1 sheet per kid), drawing utensils (optional), handheld mirror (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Reflections Slide

Ahead of time, order small craft mirrors, one per kid. (The mirrors can be any shape as long as they are large enough for kids to write one word on them with a fine-tipped dry-erase marker.) Alternatively, provide a sheet of plain paper and drawing utensils for each kid.

Leader Tip: Small craft mirrors can be purchased in bulk from online retailers and found at many arts and craft stores.

Display the God Reflections Slide and gather the kids. **Today in God's big story, we learned that God created us in His image. We were created to be like Him and to reflect who God is and what He is like. There are so many different ways we can reflect God! One way we can reflect Him is to love others because He loves everyone. Another way is to be patient because God is patient with us. We can also show kindness, humility, joy, and forgiveness. And these are only some of the ways we can reflect Him. There are so many more! Let's spend a few minutes sharing ways we see each other reflecting God's image.**



Form a circle and share one way you've noticed each person reflecting what God is like. If time allows (or if your group is small), invite kids who would like to share to say one way another person reflects God's image. Here are some ideas of ways different kids might reflect God's image: their kind smile, the way they work well with others, their funny sense of humor, their beautiful singing, their wonderful energy, the way they listen well to others, etc.

Leader Tip: If there are preteens you don't know well (maybe they're new to the ministry—or maybe you're new!), it's OK. Be on the lookout throughout the lesson for one small way each kid reflects God's image well. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into the unique way God made each child to reflect Him!

Give a small craft mirror and dry-erase marker to each kid. Alternatively, give each kid a sheet of paper and drawing utensils and invite them to draw a handheld mirror. (If you have a handheld mirror with you, show it to them for inspiration.) **I invite you now to think of one or more ways you reflect God's**

image to the people around you. It might be something someone else just pointed out, or it might be another way you reflect God's image well. Pause for kids to think. With your dry-erase markers (or drawing utensil if using paper), write those things on your mirrors. For example, if you reflect God's image when you make people laugh, you might write the word "humor" on your mirror. If you reflect God's image by being kind to your younger siblings, you might write the word "kindness." Pause for kids to write on their mirrors.

Make It Inclusive: Spelling is hard, especially for people with dyslexia or other learning differences. Be available to help kids spell words and consider brainstorming a list of words with the whole group and writing them on a whiteboard that kids can refer to as they write on their mirrors.

Once kids have written on their mirrors, invite them to share what they wrote. **Wow! Each of you reflects God's image in such unique and important ways! Still, it's important to remember that no matter how hard we try, we'll never reflect God's image perfectly on our own. In fact, because of sin—the wrong things we say and do that pull us away from God—it's impossible to be like God on our own. That's why He gives everyone who follows Jesus the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to help us reflect God better!**

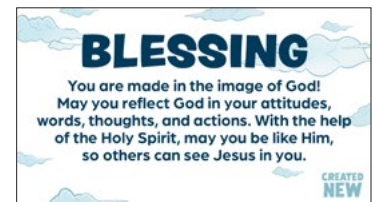
Invite kids to take their mirrors home. (If possible, send each kid home with a fine-tipped dry-erase marker as well.) Encourage them to set their mirror somewhere they will see it often and to keep practicing reflecting God's image to others. When they experience a new way to show what God is like, they can write it on their mirrors!

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Blessing Slide

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

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





LESSON 1

CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

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

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

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

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

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



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

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

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

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

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

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

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

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

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

Wonder@Home™

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

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

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

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

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

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

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

WHAT?

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

WHERE?

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

WHEN?

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

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

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

LESSON 1 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

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

Welcome Question

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

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Welcome Question Slide

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



As kids arrive ...

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

At your start time ...

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

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

Curiosity Questions

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

I’m curious ...

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

Interactive Game: Reflect Me

SUPPLIES: handheld mirror (1 or more)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

Declaring God's Wonder

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

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

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

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

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

Put your hands on your hips.

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

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

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

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

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

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

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

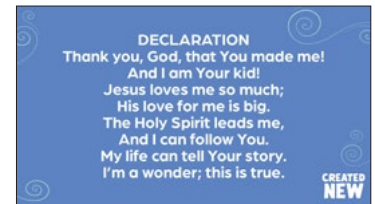
March in place like you're following the leader.

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

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

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

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



LESSON 1 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer of Invitation

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

Worship

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

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

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: tape, shatter-proof mirror

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

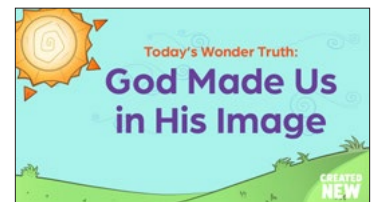


Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Truth Slide

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

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



Word of Wonder

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

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

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Gather kids to discuss these questions:

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

LESSON 1 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: small shatter-proof mirror

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

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

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

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

Craft: Clay Creations

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Active Game: Reflecting in Action

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 1 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural

SUPPLIES: chart or butcher paper, markers, tape

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

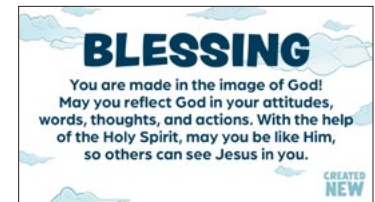
When everyone is done drawing on the mural, invite kids to help you tape the mural to the wall. If possible, leave it up for several weeks as a reminder that we're made in God's image and can reflect Him.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Creation Blessing Slide

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

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



Closing Game: Creation Charades

SUPPLIES: basket

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Days of Creation Sheets

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

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



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



LESSON 1

CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

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

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

CURIOSITY 15–20 minutes

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

- Play Stations:
 - Mirror Me
 - Shaving Cream Creations
 - Creation Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Fingerprint Fun
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 20 minutes

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

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

FAITH 15–20 minutes

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

- Circle Time: Pass the Smile
- Craft: Clay Creations
- Game: Reflecting in Action

IDENTITY 15–20 minutes

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

- Responding in Worship: God Made Me Chalk Drawings
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Creation Charades

Wonder@Home™

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



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

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

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

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

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

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

WHAT?

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

WHERE?

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

WHEN?

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

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

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



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: shatter-proof mirror, baking sheet, shaving cream, towel, wet wipes, coloring utensils, food coloring (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Faces Sheet, Creation Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

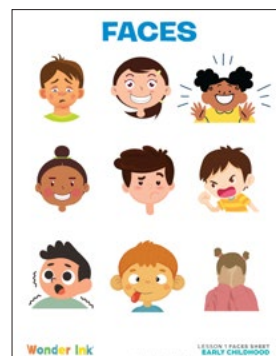
Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Mirror Me

Set up: Ahead of time, print a copy of the Faces Sheet. Set out a mirror.

Play: Encourage the kids to choose a picture of a person from the Faces Sheet and try to make the same face as the person in the picture while looking in the mirror.



Play Station: Shaving Cream Creations

Set up: Set out a baking sheet and spray shaving cream on it just before the kids arrive. Set out a towel and wet wipes for cleanup. You can also squirt a few drops of food coloring into it.

Play: Let the kids create whatever they would like in the shaving cream. They can draw in it with their fingers to make their own creations.

Play Station: Creation Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of themselves.

Curiosity Activity: Fingerprint Fun

SUPPLIES: washable ink pads, sheet of paper (1 per kid), wet wipes, coloring utensils, magnifying glass (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Fingerprint Animals Sheet

Ahead of time, print the Fingerprint Animals Sheet. Set out washable ink pads and give each kid a sheet of paper. Show the Fingerprint Animals Sheet which includes examples of fingerprint animals they can make. Show the kids how to place their fingers on the ink pad and then onto their papers to make a fingerprint. Use wet wipes to clean their fingers.



God made each of us in His image! He created us unique and special.

Look at your fingerprint. It isn't like anyone else's fingerprint.

Have the kids go around the room and compare their fingerprints. Point out the differences in each. You could even let the kids look at the prints under a magnifying glass for extra fun.

After the kids compare prints, display the Fingerprint Animals Sheet which includes examples of fingerprint animals they can make. Pass out coloring utensils and encourage the kids make more fingerprints on their papers and decorate the fingerprints to look like animals.

To create means to make something. You created animals out of your fingerprints. God created real animals, and He created you! We'll learn about it in our story today.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Tac the Cat Picture or puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

Introduce the kids to Tac the curious cat.

Leader: You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! I have something I've been curious about ... Do you want to guess what it is? It's something very tall.

Leader: A building?

Tac the Cat: No, it's something that grows outside.

Leader: Oh, trees?

Tac the Cat: Close, but these are a little smaller than trees and bright yellow. It's a type of flower. Some birds like to eat their seeds!

Leader: Oh, I know—a sunflower!

Tac the Cat: Yes, that's what I'm curious about! Sunflowers! How do they grow so big without falling over?

Leader: Sunflowers are fun to look at. They make me smile! They grow big and tall because they have a thick stem and roots that go down into the dirt that help them stand up straight and tall. They're an amazing creation that God made.



Tac the Cat: God made sunflowers?

Leader: Yes, God made all the plants and animals in the earth. We'll learn all about it in God's big story today!

Tac the Cat: I love sunflowers. I love all the flowers! Kids, do you have a favorite plant that God created? (Allow the kids to respond.)

Leader: There are so many wonderful things that God made. He created the sun and moon, the mountains and oceans, the trees and bushes, apple trees and blueberry bushes, roses and sunflowers. He created every animal. What's your favorite animal?

Tac: Mine is pretty clear ... cats! Kids, do you have a favorite animal that God created? (Allow the kids to respond.) I can't wait for this story! I'm going to go pick some flowers now. See you later!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What things in nature are you curious about? Allow the kids to respond. **There are lots of things in nature that we can be curious about. What's the prettiest thing in nature that you've ever seen?** Allow the kids to respond. **In today's God's big story, we'll hear about how God created all the flowers and animals. Not only that—He created you and me extra special!**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE**. Today we'll discover how God made us in His image!

Declaring God's Wonder

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

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

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

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

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

Put your hands on your hips.

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

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

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

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

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

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

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

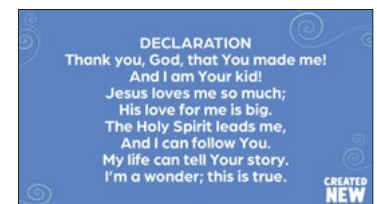
March in place like you're following the leader.

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

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

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

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





Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for making each of us special and unique. Thank You for making us in Your image. Help us reflect Your love to everyone we see today. Help us hear from You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

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

Today we'll learn about how God made us in His image. Let's sing and think about how God created us!

Play songs from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: tape, shatter-proof mirror

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Days of Creation Sheets, [Creation God's Big Story Video](#)

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

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

The first book in the Bible is Genesis. It tells the start of God's big story. God's big story is about how He loves and wants to be close with His people. In the very beginning, God created everything. First, everything was dark.

God said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). And light came. God created the first day and night.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

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

In the beginning, there was no sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants. The world was beautiful and good, and the first humans walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin messed up creation and people's relationship with God. God promises that one day He will fix all things and make them right again. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be made new, and sin will be gone forever!

Word of Wonder

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

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

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle. Practice the Word of Wonder together as a group several times.

Hand out whiteboard and a dry-erase markers to each kid (or sheets of paper and markers). If you don't have dry-erase boards for each kid, you could give each kid a laminated sheet of paper to use.

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

Just like God made His creation perfect and new.



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

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

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

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

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

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



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1–2**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17**Circle Time: Pass the Reflection****SUPPLIES:** small shatter-proof mirror

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

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

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

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

Craft: Clay Creations

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Active Game: Reflecting in Action

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Responding in Worship: God Made Me Chalk Drawings

SUPPLIES: black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), chalk (various colors)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Day 6 picture from the Days of Creation Sheets from God's Big Story (optional)

At the beginning, the Bible says, “The earth didn’t have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves” (Genesis 1:2). Is that how our world looks today? Allow responses. Now we have colors, and clouds, and flowers, and birds, and monkeys, and most importantly, we are here! God made people!

Give the kids the black construction paper and chalk. We’re going to remember what God made by drawing on this paper, which reminds us of all God did when He created the world.

To begin, you can draw a picture of yourself in the middle of the page. God made you in His image. You’re special to Him. No one else is like you. Then you can fill in the areas around yourself by putting in some of the favorite things you enjoy and that describe you. Is there anything in nature that you love, such as the stars or sun, mountains, ocean, flowers, or animals? You can draw that on the paper too. As you create your picture and fill the blank space, thank God for creating everything. He’s the master Creator.

Give the kids time to draw pictures using the chalk. When the kids finish, you can display the pictures in your room. If you used the Days of Creation Sheets for God's Big Story, you can add the drawings near the Day 6 picture.



Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for creating our world. At the end of the prayer, thank Him for making us in His image.

We’re going to pray and thank God for His creation. When I say it’s your turn, you can name some things God created, and we’ll thank Him. Let’s pray and talk to God.

God, thank You for creating our world. Thank You for creating ... (call on a few kids and encourage them to name things God has created). **Thank You, God, for making people, and thank You for making us! Thank You for making us in Your image. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God made the flowers and trees, the birds, and the world, and He made you and me! May you always remember that God made you special and in His image. Never forget how special you are to God and how much He loves you!

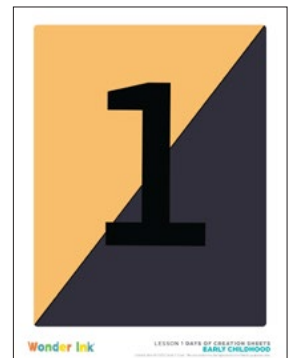
Closing Game: Creation Charades

SUPPLIES: basket

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Days of Creation Sheets

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

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



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

LESSON 1

CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

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

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

Object Lesson: Stuffed Animal

Activity: Mirror Reflections

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Play Dough Creations

Wonder@Home™

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

Object Lesson: Stuffed Animal

SUPPLIES: various types of stuffed animals or animal toys

Set out a variety of stuffed animals or animal toys.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! In God's big story today, we'll hear about how God created the world and everything in it. Let's look at the animals and pretend to be each one. As I hold up each stuffed animal, shout, "Yes!" if God created that animal. Then we'll all pretend to be that animal.

Hold up each stuffed animal and tell the kids whether God created it, then encourage them to pretend to be each animal. Let the kids play with the stuffed animals and talk with them about how God created animals.

Activity: Mirror Reflections

SUPPLIES: shatter-proof handheld mirror

I have something that will help us think about our story today. Who do you see? Hold up the mirror to each kid and let him look in it to see his reflection. Say, **"I see (child's name) in the mirror!"**

Take turns letting the kids look into the mirror while doing different actions. You can encourage them to smile or make a silly face while looking in the mirror.

It's fun to look at our images in the mirror, isn't it? Today we're going to learn how we're kind of like a mirror reflection of God because we were made by God in His image!

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

MADE US—Point to yourself.

IN HIS IMAGE—Hands out in front of you.

Worship

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

Let's sing a worship song to God together!

Today we're learning that God made us in His image. We'll learn in the God's big story how God created people—you and me!

Play songs from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Days of Creation Sheets, [Creation God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Before the kids arrive, print the Days of Creation Sheets.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about how God created the world and made people in His image. Let's find out from the Bible what happened!

View the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

We're learning that God created the world and everything in it.

Turn the lights off.

On the first day, God made light. Turn the lights on. Hold up the Day 1 picture.

On the second day, God separated the sky and water. Let's pretend to look up at the sky and swim. Hold up the Day 2 picture.

On the third day, God created the land and plants. Let's pretend to be trees or flowers. Hold up the Day 3 picture.

On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Let's pretend to be twinkling stars. Hold up the Day 4 picture.

On the fifth day, God made birds and fish. Everyone pretend to fly like a bird. Hold up the Day 5 picture.

On the sixth day, God made animals, insects, and people. Let's pretend to be your favorite animal. Then stand tall and point to yourself, because God made people! Hold up the Day 6 picture. God made Adam and Eve. He made them in His image—that means people show what God is like.

On the seventh day of creation, God rested. He said everything He created was good. Let's lie down and pretend to rest. Hold up the Day 7 picture.

We're special because God made us in His image so we can show what God is like and have a relationship with Him.



Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

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

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

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

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

Prayer and Blessing

Let’s talk to God. We’ll tell God, “Thank You” for making us. When I say, “Thank You!” jump up and clap your hands and shout, “Thank You” to God!

God, thank You (kids respond) for creating us and making us in Your image. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God made the flowers and trees, the birds, and the world, and He made you and me! May you always remember that God made you special and in His image. Never forget how special you are to God and how much He loves you!

Activity: Play Dough Creations

SUPPLIES: play dough

Set out play dough and encourage kids to make their own creations. While they play, ask them if they can make a flower and then ask them who made the flowers.

Repeat with other things God made such as stars, sun, moon, people, birds, trees, animals, etc.

Today we learned how God created the world. He created stars and animals and flowers. He also created you and me! We’re special because He made us in His image.



Leader Tip: Watch young toddlers carefully to make sure they don’t put play dough in their mouth or make messes.



PLAY

Show the baby some empty eggs and empty baskets. **We're learning today about something that was empty because Jesus was alive!** Fill a toy box or basket with small toys and encourage the baby to "empty" it by tossing them all on the floor. Roll empty eggs to older babies. **We're celebrating today that Jesus is alive!** Encourage babies to clap and cheer.

BIBLE

Sit on the floor with the babies and open a Bible. Hold up a cross shape. **Jesus died on a cross even though He didn't do anything wrong. People put His body in a tomb, like a cave.** Hold up a basket. **When they came back ... they got a surprise!** Read Luke 24:1–6. **The tomb was empty! Jesus wasn't there because He was alive. He's still alive!** Show the empty basket.

PRAY

God, we thank You that Jesus died and rose to life again so that we can be forgiven and made new. We praise You and celebrate Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SING

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Jesus is alive.
I'm gonna shout it out.
Jesus is alive.
I'm gonna shout it out.
Jesus is alive.
I'm gonna shout it out.
Shout it out, shout it out, shout it out.

WONDER TRUTH

Jesus Is Alive!

JESUS—*Hands out to sides (make a cross).*
IS ALIVE!—*Praise hands; cheering.*

BLESSING

Speak this blessing over the babies in your ministry:

Jesus is alive! May you know that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is for you too. Jesus died for you because He loves you.