

GOD *the* Creator

 Listen in Community

Overview

Our God is the Almighty God who created everything. He created the sun, moon, stars, and everything beyond the earth. He also created plants, animals, people, and everything on the planet. But you and I were created uniquely—in His image and likeness. He lovingly designed us with an individual plan and a purpose for our lives. He is the ultimate Creator, and we are His loved creation.

Bible Lesson:

Story of Creation
Genesis 1:1–31; 2:7

Faith Fact


God is my Creator.

Faith Verse

*"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
~Psalm 119:11 (NLT)*

Order of Service

Preservice Activities

 Large Group – 20 Minutes

- Bible Lesson & video
- Worship
- Faith Verse Video
- Wrap-Up

Supplies and Preparation

🕒 Total Run Time: 60 minutes

You Will Need:

Large Group

- Bible
- Worship songs (Song suggestions: “*Unstoppable God*” by Elevation Worship, “*Real Love*” by Hillsong Young and Free, “*This Is Amazing Grace*” by Phil Wickham, “*Neverending*” by David Crowder Band)
- Response time song (Song suggestions: “*The Stand*” by Hillsong United, “*10,000 Reasons*” by Matt Redman, “*Our God*” by Chris Tomlin, “*So Will I (100 Billion X)*” by Hillsong United)
- **Animal Charades** page, one per group
- Plastic cups, one per group
- A phone or tablet for videos and images. If larger group, use the following:
 - Projector or TV
 - Laptop
 - Listen Lab Rules video or slide
 - Faith Fact Slide 1.2
 - Listen Kids Video 1.2A
 - Listen Kids Video 1.2B

Small Group

- Bibles, one per leader and small group leader
- **Animal Designs** page, one per kid
- Crayons or markers for each group

Getting Ready:

Large Group

- For each small group: Cut up **Animal Charades** page. Mix up the pieces and place them in the plastic cup.

Small Group

- Gather the **Animal Design** pages, one per kid, and markers or crayons for each group.


First time leading *Listen Elementary*? Check out the Leader Helps.

Large Group

🕒 (30 minutes)

(See supplies and preparation above.)

Introduction

 (3 minutes)

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here! Have you ever taken a moment to look around and really think about why we're here on earth? What's our purpose? What about animals? Have you ever wondered why dogs were created? How about giraffes? Or mosquitoes? Why, oh why, were spiders created? What about your favorite animal? Shout out what that is. (*Group response*)

Today, we're going to explore why the world and everything in it was made. And that includes us! In fact, our Faith Fact today is **God is my Creator!** Can you say that with me on the count of 3? 1, 2, 3. (*God is my Creator!*)



Show the Faith Fact Slide.

Rules

Great job! Who wants to have fun today? (*Group response*) I want to have fun too. Before we get started, we need to make sure that we all know the rules.



Play Listen Lab Rules video.

Game

 (3 minutes)

Team Charades

You Will Need:

- **Animal Charades** page, one per group
- Plastic cups, one per group

Getting Ready:

- Download, print, and cut up the **Animal Charades** page, one per group. Mix up the papers in the cups, so the groups aren't guessing the same animals at the same time.

Now that we've talked about what we're going to explore today, who wants to play a game?
(*Group response*)

We're going to have some fun as we find out more about God and His creation. I need one actor from each group. Leaders, please choose your volunteer. (*Pause while someone stands up in each group.*)

Actors, when we begin, you are going to draw a piece of paper out of your team's cup. There is the name of an animal on the paper. You will act out the animal until your team guesses what it is. When they get it right, you can draw another slip of paper. Keep acting until time is up. The group with the most correct guesses in one minute wins!

But wait! There's one rule: the actors can't make any noise while acting. No animal sounds are allowed, only motions. Are you ready to play? Here we go!



Play Countdown video.

- *Time for one minute. When time is up, determine who wins.*
- *Play again if kids are interested and you still have slips left.*

That was so much fun! Now it's time to jump up and get ready to praise Jesus! Are you ready? Get on your feet; here we go!

Worship

(4 minutes)

Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the top of the session.

Bible Lesson & Videos

(13 minutes)



Logo/Intro slide

Have you ever wondered why you're here on earth? There are times I've wondered that myself. And I know the best place to look to find the answer. Do you know what it is? (Group response) It's in God's Word, also known as the Bible. (Hold up your Bible.) Before we get started in God's Word, let's take a moment to pray and invite God to be with us.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for choosing to create our world. Help us to know You more as we learn from the Bible. Amen.

Bible Story

Today we are going to find out about our amazing Creator, God. But first, let's check in with Dash and Austin.



Listen Kids Video 1.2A

Did watching this make you think about the food you would create? (Group response) Three ingredients isn't very many to make a new super meal, but God created our whole world with less than that. Let's look at what the Bible says.

(*Open the Bible to Genesis 1.*) Today, we're going to read from the very first chapter in the Bible. If you think you know the first three words in the Bible, turn to the person beside you and tell them what they are. (Group response) If you said, "In the beginning," you're right! The very first thing the Bible tells us is that God created both the heavens and the earth. Then the next verse tells us what it looked like before creation started. (*Read Genesis 1:2.*)

Day 1

Everyone, close your eyes. Can you see anything? (Group response) The Bible says the world was dark and shapeless. God's Spirit was moving over the waters. Imagine if we had been there. We probably couldn't see God's Spirit, but maybe we can see the imprint of His presence, a gentle wind (*blow gently*), or the waters rippling in response.

Keep your eyes closed for a little longer. Here's what happened next. God spoke and said, "Let there be . . ." Does anyone know what He made? Shout it out. (*light*)



Show Light slide

Light! Open your eyes!

Just like you immediately saw light when you opened your eyes, there was light then too. God called the light, "Day" and the darkness, "Night." Then, do you know what God said? He said that it was good. That was the first day.

Days 2 and 3

We might think that the sun was God's source of light. We can't imagine our world without the sun. But we'll find out that the sun hadn't been created yet. God doesn't need the sun to have light outside like we do. Isn't that amazing? Our creative God is powerful. He doesn't work the way we think or in the order we think He should.

On the second day, God separated the waters in the heavens from the waters on the earth. He made the sky!



Show Sky and Water slide

On the third day, God made land, trees, plants, and all sorts of vegetation. That's a lot of stuff He made in those two days!



Show Vegetation slide

Day 4

Let's take a look in the Bible at what happened on the fourth day. Let's read Genesis 1:14–16.



Show Solar System slide

Remember that I said God made light *before* He made the sun, moon, and stars? Well, on the fourth day, God made all the stars in the universe. That means that He made our solar system on the fourth day. He made all the planets in our galaxy. Did you know that our Milky Way Galaxy has 250 billion stars?



Show Galaxy slide

But our galaxy is small compared to the whole universe. There are approximately one hundred billion galaxies. Scientists tell us that the universe is still expanding. In our observable universe, there are approximately one billion trillion stars. That is one with twenty-one zeroes after it. God's command to make the stars continues to expand to this day!



Add 1 billion trillion numeral over stars.

In Isaiah, the Bible says that the universe was measured by the palm of God's hand. Hold up your hand. (Pause while kids respond.) Now think about how big you would have to be for the universe to fit in your hand. That's the size of our God!

Day 5

Let's move forward one more day in creation. We find that God created the birds and sea creatures on the fifth day.



Show Birds and Fish slide

Can you tell me the names of some of the birds? (*Allow responses.*) That's just a few of the ten thousand known species of birds living on earth today.

Now, name some sea creatures. (*Allow responses.*) There are approximately one million species living in the ocean.

Day 6

That doesn't even count the animals on land yet! On the sixth day, God created animals to walk around on the earth.

Show Animals slide

There are about 8.7 million different species of animals on earth. But that's not all. There are also ten quintillion insects alive right now. God created all of these with just a word!

God is so creative! Do you know that there is a creature called the dung beetle? The dung beetle eats and processes dung. Raise your hand if you know what that is. (*Group response*)

Show Dung Beetle slide

(*Choose the appropriate answer for your audience.*) It's poop! That's what it's sitting on in this picture. Yuck!

I couldn't be God, I'm not creative enough! You couldn't be God. You're not creative enough. Together, we aren't creative enough! But God wasn't done creating!

On the sixth day, God also made human beings.

Show Dirt slide

He formed dust together. Then He made the first person with His hands. Carefully, He shaped Adam out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him.

God made people to be like Him. God made us to have a spiritual nature. We can make choices. We can reflect the nature of God. Best of all, God wants us to know and love Him. Isn't that amazing? (*Group response*)

Show People slide

Do you think God was done creating after that? (*Group response*) No, He wasn't. God saw that it was not good for man to be alone.

Show Rib X-Ray slide

So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He pulled a rib out from Adam. Raise your hand if you know what God made next. (*Group response*) God formed a woman, whom Adam later named Eve.

Could God have made her from the dust just like He did with Adam? (*Group response*) Absolutely! But our God is creative. He doesn't do things the exact same way every time. God made Adam and Eve, and the whole human race came from them.

Teaching Time

God is incredibly large, astronomically powerful, and unbelievably creative. Nothing compares to Him! This same large, powerful, and creative God made you to be exactly the person you are! He made you to be like Him. Every single person who has ever been born was made on purpose!

Did you know our God knows you and knows me by name? The Bible says in Matthew 10:30 that He knows the number of hairs on your head! He knows every tear that you have cried. He knows this because of His great and amazing love for you.

Best of all, He wants us to be in relationship with Him. God wants us to know Him and love Him the way He knows and loves us. That's why our Faith Verse is so important. It reminds us to know God's Word, the Bible, so we can stay close to God. Say it with me.

 Faith Verse slide

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
~Psalm 119:11 (NLT)

God made us to love Him and to know Him. We can show love to Him through our words, actions, attitudes, and behavior. When we think about our incredibly large, astronomically powerful, and unbelievably creative God, our response should be worship because God is our Creator.

Prayer and Response

 (5 minutes)

Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the top of the session


Let's worship Him now. During this time of prayer and worship, I want you to think about our big and creative God. Close your eyes. Think about how powerful He is. Then think about how small we are compared to Him. This same God chooses to love you. He wants you to know Him and love Him. We're going to pray. I want you to talk to God, your Creator, and thank Him for the world He created. Then tell Him how much you love Him.

(Give kids time to pray. Then introduce the worship song. This could play in the background while kids pray or could be a worship song to sing together.)

Worship Song

(Song suggestions: "The Stand" by Hillsong United, "10,000 Reasons" by Matt Redman, "Our God" by Chris Tomlin, "So Will I (100 Billion X)" by Hillsong United)

Wrap Up Video

 (2 minutes)

Before we go to our small group activities, let's check in to see how Dash and Austin's challenge is going.



Listen Kids Video 1.2A

I'm not sure I'd be willing to try their creations. How about you? (*Group response*) The reminder to spend time thanking God for the things He's created is great though. We can all do that! Thanks for a great time learning about God together.

Dismiss kids to small group time (or to go home if your group time ends here).