3rd and 4th GRADERS » Leader Guide » Spring 2010

Bible Teaching for Kids

MARCH: In the Beginning
APRIL: Jesus, the Savior
MAY: Family Living

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| Week of March 7 | **The Creation**  
Genesis 1–2:3 | In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
*Genesis 1:1*  
I can know that God created the world from nothing. |
|---|---|---|
| Week of March 14 | **In God’s Image**  
Genesis 2:4-24 | God created man in His own image.  
*Genesis 1:27*  
I can praise God for creating me in His image. |
| Week of March 21 | **A Wrong Choice**  
Genesis 3 | Do what is right and good in the LORD’s sight.  
*Deuteronomy 6:18*  
I can make good choices. |

NOTE: Because March 28 is Palm Sunday, the March 28 session is included in the April unit of Bible study.

Enhance this unit of Bible study with these helpful items from the Levels of Biblical Learning collection:

- God’s Creation Quick Scene Bulletin Board Set (005191582)
- God’s Creation Foam Shapes (005191525)
- Creation Stickers (005191541)
- God’s Creation Stickers (005191555)
- Caring for God’s World Bookmarks (005191777)
- Creation Bookmarks (005191786).
## Personal Bible Study

*Study before you teach. Let God prepare you to teach His Word.*

- No matter what Bible version you use, almost all begin with these words: “In the beginning God . . .”

- The word translated “formless” is the Hebrew word *tohu* and means “formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness” and has been translated as “chaos, confusion, desolation, meaningless, or futile things.”

- God didn’t just create the world. He gave a cosmic object lesson of what He can do.

- On the surface, just reading the words of Genesis 1 is like surviving a hurricane and saying, “It was windy.” For just a moment meditate on the enormity of what happened.

- Hold a blank sheet of paper in your hand. Now make something out of it. The possibilities could have me staring into space for hours. And to think I started with something—God began with nothing.

- God spoke and all the details came instantly to completion. At His command there were colors, textures, circulatory systems, brain functions, and planet rotations that are so set and predictable that their locations in the sky have served as GPS devices long before computers.

- God was not surprised by any of it. And each and every thing was declared “Good!” by the One who created it.

- Now consider the orderliness of God’s well-constructed plan. Creation was built from the first rays of light to land foundations to a full-blown ecosystem. With each living element of creation, God designed and directed its purpose.

- Every “theory” that counters the biblical account of creation is just that—theory that cannot be proven by any scientific method.

- On the seventh day God rested. When I was a child, Sundays were predictable: Sunday School, worship, lunch, Mom and Dad took a nap. (We had to play quietly.)

- Today Sunday looks more like just another day. The root of the word *shabbat* is “cease and desist” type rest. I think we are missing God’s message.

- God’s plan includes a day to “cease and desist” from the average, ordinary daily upkeep that is our life routine. God blessed and declared this day as set apart from the others. It is God’s invitation to stop what we’re doing and concentrate on Him.

- The kids you teach may be coming from a variety of experiences. You have the opportunity to focus on the awesomeness of God and the truth in His Word. Lead the children you teach to praise God the Creator and celebrate His wonderful creation.
Session at a Glance

1 PREVIEW the Bible Study
(until time for Sunday School to begin)
Kids will make lists of things created by God and things created by people.

2 POWER UP for the Bible Study (5-10 minutes)
Groups of children will create objects from recyclable items.

3 PLUG IN to Bible Study (25-30 minutes)
Children will illustrate the Bible story, sing, pray,
learn ways to take care of the earth, learn the memory verse, and review the Bible story.

4 PERSONALIZE the Bible Study
(25-30 minutes)
Choice 1: Creation Book
Choice 2: Earth Balloon Balls
Choice 3: Toss and Tell Game

1 PREVIEW the Bible Study
for kids who arrive early—Take advantage of this extra teaching time.

- Ask early arrivers to make a list of things God created and a list of things people created.

Talking Points
➢ Which list was easier to make?
➢ While people do invent new things, God is the creator of everything. He provides inventors materials with which to work.

2 POWER UP for Bible Study
a fun, 5-10 minute activity to focus kids’ attention on the Bible study for the day—Start at the time designated by your church for Sunday School to start.

- Form groups of three to five kids.
- Distribute the supplies to the groups. Challenge each group to make an object out of the supplies it received.
- Allow groups to guess what the other groups created.

Talking Points
➢ What do the types of items you used to create your objects have in common?
➢ Why did each creation look different?
➢ How did you decide what you would create?
➢ Today you used items that people made.
➢ You created something with items that were given to you, while God created the world from nothing.
➢ Creating something from nothing is a miracle.

PREVIEW the Bible Study

- paper
- pencils

POWER UP for Bible Study

- recyclable items such as paper towel rolls, newspaper, cans, and empty water bottles
- tape

Plug In to Bible Study

- tape
3 PLUG IN to Bible Study

a time to study, memorize, and relate to the Bible

1 The Bible says

- Display the “March Title Banner” and introduce the unit.
- Distribute paper and pencils. Invite kids to draw in each segment of the paper the creation you describe in the Bible story.
- Ask kids to wait until they hear you say, “Draw” before they begin.

**God Created the World**

In the beginning there was only God. God created the heavens and the earth. Before creation, there was nothing; everything was dark and had no form. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day and the darkness night. This was the first day of creation. [Draw.]

Then God separated the waters, making a large area above the waters. He called the area above the waters sky. This was the second day. [Draw.]

Next God gathered the waters together to make seas. Dry land appeared. God saw that His creation was good. He then made plants and trees so that there would be food. The plants and trees had seeds so they could fill the earth. This was the third day. [Draw.]

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the sky.” And it was so. God made the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night. He also made stars. This was the fourth day. [Draw.]

On the fifth day God filled the waters with sea creatures. He made every kind of creature that lives in the water. He filled the sky with every kind of bird. [Draw.]

Then God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of animal.” So God created every kind of animal and insect. God saw that His creation was good. But God was not finished with day six of creation. He said, “Let Us make man in Our own likeness. They will rule over all the creatures I have made.” So God created man and woman. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and take care of it. I have given you every kind of plant to be food for yourselves and the wildlife.” God saw everything He had made, and it was very good. [Draw.]

Finally God completed His work and He rested. This was the seventh day. God set apart the seventh day to be holy, dedicated to Him.

*Genesis 1–2:3*
2 Sing and pray
   • Lead kids to sing “Amazing Creator.”
   • Lead kids to pray a sentence prayer, allowing each child to thank God for one thing He created.

3 The Bible and me
   Talking Points
   ➤ God created the world from nothing.
   ➤ What things can you learn about God from this account of creation? (God is powerful, creative, orderly, and in control.)
   ➤ God told the man and the woman to care for His creation.
   ➤ God expects us to care for His creation, too.
   ➤ What are some ways you can care for God’s creation?

   • Direct kids to work the code in “Care For It” on the learner guide page.

4 Remember this
   • Guide kids to locate in their Bibles the very first verse.
   • Ask volunteers to read the verse aloud.
   • Lead the group to say the verse together.

   Talking Points
   ➤ People have different ideas about how the earth was created.
   ➤ It is important to know the truth about creation—that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

5 Review
   • Show the teaching picture.
   • Ask volunteers to name creations they see in the picture.
   • Guide kids to work “Which Day?” on the learner guide page.

6 Learn from the Bible
   • Guide kids to highlight in their Bibles the number of each day and what God created on that day.

7 Lead kids to Personalize activities
4 PERSONALIZE the Bible Study
Choose an activity to lead to help kids relate to the Bible truth.

Choice 1: Creation Book
- Invite boys and girls to make a large creation book for younger children to read.
  - Assign each child a day of creation to illustrate on the poster board.
  - Encourage children to include the Scripture reference and a short sentence at the bottom of each page of the book.
  - Let the group design the cover of the book together.
  - Assist the kids in assembling the book by punching holes down the left side of each page.
  - Demonstrate how to thread ribbon through the holes and tie it together at each hole.
- Help kids decide in which classroom they would like to place the book for younger children to read.

Talking Points
- By making this book you are telling younger children that God created the world from nothing. This is important information for them to know.
- What are some other ways you could share the real story of creation with others?

Choice 2: Earth Balloon Balls
- Invite kids to use the learner guide activity “Care for It” to create codes and let friends discover more ways to take care of God’s creation.
- Guide boys and girls to make earth balloon balls.
  - Stretch the balloon and attach a funnel to it by pulling the lip of the balloon over the tip of the funnel.
  - Pour split peas into the funnel. Shake the funnel and stretch the balloon so that the split peas slide into the balloon.
  - Tie off the balloon.
  - Decorate your balloon ball to resemble a globe.
  - Print the memory verse on the balloon ball.

Talking Points
- Each time you look at your balloon ball, remember that God created the world from nothing.
- Show your balloon ball to a friend and tell that friend that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth from nothing.
Choice 3: Toss and Tell Game
- Invite kids to use the learner guide activity “Care for It” to create codes and let friends discover more ways to take care of God’s creation.
- Lead the group to name as many ways as they can to take care of God’s world.
- Lead the group to play “Toss and Tell.”
  - Let each child take a turn tossing the beanbag or dropping the coin onto the gameboard.
  - Ask the child to identify the part of God’s creation landed on and tell a way to care for that part of God’s creation.
  - Play as time allows. A child who lands on a part of creation previously landed on must tell a different way to care for that part of creation.

Talking Point
- One way we can show that we thank God for His creation is by taking care of it.

Take It Home
- Only God can make something from absolutely nothing.
- God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.
- It is important to tell others that God created the world.
- It is important to take care of the world God created.