

God saw how good it was. (Genesis 1:12c)

God Creates Helpers – Genesis 2:10-23

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

Garden of Eden (Drawing)
Name the Animals (Creative Writing)
My Church Cares (Activity)
Paper Chain Helper (Craft)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Working Together (Game)
Peaceful Place (Response Activities)

WONDER MORE

Creation Cards (Matching)
Name Game (Game)
Unusual Animals (Science)
Care for the Grounds (Service Activity)

Supplies At-a-Glance

<i>crayons</i>	<i>paper</i>
<i>colored pencils</i>	<i>seeds</i>
<i>markers</i>	<i>small planters or pots</i>
<i>scissors</i>	<i>small cups</i>
<i>pencils</i>	<i>gardening tools</i>
<i>construction paper</i>	<i>gloves</i>
<i>clipboards</i>	<i>trash bags</i>
<i>gardening gloves</i>	

Suggested Books

You're Here for a Reason
by Nancy Tillman

Our Tree Named Steve
by Alan Zweibel

Tips for the Leader

- Be sure to welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them.
- Did you know the Celebrate Wonder videos are available on Amplify? Visit www.amplifymedia.com to learn more and start a free trial!
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Check in with children to see if they can remember this month's Bible verse!

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: CREATIVITY

God spent many days creating a beautiful world and, in that world, God created a beautiful garden filled with trees and plants of all kinds. The Bible story we read last week said the garden needed a caretaker, so God created a person named Adam. God recognized that the human was alone and wanted to make a change. God then formed new life. God does not simply create, but God brings to life. To be creative with God can therefore imply—when we create, we bring something new into the world.

The next human was then created. The new human was called “helper.” God is also often called “helper.” This reiterates God’s divinity within humanity, and our call to work together, side by side, to care for all of creation. The animals in the garden were helpful to Adam, but God became aware that the garden required more work than Adam could maintain. God created another person who could partner with Adam to care for the garden. Adam named the person Eve. Eve was created to be a partner to Adam, to be in relationship with him and share equally in caring for the garden and the earth.

As we bring this unit to a close, remind your children that God used creativity to create a world of beauty and a world of wonder. Encourage your children to create beauty with God in all they do and to always look for beauty in the world around them. Help your children know they are God’s children and that by being named a child of God, they are also responsible for doing God’s work. But we cannot do it alone. By working together, we can be creative helpers of God.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Experience God’s beautiful world with all your senses. Listen to the leaves rustle in the wind and the birds sing. Feel the wind on your face and the softness of the earth. See the brightness of the sun or the moon shining from the sky. Smell the pungent odor of wet leaves. Taste the crispness of cold water. As you go through your week, use your senses to remind you of the love God put in to creating the world.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Garden of Eden – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Garden of Eden" (Reproducible 4A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Garden of Eden."

SAY: God created humans, and asked the humans to work in the garden of Eden.

ASK: What kinds of plants and animals do you think were in the garden of Eden? What did the people look like?

- Have the children add the first people to the garden, then invite the children to color the page.

Name the Animals – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Name the Animals" (Reproducible 4B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Name the Animals."

SAY: God created many different kinds of animals, and asked the human to help name the animals.

ASK: What would you name a new animal you have never seen before?

- Encourage children to think of names for the animals and color the page.

My Church Cares – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, clipboards

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "My Church Cares" (Reproducible 4C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "My Church Cares," a pencil, and a clipboard.

SAY: God entrusted the care of the earth to humans. Let's explore our church to look for ways that we are caring for creation.

- Take the children to visit and evaluate places in your building and to fill in the chart.
- When the groups are finished, have the children return to your space and compare what they discovered.

Paper Chain Helper – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers construction paper, scissors,

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Paper Chain Helper" (Reproducible 4D) for each child. Cut construction paper into strips that are 6½ inches wide and 18 inches long.

SAY: God created the woman and man to be helpers for each other.

- Give each child a person template, construction paper strip, scissors, and markers.
- Tell the children to place the person template on a construction paper strip so that one hand is touching an edge and the feet are touching the bottom edge. Or they may draw a person shape freehand, making sure that the feet and one hand touch the edges of the paper. Have them accordion-fold the paper, with the inside hand at the fold. Have them cut out their person shape, cutting through all the folded pieces. When unfolded, the result should be a chain of people shapes.
- Have the children write on each shape the name of one person who helps them.

SAY: Now you have a reminder of all of the people God created who help you.

Tip: Have older children help younger children with this craft.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, gardening gloves

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p.22) to use later in the session. Place the gardening gloves inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we have heard the story of creation. God made the world and all that is in it. God used creativity to make a beautiful world for people to care for.

- We recommend reading stories from the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "God Creates Helpers" (pp. 18–19) from the storybook or read Genesis 2:10-23 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: God, thank you for creating a beautiful world for us to live in. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 4 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Why did God choose humans to help care for the earth?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 4F–4G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of the story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors, people made in Session 3 (Leader Guide p. 37)

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p.6) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22)

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *creativity*.

- Read the definition of creativity from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What does creativity mean to you?

SAY: God was creative in creating you and me. Let's add ourselves to God's creation.

- Have each child place the picture of themselves on the Wonder Mat.

SAY: God created each of us unique and special, and God made us to help care for the rest of God's creation.

WONDER together:

- ☐ What are ways you can help God take care of the earth?
- ☐ What are some things in the world that need our attention and care?
- ☐ What are ways that you see people helping and making a difference?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the gardening gloves.

ASK: How might these gloves help us care for God's creation?

Experience Wonder

Working Together – All Ages

- Assign each child a body part (head, arms [2 children], hands [2 children], legs [2 children], feet [2 children]). If you have more than nine children in class, add parts such as eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Call out the instructions for the children. The object of the game is to use the correct body parts to complete the action mentioned and to have the children work together.
- Use some of the following scenarios:
 1. Pick up a Bible.
 2. Sit down on the floor.
 3. Open and close the door.
 4. Spin in a circle.
 5. Say hello and goodbye to a friend.
 6. Clap your hands and shout amen.
 7. Stomp in place.
 8. Draw a picture.

Tip: You may make up instructions of your own choosing, depending on your space and the number of children in your group.

WONDER: How can we work together to do God's work in the world?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Genesis 1:12c Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Genesis in the Old or New Testament? (*Old*). Where is the Book of Genesis located in the Old Testament? (*first book*) In what chapter of Genesis is our verse located? (*1*) What is the verse number? (*12*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13). Read the verse together.

ASK: How does God feel about God's creation? How does God feel about you?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kid's Book 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, You're Here for a Reason by Nancy Tillman, Our Tree Named Steve by Alan Zweibel, paper, crayons, markers, seeds, dirt, small planters or pots, gardening tools, small cups, water

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Invite children to plant a seed in one of the planter or pots. Encourage children to water their seeds with a small cup of water.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Creation Cards

Supplies: "Days of Creation Sequencing Cards" made in Session 1

Prepare Ahead: Prepare two sets of Days of Creation Sequencing Cards (Reproducible 1A) by coloring them and cutting them out.

ASK: Do you remember all the things God created?

SAY: Tell me about God's creation and all of the beautiful things in it.

- Have the children take turns telling you of God's creation using one set of the cards.

WONDER: What do you think God did when God was all done creating?

- Bring in the other set of cards and play a matching game by turning all the cards face-down. When it is their turn, each child can turn over two cards to try to find a match. When they find a match, they can say, "It is good!"
- Play the game as long as time and interest allows.

Tip: If you have a larger group, prepare more sets of the "Days of Creation Sequencing Cards."

Early Elementary – Name Game

SAY: In the Bible story, God gave the man the task of naming the other living things.

WONDER: How do you think the man went about coming up with names?

SAY: Chances are he looked at the living things, observed their characteristics, and named them based on what they were like. Let's play a game where we will have to observe our classmates and guess who is being described.

- Have a child pick a classmate (but not tell who it is) and describe the classmate by saying: "I'm thinking of someone who (*insert a characteristic such as hair, eye, or clothing color*)."
- If no one guesses correctly, the child adds another characteristic.
- Let the other children raise their hands and take turns guessing who is being described. When a child guesses correctly, he or she becomes the describer. (Each child should be described only once. More than one turn as describer is allowed.)
- The correct guess should be affirmed by having the whole class shout cheerfully together the name of the child who was described.
- Continue until all children have been described and "named."

Older Elementary – Unusual Animals

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers,

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Unusual Animals" (Reproducible 4E) for each child.

SAY: God includes humans in creation. In our Bible story, we heard that the first human helped God name all the animals. Let's take a look at some of the most unusual animals and see what we would name them.

- Give each child a copy of "Unusual Animals."
- Look at the animals together. Have children come up with a name for each unusual animal and write it in the box. Younger children may need help writing their ideas.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their animal names.

Tip: If time allows, invite children to draw or create their own unusual animal on the back of their page.

Intergenerational Activity – Care for the Grounds

Supplies: gloves, trash bags, a safe outdoor space to clean up

Prepare Ahead: Get permission from the church to clean up your selected area. If possible, notify parents ahead of time so that the children can dress accordingly.

SAY: God gave humans responsibility for caring for the earth. Let's do something to show care for the earth at our church.

- Give each child gloves and a trash bag. Then go to your designated safe outdoor area and pick up trash.

Tip: If your church does not have an appropriate outdoor space, consider purchasing small plants, decorative pots, and potting materials so that the children can pot plants to decorate the church or classroom.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Creation Through Beauty

Supplies: several pairs of gloves or mittens

- Invite the children to sit in a circle.

SAY: Today we learned about helping God. We got to see that together we can be creative with God.

- Give each child one glove or a mitten. Have the children put on the gloves.

SAY: Imagine that the hand wearing the glove is God, and the other hand is yours.

- Have the children clasp their own two hands together, as you say a prayer.

PRAY: Creator God, thank you for inviting us to work with you to make the world a better place. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) and the Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 4F–4G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let's look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.