

God's Plan: 2 MAKE US!

Bible Story

The Creation Formulation

Genesis 1:1—2:2

Who made the world and who made me?

Bible Verse

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female." Genesis 1:1,27

God, who created the universe, made you and loves you.

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Creation.
2. TALK ABOUT why God created people.
3. THANK God for things He created.
4. CHOOSE to become a member of God's family, as the Holy Spirit leads.

Spark Principle—Gravity

When He made the world, God created all the scientific laws that govern it—laws like gravity.



Sun

God said, "Let there be light." This is how the sun was sparked to life.

The sun represents this first phase of God's plan, the creation of the world and humankind. When you see a sun shape, you can remember that God not only created the universe but He also created you and loves you.



Heart Prep by Henrietta Mears

The design of the Bible is to reveal God's plan in the creation of the world and its redemption from sin by Jesus Christ. Let us begin where the Bible begins and trace the marvelous unfolding of His plan. As we see God's plan unfold, let us keep in mind that He is the divine architect. The plan of the ages is a great and wonderful plan. It is comprehensive and complete; the God who made it is greater than His plan.

We look around us at the universe that the Lord has created. We see its beauty. We look through a telescope and we are made aware of the immensity of God's universe. We use a microscope and we are made aware of the detail and the intricacy of the universe. And our new awareness serves only to make us wonder how we fit into the whole marvelous work. But we have a place. And that place is made for us by the fact that God who made all things loves us and wants us to know Him.

We come to know Him through His creation. But it is so great, it awes us. We come to know Him through the Bible and we see that God is holy and we are sinful. We come to know Him through the Lord Jesus Christ and we learn that He loves us and wants us to be with Him for all eternity. He wants this so much that He has provided a way of salvation for us so that we will be fit to dwell with Him.

We look at the universe and say, "Oh Lord, how great Thou art." Then we look at the cross and say, "Wonder of wonders, He loves even me."

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What worked well today? What truth did you discover from God's Word?
- As you prepare for Session 2, ask God to help you focus on Jesus during the busy VBS schedule.
- Be prepared to tell about a time when knowing a particular Bible verse helped you do right instead of sin.

Materials

Optional Bible Story materials listed on page 12.

Bibles



Lab Journal



Session 1 Daily Plan Pennant



Session 1 Bible Story Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack



two chairs



markers



Tell the Bible Story

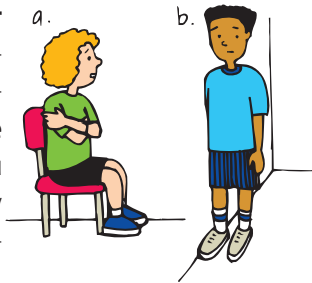
Preparation: Mark Genesis 1 in your Bible. (Optional: Use Post-it Notes to mark Bible.)

Place two chairs near where you will be leading the Story Starter activity.

Story Starter

Welcome to SonSpark Labs! Here we explore the incredible universe God has made. God made many rules to keep His universe working. Those rules are called "laws." Guess what! One of those laws is acting on your body right now! Let's discover how this law works.

Divide group into two teams. Ask a volunteer from each team to sit in a chair, feet together and arms folded (sketch a). **Now try to stand up without leaning forward or moving your hands.** After a moment, encourage them, saying, **I'll give five dollars to you if you stand up!** Allow a few moments more for volunteers to try standing.



(Amy and Gabe) weren't able to stand up because of the law God made that's working on all of us right now. If you know the name of the law, say it now! Volunteers respond. **It's gravity!** Every person or object has what is called a "center of gravity." The person's weight is evenly balanced around that point. Our muscles must overcome



the force pulling on that center of gravity for us to change positions. Because (Amy and Gabe) didn't have their legs directly under them, they couldn't create enough force to stand up.

Let's see if someone else can break the force. Additional volunteers try the position shown in sketch b, trying to lift left foot while pressing the right side of body against a wall.

When God created Earth, He made it just right for us to live here. He designed our bodies to work in Earth's gravity. What would happen to us if there were no gravity? Volunteers respond. **In our Bible story, we'll discover just WHY God was so careful with His creation. Hold up Bible and open to bookmark. Our story is from the Bible. The Bible is God's Word, so we know that it's true! Today's story is from the book of Genesis. Genesis is the first book in the Bible, and our story begins at the very beginning of Genesis, the beginning of the Bible and the beginning of the world!**

Bring the Bible Story to Life!

Before the session begins, gather objects or print pictures off the Internet to represent the following key words from the story: a sun for "daytime"; a night sky or moon for "night"; a blue, cloudy sky for "sky"; landscape photo for "land"; star; snail; man for "he" and woman for "she."

As you tell the story, hold up the object or picture, or do the motion as described to the right of the story for each of the gold-colored words.

Large Group Tip: Since objects and pictures can be hard to see in a large group setting, project images of the objects onto large screens in your storytelling center.



The Creation Formulation

Genesis 1:1—2:2

God Creates the Earth

In a time called “the beginning”—a long, long, time ago—
God decided He would make a world. There wasn’t one, you know!

At first, everything was cold and dark. God said, “Let there be light!”
He called the light the **daytime**, and the darkness He called **night**.

Above the earth God stretched a space for miles and miles on high.
He filled it with some puffy clouds and called this space the **sky**.

Then God took all the waters of the earth into His hand.
He filled the seas and rivers, and He shaped and formed the **land**.

But everything looked empty, and God wanted things to grow.
“Let trees and plants and flowers appear!” God said—and it was so!

And then God filled the sky with lights. He started with the sun.
He made the moon and lots of **stars** and named them—every one!

God Creates Living Creatures

God made the ocean creatures next—the eels and sharks and whales,
The turtles, crabs, the tuna fish—and even little **snails**!

He made the birds who spread their wings and swooped along so high—
Blue jays, eagles, hummingbirds and parrots filled the **sky**!

But wait! There’s more! God still had room for creatures large and **small**—
For mice and bugs and tall giraffes and cats and dogs and all!

God Creates People

Although the world was perfect, all God’s work was not quite done.
Something still was missing—or, better said, SOMEONE.

So God created people, male and female, **“he”** and **“she”**;
And He made them in His image, so His special friends they’d be.

They weren’t like the other creatures God had fashioned up ‘til then.
These two would care for all He’d made and love and talk with **Him**.

And then, at last, God rested. Now He wants us all to know—
He made the world and everything! I’m glad He loves us so!

Hold up sun; hold up moon.

Hold up sky.

Hold up landscape.

Hold up star.

Hold up snail.

Hold up sky.

Hold hands close together.

Hold up man; hold up woman.

Point up to indicate God.



Conclusion

God has a plan for you, me and everyone. We can hear about this plan by reading God's Word, the Bible. Every day at SonSpark Labs, we're going to talk about one part of God's plan.

Today's Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 2 MAKE Us!" God carefully and purposefully created Earth as a home for people who would know Him and love Him. YOU are here because God loves you and wants you to love Him, too.

Skit Option

As a fun alternative or supplement to this Bible story, ask leaders, youth helpers or other volunteers to perform "In the Beginning" Bible story skit in *ShowTime! Assemblies*.



Our Bible verse for today, Genesis 1:1,27 says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female." God made us and He loves us! God wants us to know and love His Son, Jesus.



God sent Jesus to Earth to teach people how to love God. Jesus made the way for us to become members of God's family. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of God's family, there are people here at SonSpark Labs who care about you and would be happy to talk with you. Invite children interested in knowing more about becoming members of God's family to talk with you or another leader after class. See "Leading a Child to Christ," (p.1).

Prayer

God made this world to show His love for us. What are some things God made that you are thankful for? Begin prayer by saying, **God, we thank You for . . .** Pause for volunteers to name things God created. Conclude prayer by thanking God for loving us and creating us.

Family Fun

The *Parent Pocket Guide* (available from Gospel Light) contains information about each session's Bible Story, Bible Verse, Q&A and more! There are discussion questions parents can use to get the whole family talking about the Bible truths kids are exploring at SonSpark Labs. Also included are fun activities families can choose to complete together after each session.



Apply the Bible Story

Bible Story Review

To review the Bible Story, lead children to complete “Who Made the World and Who Made Me?” activity on page 2 of the *Lab Journal*. As children work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- ① **What are some of the things God made when He created the world?** (Light. Land. Water. Plants. Animals.)
- ① **Which of God’s creations was made in God’s image?** (People. Adam and Eve.)
- ① **Why do you think God made the world to have the things that we need?** (God loves us. God takes care of us.)

The question in today’s Q&A is “Who made the world and who made me?” After hearing our story, how would you answer that question? Volunteers respond. The Q&A answer is that “God, who created the universe, made you and loves you.” Why is it important to know that God made us? Volunteers respond. God loves each of us, and He made us to love Him, too. When we look at the animals and plants, the sun, moon and stars, we remember that God loves us. God made this world to show His love. God wants us to be close to Him, as Adam and Eve were!

Active Review

Play a game of Simon Says, giving instructions quickly so that most students are out in a short amount of time. When three or four students remain, ask one of the discussion questions above for them to answer. Repeat, asking a different question each time.

God’s Plan for Me (Life Application)

Today’s Bible verse is Genesis 1:1,27. Volunteer reads verse aloud from Bible. **What does this verse tell us God made?** (The heavens and the earth. A man and a woman.) **Each one of us has been especially created by God!**

Children complete “I’m So Glad” activity on page 3 of the *Lab Journal*. Ask questions such as these:

- ① **How did God show His love for us when He created the world, the animals and you?** (He made the sun so that we have heat and light. He gave animals ways to protect themselves. He made our bodies in amazing ways.)
- ① **What makes people different from the animals and plants God made?** (We can love God the way He loves us. We can think and talk. We can become members of God’s family.)
- ① **What are some other ways God shows love to you?** (Gives us food to eat. Gives us people to take care of us. Listens to our prayers. Gives us people to teach us about Jesus.)

What part of God’s plan are we talking about today? Pause for children to respond, “2 MAKE Us!” **We’re going to keep on discovering more about God’s plan. The formula for this plan is GP4U = J. This stands for “God’s Plan for You is Jesus!”**

Hold up Session 1 Daily Plan Pennant. **The sun we see today can remind us that God made the sun, the world and people—and that God made us and loves us!**

Today we’re discovering that God made us and loves us. Every day, we’ll learn more about how God loves us and how He showed this love by sending us His Son, Jesus.