

Creation

1) Ritual

Making the sign of the cross reminds us that we belong to God. God's seal is upon us and God's Spirit is in us. God has claimed us and loves us no matter what!

2) Check-in

Blessings and bruises; joys and struggles, highs and lows, or simply "How are you feeling today and what's happening with you right now?" If you can, take time to touch on the covenant you made last week.

3) Review the Story

Please invite your kids to use the box to record their first impressions from today's Bible story.

[Bible Story Notes \[Genesis 1\] Creation](#)

GOD'S BOTTOM LINE PROMISE

We are God's masterpiece. [Ephesians 2:20 NLT]

BREAK DOWN

God creates in a variety of ways. Primarily, God creates by speaking (for example, 1:9), sometimes followed by deeds of separation and other creative actions. God speaks with others and invites their participation in the creative process (divine beings, 1:26; earth and waters, 1:11-12, 20, 24). God uses that which is already created as raw material to bring still other creatures into being (for example, 2:7-8, 19, 22). God brings order to that which is already created (the earth, 1:2, 9). God creates some creatures out of nothing (1:14-16). This variety testifies to the complexities associated with God's creative activity; God does not have available just one way of bringing the creation into being. From the beginning, every creature is God's masterpiece, bears the mark of God, and has a home in God's cosmos. From the beginning, God invites God's creatures into God's creative process. [*Adapted from enterthebible.org*]

Videos: Genesis 1 Illustrated and Narrated:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbEZ4ldN0_s

The Story of Creation in context of the Book of Genesis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOUV7mWDI34>

4) Start with Sharing—I Made You Very Good

Kids are invited to claim and celebrate characteristics of themselves that are very good. Give kids 2 or 3 minutes to write responses then invite sharing. Sometimes sharing things you're proud of can be more vulnerable than other types of sharing. Remind kids each person and each story is a sacred part of God's story.

5) Side Bar—Did You Know?

Have four readers look up and read each creation story [Genesis 1, Genesis 2, Psalm 104, John 1]. Compare and contrast the stories. Invite kids to respond with their questions and observations.

6) Meditation—Be Still and Know

This meditation is designed to help kids see God's creation through God's eyes, to look out at the world with love and wonder, to be amazed and say, "Wow, this world IS very good."

7) Further Discussion—Back to the Story

If you have time, read the Bible verses and discuss the questions.

8) Pray and Bless

Bless your kids perhaps by giving thanks to God for the attributes they named in the beginning they felt were "very good." Naming gifts is a powerful blessing and encouragement.



The Story of Our People

STORY ONE: GOD CREATES THE UNIVERSE

Genesis 1

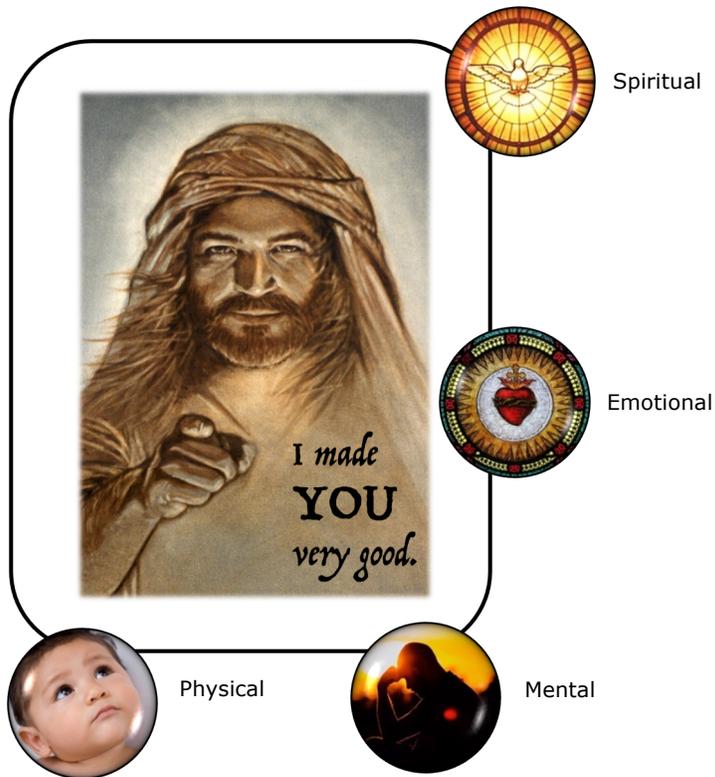
Write or draw about things you liked or learned from the story. What surprised you? What do you wonder about?

START WITH SHARING: God looked at what God had made. All of it was **very good!**
[Genesis 1:31] Next to each bubble note one part of you that is very good.



DID YOU KNOW?

There is more than one creation story in the Bible. In fact, there are at least four: Genesis 1, Genesis 2, Psalm 104, and John 1. Read all four. What is alike and different?



GOD'S BOTTOM LINE PROMISE:
"We are God's masterpiece."
[Eph 2:10 NLT]

Blessings & Bruises
How were you with God today?
How was God with you today?
Questions? Wonderings?
Write or draw here.

BE STILL AND KNOW

Have everyone get a partner.

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Breathe slowly. Notice the feeling of your breath coming in and out. Picture in your mind a place and time you felt awe or wonder observing the world. Maybe you were sitting by a lake or looking up at the sky or in a crowded city.

Imagine yourself in that place again.

After about a minute, talk with your partner.

- † What place did you imagine? What did it look like, sound like, smell like?
- † What did it feel like to be there?
- † What was awe-inspiring or wonderful?

BACK ←

→ **TO THE STORY**



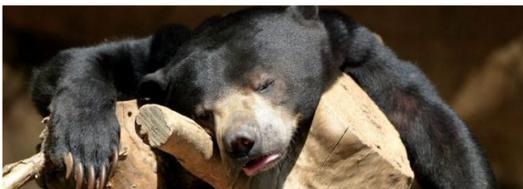
"So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them." Genesis 1:27 (NRSV)

What might it mean that God made us in God's image and likeness?



"God blessed them: 'Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.'" Genesis 1:28 (The Message)

What does it mean for us to be responsible for life on earth?



"By the seventh day God had finished working, and so God rested. God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day God rested from working." Genesis 2:2-3 (CEV)

God made a special day for rest. How do you need rest?

You are a precious child of God! And we love you very much!