

big faith

Unit 1: Masterpiece

Faith Focus: God is creative.

We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. (Ephesians 2:10)

SESSION 1

GROW IN FAITH

God Creates the Earth—Genesis 1:1-25

In today's familiar Bible story, God begins by creating God's first masterpiece, the earth. But this masterpiece is not simple or insignificant. It takes time and intention. God works for days using unique ways of making the world better and better. As the story progresses, you can almost sense a rhythm and feel the anticipation and inspiration growing. God's creation is not static but is a process. Each day, creation is built on the work from the day before. And most important, there is pride in the work. "God saw how good it was," the story tells us. What an inspiration God's creativity can be to each of us: knowing we can always keep creating and our creativity is always seen as good.

- Focus on the repetition of the story of God creating the earth.
- Remind each child that they are creative.
- As you make art, tell each child their art is good.

SUPPLIES

crayons

scissors

paper plates

glue sticks

TV and DVD player or streaming device

wet wipes

fingerpaints in a rainbow of colors

plain clay

wildflower seeds

blue and green food coloring and/or

biodegradable paint

plain cardstock

magazines

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

God's World (Craft)

FUN WITH FAITH

Seed Balls (Science/Art)

Creative Collage (Art)

Act It Out (Drama)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15), Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23), and Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the earth sticker on the Session 1 space.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about how God made everything and everyone.

ASK: How do you create (*painting, sculpting clay, collage, singing, and so forth*)? What do you create? When do you create? Tell us about something you are proud to have made.

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23). Photocopy "A Colorful Cosmos" (Leader Guide—p. 16) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "A Colorful Cosmos."

SAY: Today we are learning that God is creative.

ASK: Did you know that God created everything—from the great big universe to our planet earth?

ASK: What do you see when you go outside in the daytime? What do you see at night?

- Give children time and space to color the page and share their thoughts aloud.

God's World

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors, glue sticks, paper plates

Prepare Ahead: Tear out the "God's World" (Session 1 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Help each child cut out the earth and the smaller circles and glue the earth in the center of a paper plate. Help the children glue the other circles around the earth.

SAY: God created the planet earth. This is where we live. God made everything that is on the earth, from the land and sea to the creatures that live here.

SAY: God created so many things. We can create too! When we are creative, we are praising God.

ASK: What is your favorite part of God’s creation? What would you add to the creation?

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the creation story (Genesis 1:1-25) from your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

SAY: At the beginning of Creation, God made all the things that were very very big, like the universe, the sun, and the moon. Then God created all the things that were smaller, like every animal and insect.

ASK: What part of Creation would you want to see? What did God create that you are most excited about?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 1 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, fingerpaint, wet wipes

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) and Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) if you haven’t already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: God did a good job when God created everything that exists. We were created by God to do good in the world and be creative, too!

SAY: We create when we care about something and are inspired. Let’s show that we care about God’s creation by adding something beautiful and fun to this poster.

- Lay the Faith Response poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.

ASK: What was your favorite part of God’s creation in our Bible story?

- As they share their favorite parts of creation, invite children to use fingerpaint to create in the first section radiating out from the earth on the Faith Response Poster.
- Give children wet wipes or have them wash their hands after adding their marks to the poster. Leave the poster to dry.

FUN WITH FAITH

Seed Balls

Supplies: plain clay, wildflower seeds, blue and green food coloring or biodegradable paint, paper plates

Prepare Ahead: Separate the clay into two sections. Then use food coloring or paint to dye one section blue and one section green.

ASK: Did you know that almost anything can be used to create something beautiful?

- Give each child a paper plate and small chunks of blue and green clay. Have the children mold the clay so it is one flat piece.
- Invite the children to get some seeds and put them on the flat clay. Then have them roll the clay into a ball.
- Leave the clay balls to dry. Then encourage the children to take the seed balls home and plant them.

SAY: Look at the beautiful blue and green. These seed balls look like our beautiful blue and green planet earth. Our seed balls will grow into a beautiful creation, just like our earth.

Creative Collage

Supplies: plain cardstock, glue sticks, magazines with vivid colors, scissors (optional)

SAY: When God began creating, there was nothing. It was like a blank page. But God used God’s imagination to create a beautiful universe.

- Give each child a piece of cardstock.

ASK: What do you imagine you could create on this blank page?

- Show children how to collage using the magazine pages and glue. Help them tear or cut out the colors and shapes they want to use.
- Invite volunteers to share their creations.

ASK: How did it feel to use your imagination to create something beautiful where there was only a blank page?

Act It Out

Supplies: your favorite CEB storybook Bible

SAY: God had to be very creative to make everything in the whole universe, from the sun and moon all the way to the fish and birds and trees on earth.

- Invite the children to stand in a line facing you.
- Direct them to act out everything God created as you read. Read the story of Creation from a CEB storybook Bible.

ASK: How did it feel to make up a motion for everything that God made? Was it hard to imitate the things being created? What was easy?

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 1 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 91–92) for each child.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: Knowing God created us helps our faith in God grow.

ASK: What else do you know about God? What do you wonder about God?

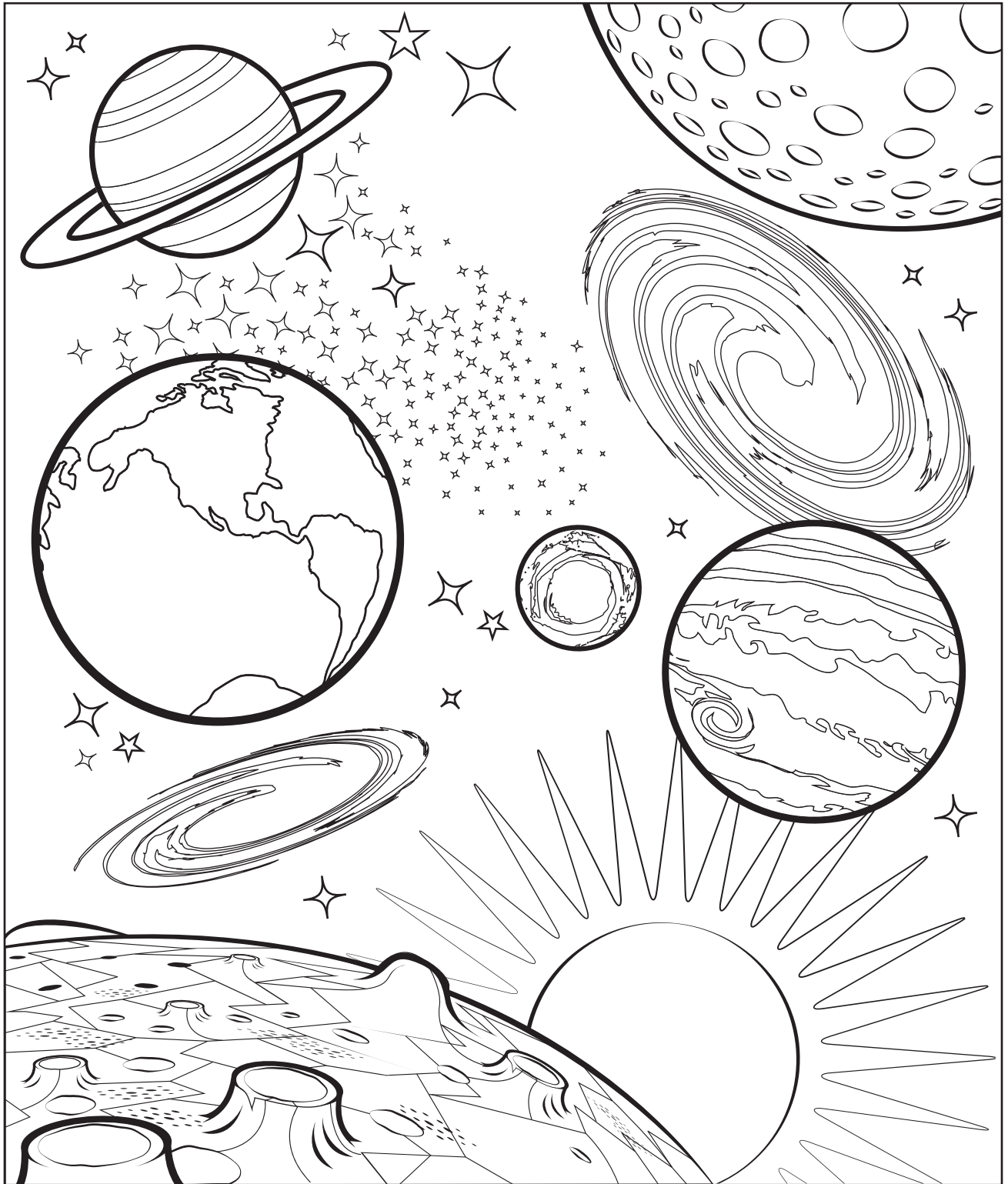
- Hold your hands up in a prayer pose. Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Repeat after me: “Creating God, thank you for making the creation a masterpiece. Thank you for making us a masterpiece. Amen.”

- Send a Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child. Also send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 1 A Colorful Cosmos

God created the universe. Use your imagination to color the cosmos!



Art: Mark Collins/Illustration Online LLC