

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 4

GROW IN FAITH

God Creates Helpers—Genesis 2:5-23

This week's Bible story comes from the second account of God creating humans. In Genesis 2, you might notice more detail and explanation of God's creative process. God uses breath to give life to the first human. But God doesn't stop there. Out of the rich soil comes sustenance for the earth as plants grow and the waters flow. All these living things work together to sustain life. Then God asks the human to care for the land. This is a big job, so God provides the first human a helper. Together, they will be the first caretakers of God's earth.

Children might notice this story is different from the first Genesis account or ask why there are two stories. Scholars say this is because there are many retellings of Creation and the beginning of the world. It's a lot to make sense of. What's most important is that God recognized our need for relationship and helpers. Together, we get to take care of one another and the world.

- Take a closer look at the two Creation stories.
- Help children pay attention to details in art and in the world.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn
Faith Focus—God Is Creative
Helper Match Up/Helper
Thank You
(Matching)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story
Big Faith Video
Faith Response

FUN WITH FAITH

Helper Tag
(Game)
Friendship Bracelets
(Craft)
Help Through Cards
(Art/Community Connection)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

SUPPLIES

pencils
crayons
markers
sticky notes
chenille stems
beads
paper
envelopes
stamps
TV and DVD player or
streaming device

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

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

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23) 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 holding hands sticker on the Session 4 space.

SAY: Each week we remember that God is creative. God created all things with a purpose. God wanted to be sure that we help and care for each other, so God created helpers.

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23).

- Show children the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God is creative."

ASK: What are some of your favorite things that God has created?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Helper Match Up/Helper Thank You

Supplies: Activity Sheets, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Helper Match Up/Helper Thank You" (Session 4 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Hand out the activity page and invite the children to match each situation to the community helper who handles that situation. On the back, encourage children to write a letter to a community helper.

SAY: God wants people to help each other. We can all care for creation by being helpers.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you, sitting in a circle.
- Read Genesis 2:5-23 in a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How was the first human a helper in this story? What did God do first when looking for a helper for the human? What did God create to help the first human?

Big Faith Video

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

- Watch the Session 4 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the Bible story?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons

Prepare Ahead: 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) 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 created all people to help creation flourish. We know that God wants humans to live in community helping each other and all of creation.

ASK: In what ways do you think God created you to be a helper?

- Place the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster so far?

- Have each child write on the sticky note one way he or she believes that he or she can be a helper.
- Instruct the children to stick their notes on the next section of the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Helper Tag

Prepare Ahead: Create a space for the children to play tag.

SAY: We are created to help. We can help in lots of ways. Today we will practice being a helper by playing a game of tag.

- Chose one child to be “it” and one child to be the helper. When someone is tagged, that person is frozen. The helper can then unfreeze the person by tapping him or her. Play again but add one rule: if the helper tags a child when he or she is frozen, that person becomes a helper too.

ASK: How does it feel to be a helper? How did the game change when there were more helpers? How might we add to the helpers in our community?

Friendship Bracelets

Supplies: chenille stems, beads

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible “Friendship Bracelets” (Leader Guide—p. 34). Make your own demonstration bracelet.

SAY: One way to be a helper is to be a good friend. Today we are going to make friendship bracelets to give to each other to remind us that we are never alone. We have each other to help when we have needs.

- Give each child the reproducible and the necessary supplies and invite the children to follow the instructions to create friendship bracelets.
- Encourage children to give away their friendship bracelets so that everyone in the class has one.

Help Through Cards

Supplies: paper, crayons, envelopes, stamps

Prepare Ahead: Gather the addresses of older adults in your church who might be homebound or in a residential living facility and preaddress the envelopes.

SAY: In today's story, God wanted the first human to have the perfect helper so that the person would not be lonely. Sometimes being a good helper means helping people feel remembered and loved. Today we will help by writing letters.

- Give each child a piece of paper and some crayons.
- Invite children to write a letter to or draw a picture for someone in the congregation who can no longer join Sunday morning worship.
- Fold the letters into the preaddressed envelopes and mail the letters to these members of the congregation.

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) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: Faith means believing and trusting. We believe and trust that God loves us. In response, we do our best to care for the world and the people in it. We also believe that God is our helper. We can pray to God about our worries and our fears, and we believe God will help us. Sharing these things out loud can also help us.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Invite each child to share one thing with which she or he would like help from God.

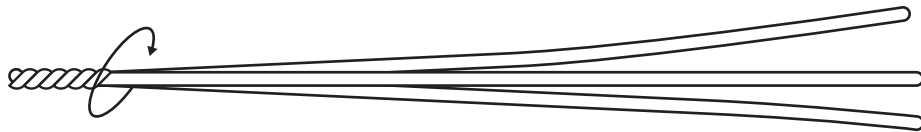
PRAY: Dear God, thank you for helping us. We have faith that you hear our prayers. Help us care for each other. Help us when we have needs. We love you. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received one.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

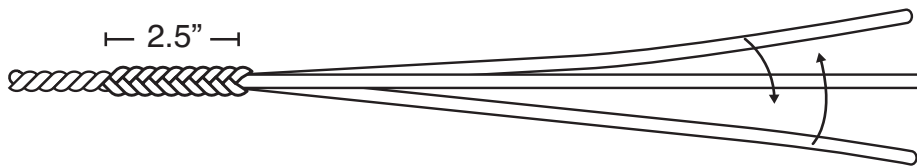
REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 4 Friendship Bracelets

Follow the instructions below to make a friendship bracelet.

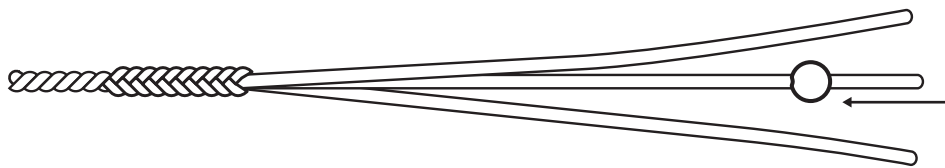
- ① Twist the chenille stems together several times.



- ② Braid the chenille stems together. To braid, move the far left stem over to the middle, then move the far right stem over the new middle stem and continue doing this until you have braided two and a half inches.



- ③ Add a bead to the middle stem. Continue braiding and adding beads.



- ④ After a few beads, add another two and a half inches of braiding. Twist the end of the bracelet when it is finished.

