

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 2

GROW IN FAITH

God Creates People—Genesis 1:26–2:4

In today's creation story things are not just good, they are supremely good! In this Bible story we hear God claiming how good they are through the process of creating. On the sixth day, God finally creates human beings in God's own image. Children might wonder if being created in the image of God means we look like God. And that could be. But you can also help the children look beyond physical appearance and think about how we each are a reflection of God. If God is the creator, then each of us has a piece of God's creativity. This means we get the important job of reflecting creativity and goodness to the world. Being human isn't always easy. But remember, God sees you as supremely good.

- Explore the idea of being created in the image of God.
- Discuss what it looks like to be a reflection of God.
- Help children explore how each of us is created from God through breath and creativity.

SUPPLIES

pencils

crayons

markers

sticky notes

construction paper

scissors

stapler

ball

TV and DVD player or streaming device

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

Affirmations/Letter
(Affirmations)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

FUN WITH FAITH

Connected to One Another
(Collaborative Craft)

Self-Portrait
(Art/Response)

Throw in a Good Word
(Movement/Encouragement)

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 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 sticker featuring a diverse group of people on the Session 2 space.

SAY: This week we will continue to hear about our creative God with the story of how God made people.

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 does it mean to be creative? How do you like to be creative?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Affirmations/Letter

Supplies: Activity Sheets, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Affirmations/Letter" (Session 2 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Invite the children to fill out the two sides of the activity book page. On one side, children will fill in affirmations about themselves. On the other side, children can write a letter to themselves using the affirmations they wrote on the first page.

SAY: God created people. And when God created people, God said that people are good. Each one of us is full of God's goodness.

ASK: What would you like to create?

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read Genesis 1:26–2:4 in a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: What did God give to people at the end of our reading? What did God say about creation on the sixth day?

Big Faith Video

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

- Watch the Session 2 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 video?

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: We have faith that God created us to do good things.

ASK: What kinds of good things do you think God wants us to do?

SAY: God created every single person. Everyone has something wonderful to contribute to God's masterpiece creation.

- 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 good things will we do this week?

- Instruct each child to write one good thing she or he wants to do this week on a sticky note and stick it on the next section of the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Connected to One Another

Supplies: scissors, strips of construction paper, stapler, markers

Prepare Ahead: Precut strips of construction paper for paper chains.

SAY: Each one of us is deeply loved by God. And God wants us to take good care of the earth and one another.

ASK: How do you take care of the earth or other people?

SAY: One way to care for others is to encourage one another. Today, we will make a connection chain full of encouragement to one another.

- Pair the children together and give each child a slip of paper.
- Invite the children to write one kind thing about their partner on their slip of paper.
- Help the children create a paper chain by stapling the paper strips into interlocking loops.
- Repeat the process with new partners until everyone has had a chance to write something for all the other children in the room.

ASK: How did it feel to say something kind about your friends?

Self-Portrait

Supplies: crayons or markers, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible "Self-Portrait" (Leader Guide—p. 22).

SAY: It can be fun to try to create art about ourselves. Lots of famous painters created self-portraits to express themselves. We can create our own self-portrait masterpieces.

- Have the children create self-portraits.
- Invite the children to share their creations with someone.
- Invite the children to ask their friends what they like about them. Then have the children write the things others have said about them around the outside of the self-portrait.

Throw in a Good Word

Supplies: ball

SAY: It is so important that we remember that we are good and that God has asked us to take good care of creation, including each other.

- Have the children stand in a circle, and give one child a ball.
- Have the child throw the ball to someone across the circle. The child who throws the ball should say the name of the recipient and a word of encouragement. Let the children keep passing the ball until everyone has had a turn.

ASK: How does it feel to hear something kind about yourself? How can you spread kindness?

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, pencil or marker, something to write on

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: We have faith in God. We know that God created us and that we are good. We know God wants us to take good care of each other and all of creation. Let's pray for people we are inspired by today.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Invite the children to share the names of people they believe are good. Make a list of the names shared.
- After every child has shared, read all the names.

PRAY: Dear God, we are so grateful for the people in our lives who inspire us to do good. Thank you for creating everyone here. Amen.

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

REPRODUCIBLE
SESSION 2
Self-Portrait

Finish the self-portrait by drawing in the face. Ask your friends what they like about you.
Write the words around the face.

