

God saw how good it was. (Genesis 1:12c)

## **God Creates People – Genesis 1:26–2:4**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

#### **Faith Word: CREATIVITY**

After creating the earth and all living things, God looked around and decided to “make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth” (Genesis 1:26). This week we will explore beauty in the world through God’s creation of people.

The world was so big and so diverse with all the living things, God decided someone needed to help care for it. So, God created a person in the image of God. God did not create people to be just like God. God created people to be different and unique, just like God created the rest of the world.

Children are naturally inclined to look at the world through a different set of eyes than adults do. They don’t have the stress and time commitments that adults have. They take time to examine the minutest detail of the path in front of them and stop in awe at the sight of a worm wiggling down the sidewalk. God created the world so all people would have the same sense of wonder and awe as children do.

Wonder with the children about the diversity and beauty of all living things. Wonder why God created all living things so they would work together.

### **Spiritual Practice for Adults**

Sometimes we can be hard on ourselves. We may look in a mirror and think, *My nose is too big or I wish my eyes were blue.* Stop! You are beautiful just the way you are because God made you in God’s image. Instead, look in the mirror and say aloud, “I am made in God’s image. I am beautiful, and I am good.” As you pass a mirror this week, remind yourself with this spiritual practice that you are beautiful and you are made in God’s image.

# Come Together

## Welcome to Wonder

*Supplies:* Class Pack—pp. 7, 9, 16 & 17; Activity Sheets—p. 7; Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; Wonder Box; CD player; mirror; pictures of children from around the world; crayons or markers; green cloth; battery-operated candle; scissors; thin cardboard; aluminum foil; glue; craft sticks

*Prepare Ahead:* Set up the Wonder Table (see p. 4) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and the Wonder Box (see p. 4). Display the Bible Verse and Faith Word posters (Class Pack—pp. 7, 9). Place the mirror inside the Wonder Box, and set the box on the Wonder Table. Punch out the “I Am Beautiful” mirror (Activity Sheets—p. 7) for each child.

- Play the theme song, “Celebrate Wonder” (Annual Music CD), as the children arrive.
- Greet each child by name and show the children where to mark their attendance (Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17).
- Point to the Unit 1 Faith Word poster (Class Pack—p. 9), and invite the children to wonder about what the word *creativity* means. Encourage the children to look for ways children from around the world are the same or different as them.
- Help the children complete the “I Am Beautiful” mirror (Activity Sheets—p. 7), following the directions on the back of the sheet.

## Sing and Celebrate

*Supplies:* Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD, CD player, green streamers

- Tell the children there is green on the Wonder Table and green streamers because green is the color we use in church during the church season of Ordinary Time.
- Play the Unit 1 song, “Very Good” (Annual Music CD).
- Let the children sing, dance, and celebrate.

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

*Supplies:* Celebrate Wonder DVD, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you, sitting in a circle on the floor.

- Read the Bible story, “God Creates People” (Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook—p. 16).
- Watch the Session 3 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies: Class Pack—insert, pp. 9, 31; Wonder Box*

*Prepare Ahead: Assemble the Wonder Cube (Class Pack—insert), if not already done, and lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Mat (Class Pack—p. 31).*

- Let the children take turns rolling the Wonder Cube. Have the children answer the question(s) about the Bible story. Interact with the Wonder Cube as long as time allows.
- Place the Wonder Box on the Wonder Mat (Class Pack—p. 31).

**SAY:** Our faith word today is *creativity*.

- Show the children the Creativity poster (Class Pack—p. 9).

**SAY:** An image is a picture or a reflection, like when you see yourself in a mirror. God made us in God’s image so we could be creative and make things like God. Part of being creative is thinking up stuff.

- Wonder together:
  - What are some things you can make?
  - What are some things you have thought of and would like to make?
  - What do you think is inside the Wonder Box this week?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the mirror.

**WONDER:** What do you think a mirror has to do with our Bible story?

## Experience Wonder

### Self-portrait (Art)

*Supplies: mirrors, table covering, paint, white paper, paintbrushes, containers of water, smocks*

*Prepare Ahead: Cover the table and place water in containers.*

**SAY:** Let’s each paint an image of ourself on the paper. Use the mirrors to help you.

- Have each child look in a mirror and paint the image he or she sees on the paper.
- After the pictures are dry, hang them on the wall.

**WONDER:** What do you think God looks like?

*Tip: You can substitute crayons or markers instead of paint.*

## God Creates People (Sensory)

*Supplies: sensory items from Sessions 1 and 2 (see pp. 9 & 16), toy people figures*

- Give the children time to interact and play with the items in the sand tub and the water tub.

**WONDER:** What are creative ways we can care for God's creation?

*Tip: Save the sensory items to use again next week.*

## Reflecting Images (Game)

**SAY:** The Bible story today tells us that people are made in the image of God. An image is like a picture: it looks like you, but it isn't the real you. We can create things like God, but they won't be exactly what God created. That's OK!

- Divide the children into pairs. Assign one child to be the leader and the other child to be the image.
- Have the children face each other. The leader will make a movement, and the "image" will do the same movement. Have them switch places after a few minutes.

**WONDER:** Was it hard to do exactly what the other person did?

## Peaceful Place

*Supplies: Class Pack—p. 11, Leader Guide—p. 24, suggested books: "Drawing God" by Karen Kiefer and "Images of God for Young Children" by Marie-Helene Delval, mirrors, potted flower, teaspoon, water bowl, crayons or markers*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the "I Am Beautiful" Journal Page (Leader Guide—p. 24) for each child.*

- Have each child look in a mirror and say, "I am beautiful."
- Let each child care for the flower by adding a teaspoon of water to the flower.
- Using the Creation Cards (Class Pack—p. 11), let the children tell the Creation story in their own words.
- Give each child a copy of the "I Am Beautiful" Journal Page (Leader Guide—p. 24), and have the child draw an image of herself or himself in the mirror.

*Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional. Pick and choose what you want or add your own ideas.*

# Go in Peace

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## Spiritual Practice—Exploring Creation Through Beauty

**SAY:** This week we will do a spiritual practice that will help us remember that God created us in God’s image and we are beautiful.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice.

**SAY:** Look in the mirror you made earlier from the Activity Sheets. God made each of us beautiful and special. Say out loud, “I am beautiful. I am special.”

**PRAY:** God, thank you for making each of us beautiful and special. Amen.

**SAY:** This week when you look in a mirror, say to yourself, “I am beautiful. I am special.”

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing: “May God bless you and care for you. Go now in love.”
- Send home a copy of the Family Letter (Leader Guide—p. 90) and a copy of the Celebration Chart (Leader Guide—p. 89) with any child who does not already have one.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the Celebration Chart and to read the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together.

