

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

God Creates People – Genesis 1:26–2:4

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: CREATIVITY

This Bible story is not only about creation, but also about the creativity God places in each of us. God creates humanity. God then shares the creative process by giving humanity a part of God's self. "Let us" demonstrates that God is not working alone. God is engaged in relationship of mutuality and shares the creative process with others.

When God creates humans, God does so in God's own image. To be created in the image of God is as if we are mirrors of God in the world. Each of us is a reflection of something greater. We are created to resemble the divine. This is a gift. Everyone has God within, and it is because of this that we are able to embrace our own unique expressions as children of God. Our ability to imagine and be creative is a part of how we are made in the image of God.

On the seventh day God rests, but this does not mean God will not continue to act and interact with God's creation. To rest actually puts things back into motion and calls for humanity to help carry out God's creative process. We are then reminded that all is right, good, and holy, and God honors God's work and all of creation with God's blessing. It was all supremely good.

The Bible story helps children come to know their identity as a child of God. It provides a foundation of self-reflection and self-acceptance. To be known and loved by God is one of the most important messages we can teach our children. Help your children see the reflection of God in themselves and how they can use their creativity to help continue to create a beautiful world.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week write positive affirmations on your mirrors or on sticky notes around your home. You can also write messages to others in your family. When you read your messages, stop and pause. Repeat the word or phrase three times and then remember that you are a beautiful child of God.

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: stickers and/or markers; glue sticks or clear tape; Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD and CD player; Activity Sheets; Class Pack—pp. 16-17, 8 & 25; items for Wonder Table (a small table, a green cloth, a candle, paper dolls, mirrors, and so forth); Wonder Box; a mirror;

Prepare Ahead: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack—pp. 16-17). Set up the Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place a mirror inside the Wonder Box (see—p. 4). Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or marker.
- Give each child this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 3). Help the children interact with the activities on each page.

Sing and Celebrate

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 86, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV

Prepare Ahead: Make a copy of the Unit 1 Song Sheet (p. 86) for each child.

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and give out the Song Sheets.
- Play “Very Good” (CD or DVD).
- Let the children sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: CEB Bible; Class Pack—pp. 6, 9 & 24; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player; scissors

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (pp. 9 & 24). Cut out the Wonder Figures (p. 6). You will use the plants figure today.

- Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.
- Let a child move or place the plants on the mat.
- Read the Bible story, Genesis 1:26–2:4, from the CEB Bible.
- Watch the DVD, Session 3.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack—insert, pp. 2 & 31; Wonder Box (containing a mirror)

Prepare Ahead: Continue to display Unit 1 Faith Word Poster. Locate the Wonder Cube (Class Pack—insert).

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Have the children answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as long as time allows.
- Pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

SAY: Our faith word is *creativity*. Creativity is the process of imagining and making something, just like God imagined and created the world.

WONDER: How was God creative in the Bible story today?

- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the mirror. As you are talking, begin looking at your reflection in the mirror.

WONDER: Why do you think we have mirror inside our Wonder Box?

SAY: Today we are learning that each of us is a unique child of God, created in the image of God. This is so special.

- Wonder together:
 - What does it mean to be a child of God?
 - How do you know you are a child of God?

Experience Wonder

I See God (Art)

Supplies: paper, pencils, colored pencils, crayons and markers

SAY: Close your eyes. God is so big and so creative.

WONDER: What do you think God looks like? What do you imagine God is like?

- Distribute supplies. Invite the children to draw and color how they imagine God.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their drawings.

SAY: Each of us has a unique relationship with God, but God loves each of us the same.

- Display the drawings somewhere in your Sunday school space.

In the Image of God (Art)

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 24, pencils or pens, markers or crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “In the Image of God” (p. 24) for each child.

- Distribute a copy of “In the Image of God” to each child.

SAY: God holds each of us in God’s hands. God made each of us with God’s own hands.

- Invite the children to look at your hands. Direct the children to pay close attention to the palms of their own hands.

WONDER: What do you see? What do you notice?

- Invite the children to compare one another’s hands.

SAY: No one’s hands are the same. God made each of us unique and special.

- Invite the children to copy the lines (creases) from one of their palms on to the paper hand.

WONDER: What makes you unique?

Roll and Respond (Game)

Supplies: a single die

- Invite the children to gather together in a circle and place the single die in the middle.
- The children will take turns rolling the die. Depending on the number the child rolls, he or she will answer the following:
 1. What is one thing you like about yourself?
 2. What is one nice thing you could say about someone in the group?
 3. What is one thing you want others to know about you?
 4. What makes you happy?
 5. What is one way you can be kind to someone else?
 6. What is something you are grateful for?
- Invite the first child to roll a single die and answer the question that matches the number on the die.
- Play the game as long as time and interest allows.

Peaceful Place

Supplies: suggested books: “When God Made You” by Matthew Paul Turner, “When God Was a Little Girl” by David Weiss; quiet toys or items: mirrors, sticky notes for writing positive affirmations, pens, pencils, diverse dolls, and so forth

- Locate the suggested books and quiet toys. Place the items in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

Tip: You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice—Exploring creation through beauty

Supplies: Leader Guide—pp. 89, 90; Family Activity Book (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the “Celebration Chart” (p. 89) and the “Family Letter” (p. 90).

WONDER: How is God a part of you? How is God a part of others?

WONDER: Do you remember when we looked at our hands? What did we discover?

- Invite the child to place the palm of his or her hands facing upward.
- Then have the children trace the lines (creases) on the palms of their hands.
- Invite the children to repeat this litany after you as they continue tracing the lines on their hands.

REPEAT:

God created me just as I am.

God made me from the palm of God’s hand.

And if there are days when I am feeling afraid, upset, or down,

I can touch my hand and know that God is always around. Amen.

- If there are children who have not received a “Family Letter” or “Celebration Chart,” send those items home with them. Encourage children and families to use the “Celebration Chart” and the Family Activity Book (if purchased).

**CELEBRATE
WONDER™** In the Image of God

You are shaped by God's hand.



You are a special gift from God.