

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

God Creates People – Genesis 1:26–2:4

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: CREATIVITY

This week, we learn about days six and seven of the Creation story. On the sixth day of creation, God created humans. Our Scripture says that God created people in God's own image so that they could take charge of all other living things (fish, birds, livestock, all the earth and all the crawling things on it).

The Scripture also notes that God created male and female humans and that God blessed them to have a family to fill and rule the earth. Humans were to take charge of all the other living things. God even gave them all the plants that yield seeds and trees that produce fruit for food. God gave the other living things green grass for food. When God was done creating, God saw everything as "supremely good" (verse 31). On the seventh day, God rested from all the work that God had done. God made the seventh day holy and blessed it.

As we dive into the story, we'll explore what it means to be created in God's image. We'll also explore diversity and the idea of everything being good, beautiful, and equal. You'll want children to understand that God created variety and all living things because all were needed to make life on earth good.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, spend some time people watching. You can observe people you know and see every day, or you can spend time observing people in a public setting. You can spend time sitting on a park bench or walking in a shopping mall, or just pay more attention to the people you encounter as you run regular errands. Just observe; don't worry about writing or drawing about your experience, unless that is something you feel led to do. How does it feel to slow down and really pay attention to the people you encounter? Where do you see God's creativity in these people? How can you remind yourself each day that God's creativity is ongoing in you and in those around you?

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: CEB Bibles, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD, Activity Sheets—pp. 7-8, Class Pack—pp. 16-17, Leader Guide—p. 4, CD player, small table, green cloth, LED candle, Wonder Box, magazines, scissors, pens, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader Guide—p. 4), and place on it a green cloth and an LED candle. Cut out pictures of diverse people's faces from magazines, place them inside the Wonder Box, and set the box on the Wonder Table. Post the Attendance Chart (Class Pack) where the children can reach it.

- Play "Celebrate Wonder" (CD) as the children arrive.
- Greet each child, and show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart.
- Give each child this week's Activity Sheet. Help the children interact with the activities on each page.

Sing and Celebrate

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

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Song Sheet—Unit 1" for each child.

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play "Very Good" from the CD.
- Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: CEB Bible, Class Pack—pp. 9 & 24, Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player, paper, pencils, crayons, scissors

- Lay the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat on a table or on a carpeted area.
- Give each child paper, a pencil, crayons, and scissors. Instruct each child to draw, color, and cut out a person and lay it on the mat.
- Read the Bible story, Genesis 1:26–2:4.
- Watch the Session 3 video on the DVD.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: *Class Pack—insert, pp. 3 & 30, 12 & 21; Wonder Box (containing pictures of diverse people’s faces)*

Prepare Ahead: *Post the “Faith Word Poster—Unit 1” (Class Pack—pp. 3 & 30) and the “Bible Verse Poster—Unit 1” (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 21). Get the Wonder Cube (Class Pack—insert).*

- Read the Bible verse from the poster, and have the children read it aloud together.
- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Have the children answer the question about the Bible story. Interact with the Wonder Cube as long as time allows.
- Pick up the Wonder Box, and place it in front of the children.

SAY: Today’s faith word is *Creativity*.

- Point at the faith word poster, and share the definition.

SAY: The definition of *creativity* is “the process of imagining and making something, like God imagined and created the world.”

- Wonder together.
 - What do you think it means to be created in God’s image?
 - What do you think God looks like?
 - Why do you think God created so many different kinds of people and living things?
 - Why do you think it’s important that God rested on the seventh day?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the contents.

WONDER: How do these pictures relate to our Bible story?

Experience Wonder

Responsibility (Discussion)

Supplies: *large sheet of paper, marker, tape*

SAY: In the Bible story, God gave humans responsibility for caring for all the earth, including ruling over all the other creatures that God created. Let’s discuss what it means to be responsible.

- Write the word *Responsibility* at the top of a large sheet of paper.

WONDER: What traits do you think a responsible person has?

- Write the children’s responses on the large sheet of paper. Post this list in your classroom as a reminder about being responsible.

WONDER: What are some things you are responsible for?

- Allow the children to name their responsibilities.

WONDER: Now that you have all of these ideas about how to be responsible (*point to the list you made*), how will you approach your responsibilities? Will you do them differently or the same?

Mirror Affirmations (Community Engagement)

Supplies: sticky notes, markers

Prepare Ahead: Secure permission to place sticky notes on mirrors in the church.

SAY: Let’s show love for our church family and boost their self-esteem by reminding them of how God sees them.

- Give each child a marker and some sticky notes. Have the children write messages such as “You are made in God’s image,” “You are good,” “You’re supremely good,” and “You rule!” on the sticky notes.
- Go with the children and place the sticky notes on mirrors in the church.

God’s Creation Photo Frame (Craft)

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 24, crayons, markers, scissors, ribbon, hand-held paper punch, 5-by-7 photo, tape, cardstock, stickers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “God’s Creation Photo Frame” onto cardstock for each child.

SAY: Our Bible story says God created humans in God’s own image and saw that what God had created was “supremely good.” That means you too! Let’s make a photo frame you can put a photo in to remind you that you are God’s good creation.

- Give each child a copy of the photo frame and crayons, markers, stickers, a piece of ribbon long enough to form a loop, and scissors.
- Have the children write “Made in God’s Image” on one side of the frame and “Supremely Good” on another. Let them decorate and cut out their frames. Then have each child punch a hole at the top of their frame with a paper punch, thread ribbon through the hole, and tie it in a knot or bow to form a loop for hanging.
- Remind the children that they can put a real photo in the frame by taping the photo to the back of the frame. (Demonstrate using the photo you brought in.)

Peaceful Place

Supplies: *Class Pack—pp. 2 & 31; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 91, 96; children’s books about diversity (such as “I Wanted to Know All About God” by Virginia L. Kroll); art supplies (to create images of people); paper; pens; pencils; crayons; markers*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy the coloring sheet “Faith Word—Unit 1” (Leader Guide—p. 91), at least one per child. Place the coloring sheets and the suggested books and quiet toys in the Peaceful Place. Display the “Wonder Wall” (Class Pack).*

- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

Tip: *See pages 4 and 96 for more information. The children may gaze at the Wonder Wall and wonder about images or write or draw about one or more images.*

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Creativity Through Beauty

Supplies: *Leader Guide—pp. 89, 90; LED candle; outdoor space or items such as plants to create an indoor nature space*

Prepare Ahead: *Locate a safe space outside for a nature walk, or bring in some plants and nature items to create your own nature space.*

WONDER: When have you seen God’s creativity in the people around you lately?

SAY: We can be close to God anytime we like by being in community with the people God created. Let’s pair up and walk with a friend outside and enjoy God’s creation. Try to pick someone you haven’t gotten to know as well.

- Go on a nature walk. Encourage the children to take in the sights, sounds, and smells of nature and to talk with their partner about their partner’s hobbies and interests. Let them select, with their partner, items they find beautiful to bring back.
- Gather around the Wonder Table, and have the children decorate the table as an altar with their nature items.
- Light the LED candle.

PRAY: God, thank you for creating so many beautiful and different people for us to get to know. We take comfort in knowing that you are always creating beauty in the world. Amen.

- Send “Celebration Chart” (Leader Guide—p. 89) and “Family Letter” (Leader Guide—p. 90) home with children who did not receive them yet.

