

## 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 1

### GROW IN FAITH

#### God Creates the Earth—Genesis 1:1-25

In today's familiar Bible story, God begins by creating God's first masterpiece, the earth. But this masterpiece is not simple or insignificant. It takes time and intention. God works for days using unique ways of making the world better and better. As the story progresses, you can almost sense a rhythm and feel the anticipation and inspiration growing. God's creation is not static but is a process. Each day, creation is built on the work from the day before. And most important, there is pride in the work. "God saw how good it was," the story tells us. What an inspiration God's creativity can be to each of us: knowing we can always keep creating and our creativity is always seen as good.

- Allow the children to wonder about God's creativity.
- Help children know their own interpretation and expression of creativity is good.
- If a child gets frustrated, remind the child that creativity is a process.

### SUPPLIES

*pencils*

*crayons*

*scissors*

*TV and DVD Player or streaming device*

*sticky notes*

*natural materials for painting such as spices, berries, dirt, clay, leaves, and grass*

*construction paper*

*paper towels*

*paintbrushes*

*smocks*

*paper plates*

*plastic cups*

*potting soil*

*grass seed*

*water*

### SESSION OUTLINE

#### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Is Creative

God Creates the Earth  
(Charades)

#### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

#### FUN WITH FAITH

Nature Painting  
(Art)

Follow the Days of Creation  
(Maze)

Watch it Grow  
(Gardening)

#### 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 earth sticker on the Session 1 space.

**SAY:** This month we will hear stories about creation. God is very creative. God created the whole earth and everything in it. All of creation is God's masterpiece.

## 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:** Do you like to get creative? What do you like to create? What do you think God creates?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

## God Creates the Earth

*Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors*

*Prepare Ahead: Gather Session 1 Activity Sheets for each child.*

- Let the children cut out the cards on the Session 1 Activity Sheet.
- Invite the children to get into small groups or pairs to play charades, acting out the cards without using words or sounds.

**SAY:** All these game cards are part of today's story. God created so many different living things on the earth. God loves creating, and God wants us to create too. God said creation was good.

**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, sitting in a circle on the floor.
- Read the Creation story (Genesis 1:1-25) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

**ASK:** What do you think is the most amazing part of God's creation? Which day of Creation is your favorite?

## Big Faith Video

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

- Watch the Session 1 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, as 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).*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

**SAY:** We can have faith in God, and our story today shows us that God is creative. Our theme is "Masterpiece."

**ASK:** Do you know what a masterpiece is?

**SAY:** God made everything out of nothing. God created the mountains and the sky. God created the oceans and land. God made a masterpiece, a great creative achievement, when God created the earth and everything in it.

- Lay the Faith Response poster on the floor or 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?

- Invite each child to draw a new creature or her or his favorite part of creation on the sticky note and put it on the top left section of the poster.

**ASK:** What kinds of creations and favorite things do you see here?

## FUN WITH FAITH

### Nature Painting

*Supplies:* natural materials for marking and rubbing on paper like dirt, clay, leaves, spices, berries, and grass; construction paper; paintbrushes; paper plates; cups; water; paper towels; crayons; smocks

**ASK:** Did you know that almost anything can be used to create something beautiful?

- Have each child write his or her name on a piece of construction paper.
- Give each child a cup of water and a paintbrush. Encourage the children to find ways to mark their papers with the natural materials.
- Invite the children to make a masterpiece that resembles the earth.
- Use cups of water to help spread materials. Encourage children to make markings by placing the materials on the paper directly, rubbing the material on a paper plate and then using a brush transfer it to the paper, or testing their own creative ideas.
- Use paper towels to help clean up any mess.
- Let willing volunteers share their creations.

**ASK:** How did it feel to create something?

*Tip:* Send a note to parents ahead of time to let them know the children will be painting and should dress appropriately.

### Follow the Days of Creation

*Supplies:* Leader Guide, CEB kids' Bibles, pencils, crayons

*Prepare Ahead:* Make copies of the reproducible "Follow the Days of Creation" (Leader Guide p. 16).

**SAY:** This maze can be completed if you move through the days of creation in order. If you need help remembering what order to follow, use your kids' Bible and Genesis 1 to help you.

## Watch It Grow

**Supplies:** plastic cup, potting soil, grass seed, container with water

**SAY:** Creation is always changing and growing. God wants us to be part of creation by taking good care of the earth. Sometimes that means picking up trash or recycling. Sometimes it means reducing how much stuff we use. Sometimes it means helping things grow and caring for the earth itself.

**ASK:** Have you ever planted seeds? What did you plant?

- Give each child a cup and a seed. Help children scoop dirt into their cups.
- Have each child plant the grass seed and water it.

**ASK:** How does it feel to plant something? How else can you take care of God's good creation?

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

### Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

**Supplies:** Leader Guide, 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—p. 79) for each child.

- Show children the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23).

**SAY:** We cannot see God, but we can see everything God created. We have faith in God. We have faith that God is good, God loves us, and God will follow through on all God's promises. Today, let's express our gratitude to God by doing a "Thank you, God prayer."

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- One at a time, invite each child to share one thing she or he is grateful for in creation.
- After a child shares, the whole group will say together, "Thank you, God," and then the next child may share.

**PRAY:** God, help me to see all the good things you have created. Help me to have faith in you and trust you. Amen. *(Have the children repeat after you.)*

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

## REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 1

### Follow the Days of Creation

Complete the maze to get to the last day of Creation. Review Genesis 1:1-25. Then follow the path that leads through each day of creation in the order found in the Scripture.

### START

