

SAMPLE LESSON

Includes links to related resources

THE ACTION
BIBLE
CURRICULUM

HOW IT WORKS

AN OVERVIEW

The Action Bible Curriculum takes pre-teens deeper into the heart of God's Word to discover an active faith they can claim as their own! Preteens will go on an adventure through the Bible as they explore who God is and who they are in Him. Students are encouraged to go into the heart of God's Word to encounter His grand redemptive story. Lessons feature videos from *The Action Bible*®, a best-selling picture Bible illustrated by world-renowned artist Sergio Cariello. The full two-year [Scope and Sequence](#) can be found on TheActionBible.com

THE STORY BEHIND THE ACTION BIBLE CURRICULUM

The Action Bible shines brightly in David C Cook's ministry efforts. Over 46 million [Story of Jesus booklets](#) have been shared in 101 nations and 62 languages ... and growing every day. This picture Bible features 215 stories filled with action-packed, comic book-style illustrations. With the addition of the brand-new curriculum for preteens, preteen ministry leaders can tap into the excitement of *The Action Bible* that is transforming young lives around the world.

LEADER RESOURCES

Devotions for Leaders

Each week you'll find inspiration from a devotional that is related to the theme for the lesson, but at a leader's level. It will help you and your volunteers engage with God and His Word.

- ⦿ Introduces the theme of the lesson and the God in Action statement
- ⦿ Leads to various Scripture passages that shed light on this theme
- ⦿ Spurs you on to a time of reflection and assessment through encouragement and prayer as you prepare your heart to present the lesson to your students

See the Lesson at a Glance

The first page of each lesson includes a summary overview of the lesson, the God in Action statement, the Remember It verse, and a complete list of materials.

Sections of the Lesson

BEFORE THE LESSON: Set up your space so it is a warm, inviting place. You may want to play *The Action Bible Remix* CD, a collection of 10 well-known songs remixed for preteens (available online and in stores). Each lesson gives two PRESESSION options.

JOIN IN: Set the stage for the lesson by making preteens feel comfortable and building relationships at the same time. (About 10 minutes)

INVESTIGATE: This is the main part of the lesson. It's time to see an exclusive video from *The Action Bible*, then Explore the Bible—talk together about what the Bible says, discover who God is, and start to learn the Remember It verse. Then preteens put their learnings in motion by exploring how these fit into everyday life. (Four activities to choose from: games, science, craft, discussion, and Bible study track, so that leaders can flex with time needs and match with areas of student interest.) (About 35 minutes)

MAKE CONNECTIONS: Preteens personalize the connections they've made through an activity, a time of reflection, and a time of worship. It's also a time for them to ask questions! (About 10 minutes)

GO WITH GOD: Leaders personally send preteens into the week with a blessing that shows who God is and what they mean to Him. (About 5 minutes)

Features

- ⦿ Exclusive videos from *The Action Bible*, a best-selling picture Bible with nearly two million copies sold
- ⦿ Four-step lessons organize the content into doable sections
- ⦿ Flexes with time needs and student interests
- ⦿ Editable Bible study sheets
- ⦿ *In My Life* take-home resource for preteens and parents
- ⦿ [Two-Year Chronological Scope and Sequence](#), including a "Jesus Thread" throughout the lessons
- ⦿ God-centered lessons show preteens who God is and what they mean to Him
- ⦿ Tested by churches in the United States and Canada

Roles and Timing

LEADER: Ideally leaders work week after week with the same group of preteens, giving them the opportunity to develop lasting relationships. The leader offers a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and inclusiveness to the students. Leaders coach students through the entire lesson, sharing personal insights and stories.

STUDENTS: Preteens are empowered with more independence and participation than what they may have had before. The most important part of this curriculum is helping preteens take the spiritual leap from Bible information to transformation, as they find their own pathway to lifetime faith. They are encouraged to freely share ideas and ask many questions.

TIMING: Always feel free to adjust the lesson to fit your service schedule. If your service is longer or shorter, you can add or remove a couple of minutes from INVESTIGATE activities and MAKE CONNECTIONS as needed. Or if you need additional time, add a PRESESSION OPTION, which is offered in every lesson.

WALKING THROUGH EACH SECTION OF THE LESSON

JOIN IN



Set the stage for the lesson by making preteens feel comfortable and building relationships at the same time.

JOIN IN is designed to allow preteens to feel welcome—to know that when they come to church, they're among friends. Within a free-flowing setting that utilizes simple supplies and conversation starters, JOIN IN gives students and leaders the opportunity to get to know each other better. This section offers questions, prompts, and simple games for the sake of relationship.

INVESTIGATE



This is the main part of the lesson. It's time to See the Video from *The Action Bible*, then explore the Bible—talk together about what God's Word says, discover who God is, and learn a Remember It verse. Then preteens Put It in Motion through activities and seeing how these fit into everyday life.

SEE THE VIDEO

Every lesson features an exclusive video from *The Action Bible*, that puts into motion the action and drama of the story. Ranging from three to ten minutes in length, each video includes sound effects, animation, and a variety of voice talent.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Preteens explore God's Word and discover new revelations about His character and what they mean to Him. As part of the student book, preteens are given their own *In My Bible* study sheet to write their ideas and responses, both as a group and individually. Fast Track Option: if you are running short on time, look for the questions with asterisks in front of them and cover those. And to further customize the *In My Bible* study sheet to meet the needs of your students, use the editable PDFs on the CD-ROM.

Bible Dictionary PDF: This file is included on the CD-ROM for reference and to help preteens learn Bible study.

REMEMBER IT VERSE

Each week's Remember It verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in the lesson. This section encourages students to learn and remember the verse through simple games and activities so the seeds of God's Word can grow in their hearts. You choose the translation that best fits your group. (See page 7 regarding the Scripture Memory Cards.)

PUT IT IN MOTION

Using what they've discovered in the Bible study, the Remember It verse, and the God in Action statement, preteens take time to see how these fit into everyday life through a variety of activities. The leader "customizes" the session during the planning stage by choosing one of the four options (or by selecting a few if time allows). All options include a discussion question or two to help tie discoveries to the Bible study and the God in Action statement. The role of the leader is an encourager while the preteens "take the lead."

MAKE CONNECTIONS



Preteens personalize the connections they've made through an activity, a time of reflection, and a time of worship. It's also a time to ask questions.

MAKE CONNECTIONS: As part of the student book, *My Response* sketch sheets encourage preteens to either write or draw their personal reflections, thoughts, and questions.

The purpose of this part of the lesson is to let preteens openly talk about God and their lives. It isn't a time to evaluate what they are saying. Just listen and be open. If a student is passionate about an answer that needs more time, let him know you can talk about it after the lesson. This will help you keep moving through the lesson while letting the preteen know you value his questioning. You don't have to know the answers, but assure students you will look for answers during the week. Don't forget to get back to them in the future with what you discovered.

As you lead preteens through the time to reflect, pause, and ask God to give you the insight to be flexible as you give the students the space to respond in the way that God leads.

GO WITH GOD



Leaders send preteens into the week with a blessing that shows who God is and what they mean to Him.

To help preteens feel comfortable with the concept of blessings—and some may have never been blessed or rarely receive words of encouragement—explain that a prayer is talking to God while a blessing is speaking to a person. Each lesson ends with the biblical concept of blessing so students leave with a reminder they are never alone—God is with them always.

IN MY LIFE: This weekly resource for each lesson is available for preteens to take with them into their week, with a recap of the God in Action, Remember It verse, and daily devotions. Includes information for parents so they can stay on the same page with their preteen, as well as helpful tips on conversations starters. By providing this resource, the church is supporting parents as they spiritually nurture their children.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CARDS: Before preteens leave you can give them a Scripture Memory Card featuring the Bible story for that week on the front of the card and the Remember It verse on the back of the card. This is a great way to encourage them to put God's Word in their hearts. Sold separately. See the back inside cover for more details.

L01

Bible Basis:

Genesis 1:1-25
and 31;
John 1:1-3

GOD IN ACTION STATEMENT GOD IS POWERFUL AND WISE

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson uses the “big picture” of Creation, based on Genesis 1, to help preteens discover that God is powerful and wise. It brings in how Jesus was actively involved in Creation.

REMEMBER IT

Psalm 19:1

VIDEO TITLE

“God Creates the Universe”

JOIN IN

Set the stage for the lesson by making preteens feel comfortable and building relationships at the same time.

⌚ About 10 minutes

A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT THE MILKY WAY

MATERIALS

- [“The Milky Way”](#) PowerPoint slides for Lesson 1
- Media device

INVESTIGATE

This is the main part of the lesson. It's time to See the Video from *The Action Bible*, then Explore the Bible—talk together about what God's Word says, discover who God is, and learn a Remember It verse. Then preteens Put It in Motion through activities and seeing how these fit into everyday life.

⌚ About 35 minutes

SEE THE VIDEO

[“God Creates the Universe”](#)

MATERIALS

- “God Creates the Universe” media clip
- Media device

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

MATERIALS

- Bibles (1 per student)
- [In My Bible study sheets](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)
- Pens or pencils
- Whiteboard and markers

REMEMBER IT

- Bibles
- Whiteboard and markers

PUT IT IN MOTION

Game Option: Order Out of Chaos MATERIALS

- 30 multicolored button candies in a bowl* (1 bowl per team)
- Vinyl disposable gloves (1 pair per student)**
- Wax paper or aluminum foil (1 sheet per team)
- Bible

Science Option: On a Clear, Starry Night MATERIALS

- [“Star Chart” Reproducible PDF](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)
- Pushpins
- Clips to hold paper
- Corrugated cardboard pieces a little larger than a sheet of paper
- Bible

Craft Option: Psalm 19:1 Poster MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Poster board or large paper
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Markers
- *Optional:* construction paper, other available craft supplies

Discussion Option: Talk About It MATERIALS

- [“Talk About It”](#) PowerPoint slide for Lesson 1
- Media device
- Bibles
- Whiteboard and markers

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Preteens personalize the connections they've made through an activity, a time of reflection, and a time of worship. It's also a time to ask questions.

⌚ About 10 minutes

GET IN TOUCH MATERIALS

- Card stock
- Glow-in-the-dark paint (available at discount or craft stores) or glow-in-the-dark origami paper (available online—search glow-in-the-dark paper) and scissors or glow-in-the-dark plastic stars (available at discount stores or online)

REFLECT MATERIALS

- [My Response sketch sheets](#) for Lesson 1
- Pens or pencils

WORSHIP MATERIALS

- Bible
- Inexpensive sunglasses (1 per student)
- Labels
- Pens

GO WITH GOD

Leaders send preteens into the week with a blessing that shows who God is and what they mean to Him.

⌚ About 5 minutes

MATERIALS

- [In My Life take-home sheets](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)
- *Optional:* Scripture Memory Cards for Lesson 1 (1 per student)

DEVOTION FOR LEADERS

GOD IS POWERFUL AND WISE

Let's set the stage: You're in a dark theater. You're sitting in an enormous space with seemingly nothing around you. It's empty ... and it's the very beginning.

Read Genesis 1 and John

1:1-3. Enter *Elohim*. Elohim is the name of God used 30 times in Genesis 1. Elohim is the Hebrew name for God that emphasizes His power and wisdom. In the Old Testament, Elohim is a plural noun that is normally used with singular verbs when referencing the one true God.

And what does Elohim do?

He creates. The Hebrew word is *bara*. In Genesis 1 it means a divine activity—God is making something out of nothing. He is literally just calling it into existence. Elohim is omnipotent (all-powerful).

The earth is formless. You can't see it in the empty darkness, but you understand it's in a state of "not-yet-what-it-will-be." Light penetrates the darkness. The light begins to reveal Elohim's work, and life becomes possible (John 1:1-5).

As Elohim calls things into existence, we begin to see His creative wisdom. He spends the first three days forming the universe and its components. The second three days are spent filling what He has formed. Nothing is filled too early. Gradually the emptiness is filled.

Elohim takes time in verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31 to look carefully at what He has created. "God saw that it was good." Over and over creation is "good."

The theater of the universe is set. Everything is in its place ordained by Elohim. Even the stars are proclaiming His glory (Psalm 19:1)!

In your imaginary theater, take out your opera glasses. Go outside and spend five to twenty minutes just looking at God's creation with new "eyes." If it doesn't work to go outside, imagine sitting out in your favorite spot of nature. What do you see in a small space around you? How do you see God's glory in even the smallest ant carrying a grain of sand?

Spend some time in worship praising Elohim because He is powerful and wise. Listen for His voice and direction as you prepare for this week's lesson. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you prepare the lesson and His leading as you teach and preteens respond. Pray also for your students and their families as they discover that God is powerful and wise.

BEFORE THE LESSON

OPTIONAL

Before preteens arrive, set up your space so it is a warm, inviting place. You may want to play *The Action Bible Remix* CD. Choose one of the following activities to engage students as they arrive. Invite them to join the activity after you greet them.

OPTION 1

Power Board

MATERIALS

- Whiteboard and markers

Before teens arrive, write the following definition of *power* on the board: "Power is the strength or ability to do something. Also, it is the authority to command, control, or make decisions." Challenge preteens to fill the board with examples of power.

OPTION 2

Wise Builders

MATERIALS

- 1 deck of cards for every three to four preteens

Give each group of three to four preteens a deck of cards. Challenge them to build the tallest building, using only cards, of all the groups. As preteens arrive, encourage them to join the groups and give advice about how to build wisely.

JOIN IN

Set the stage for the lesson by making preteens feel comfortable and building relationships at the same time.

MATERIALS

- ["The Milky Way"](#) PowerPoint slides for Lesson 1
- Media device

A Close-Up Look at the Milky Way

Begin today's lesson by inviting preteens to take an imaginary trip with you to Hawaii. Set it up with something like this:

Come with me on an imaginary trip. As we travel, keep your eyes closed. We're going to the summit of Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii. We're at an altitude of 13,800 feet. It's nighttime. There aren't any lights visible from buildings around us, so it's really dark. It's cold, so you might want to put on a sweatshirt or a jacket. There's a special show we're here to see. Project the PowerPoint slide before students open their eyes. You may even want to project it on the ceiling. **Open your eyes to see the stars above us. Wow! Start counting the stars.**

Allow about 10 seconds for star counting. Keep projecting the slide.

Talk About It

After you turn off the PowerPoint, move into a short discussion.

● **When you think of the universe, what words come to mind? What emotions do you feel?** (*Get preteens' impressions of the universe without delving into any science theories. Keep the conversation centered on what they notice and how it makes them feel.*)

● **Think about Earth's position in the solar system. It's just the right size for gravity to hold on to the gasses we need for an atmosphere fit to live in. It's the right distance from the sun for its heat and energy to allow people and animals to live. What other thoughts do you have?**

On a clear night on the top of Mauna Kea, we might be able to see as many as two thousand stars before needing a telescope. Some astronomers estimate that we can see millions and millions of stars. And there are more beyond that! Look to see if you can find Eta Carinae [AY-tah ka-RYE-nee]. It's the largest and brightest star in the Milky Way. It's 100 times more massive than the sun, and if it were as close to Earth as the sun is, it would shine several million times as bright as the sun. It shines brightly where it is—between 7,500 and 8,000 light years away.

Some of the stars, like the one called Canis Majoris are simply huge! It would take a plane, flying at 559 miles per hour, about 1,100 years to fly around that star!

Bridge to INVESTIGATE

Transition to INVESTIGATE with something like this: **The stars in the sky are really impressive. Let's check out what the Bible says about how the universe was made and what it shows us about God's power and wisdom.**

INVESTIGATE

This is the main part of the lesson. It's time to See the Video from *The Action Bible*, then Explore the Bible—talk together about what God's Word says, discover who God is, and learn a Remember It verse. Then preteens Put It in Motion through activities and seeing how these fit into everyday life.

Prayer

Begin INVESTIGATE with a short prayer, something like this: **Dear God, teach us by the Holy Spirit today as we discover what Your Word says about Your power and wisdom. Amen.**

See the Video: "God Creates the Universe"

MATERIALS

● ["God Creates the Universe"](#) media clip

● Media device

Show the "God Creates the Universe" media clip to the group. Give preteens time to respond to the video before moving into Explore the Bible.

● **What stood out to you about the video?**

Explore the Bible: Genesis 1:1-25 and 31; John 1:1-3

Give one copy of the *In My Bible* study sheet to each student. There is also an editable document on your CD-ROM, so feel free to shorten, lengthen, or customize to fit the needs of your preteens. If you are running short on time, look for the questions with asterisks in front of them and cover those.

MATERIALS

● Bibles (1 per student)

● [In My Bible study sheets](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)

● Pens or pencils

● Whiteboard and markers

Before preteens arrive, create a two-columned chart on the board. Label the left column "What God Formed" and the right one "How God Filled." In the left column write "Day 1. vv. 3-5," "Day 2. vv. 6-8," and "Day 3. vv. 9-13," leaving a little bit of space between each reference. In the right column write "Day 4. vv. 14-19," "Day 5. vv. 20-23," and "Day 6. vv. 24-25" so they line up with the references in the left column.

After handing out the *In My Bible* study sheets, invite preteens to call out ways to finish this sentence: **In the beginning ...**

After giving preteens time to answer, continue with something like: **Let's see how the Bible finishes it.**

After the group has found John 1:1-3, ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

*** 1. What does John say about the beginning?** (*Help preteens understand that the phrase "the Word" refers to Jesus. John is saying here that Jesus is the Son of God and that He was actively involved in Creation.*)

After students find Genesis 1, invite a student to read Genesis 1:1 aloud while the rest of the group follows along.

*** 2. How does Genesis finish the phrase "in the**

beginning"? How is it similar to John 1:1-3? (*Genesis states that God created. He made the heavens and the earth out of nothing. Only God can do that. John tells us that Jesus was there in the beginning and that Jesus is God.*)

Ask a student to read aloud Genesis 1:2.

*** 3. In your own words, what was the earth like when God first created it?** (*Allow for all reasonable answers. You could point out that before God began His work, the land didn't have any form [or shape]. It was in a state of "not-yet-what-it-will-be."*)

Continue with something like this: **God set about forming the earth. Read Genesis 1:3-25 to see how God formed and filled the earth.**

After students have read silently, work together to fill out the chart. Fill out the "What God Formed" column first. Encourage students to summarize in a couple of words what God formed and filled. They should come up with: Day 1. vv. 3-5: *light (day and night)*; Day 2. vv. 6-8: *heavens*; Day 3. vv. 9-13: *seas, dry land and plants*; Day 4. vv. 14-19: *sun, moon, and stars (lights)*; Day 5. vv. 20-23: *sea creatures and birds*; Day 6. vv. 24-25: *livestock (domesticated animals), creeping things (animals that move along the ground),*

and beasts of the earth (wild animals). Then continue with something like: **So now we know what happened. Let's look at some other details.**

*** 4. Look at verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, and 24 in Genesis**

1. In the Bible, important words and phrases are repeated. What phrase is repeated over and over?

("God said.") What does this phrase show us about who God is? (God is doing the action. He says something and it happens! God is so powerful He speaks into existence something new and marvelous.)

Ask a couple of students to find and read Psalm 33:6 and Isaiah 40:26.

5. These verses tell more about God's creating power. How would you describe God based on these verses?

(Awesome, incredible, great.) Help your students understand how God's creation shows His tremendous creative power.

6. Let's go back to our chart. How does this order—of forming first, then filling—show God is wise? (Help students see how God planned the order so that everything

was in place before it was needed. God first formed an environment before He filled it. For example, on day 1 God created light and on day 4 the lights. God prepared for plants by getting ready all the things that plants would need to grow, such as water, air, and soil. And because God made plant life and animal life to be dependent on one another, He had to first create the environment and food [plants] before creating animals. They had air and trees, and the fish had water.)

7. Take a look at verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31 in Genesis 1. What does each verse repeat? (God saw that it was good.) What do you think that means?

(Because Creation came from God, it came with the quality of goodness—moral goodness from God.)

Invite one last student to read Jeremiah 10:12.

*** 8. What can we learn about God from the way He created? (The verse touches on God's power, wisdom, and understanding. Students may point out other characteristics of God that they know about, such as His love. For this lesson, emphasize God's power and wisdom.)**

Remember It: Psalm 19:1

MATERIALS

● Bibles

Psalm 19 is a hymn praising God. In this psalm, David praises God for His glory reflected in Creation and His law.

Ask students to find and read Psalm 19:1 in their Bibles. Write the verse on the whiteboard. Students may want to write it on their study sheets.

● How do "the heavens declare the glory of God"?

(All of Creation is a testimony to God's glory. Through God's beautiful creation we can see how powerful and wise He is. Encourage your students to give examples from nature that show God's creative power and wisdom. God's glory can be

● Whiteboard and markers

seen in the order, beauty, and vastness of all that exists in the universe—from faraway galaxies to the beauty of sunsets and the immensity of mountains.)

This activity helps preteens begin to memorize the Remember It verse. Divide the group into two parts. One group says the first part of the verse through "God" and the other group finishes the verse. Have the groups stand on opposite sides of the room. Beginning at a whisper, let each group say their part, and conclude with saying the reference together. Repeat several times with the groups gradually getting louder each time the verse is said.

Put It in Motion

Through a variety of options (games, crafts, experiments, and discussions), preteens further investigate the God in Action statement, Remember It verse, and Bible study. Select one (or a few) that best fits your time and the needs of your group.

Game Option: ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

MATERIALS

- 30 multicolored button candies in a bowl* (1 bowl per team)
- Vinyl disposable gloves (1 pair per student)**
- Wax paper or aluminum foil (1 sheet per team)
- Bible

This quick-play game reinforces God's power and wisdom in creation.

Divide the group into teams of three. Then introduce the game with something like this: **I have a bunch of chaos in a candy jar. I need your help to create something out of it! Each team will get the same number of candies. But they're all mixed up! I will call out what your team needs to create order out of the chaos. The first team to create a realistic image using all of its candies wins. Keep the candies on your wax paper or foil as you create. You must keep your gloves on so that we can eat the candies later.** (For food safety, be sure preteens only touch the candies with gloved hands. The gloves will also make it harder to pick up the candies.)

Pass out the materials and give team members time to organize their surface and put on gloves. Announce the

image to be made and let teams race to create it. Here's a beginning list:

- A rainbow
- A stick figure
- A type of tool
- Something from nature

After the first round of creating, say something like this: Create a little candy chaos! Dump your team's candies back together and stir them up. Here's the next image. Work through the images as time permits.

Gather the group back together and discuss the following question while sharing the candies.

● Read Genesis 1:2 aloud. **You used just a little power and wisdom to bring order to the chaos of your candy. How does that help you know that God is powerful and wise?**

* This activity contains candy. Check with parents for any food intolerances or allergies students might have.

** This activity uses vinyl disposable gloves. Use latex-free gloves if there is a latex sensitivity in your group

Science Option: ON A CLEAR, STARRY NIGHT

MATERIALS

- ["Star Chart" Reproducible PDF](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)
- Corrugated cardboard pieces a little larger than a sheet of paper
- Pushpins
- Bible
- Clips to hold paper

This astronomy activity encourages preteens and their families to worship and praise God for His power and wisdom. The students will create actual star charts to use at home.

Before the lesson begins, print copies of the Fall Star Chart for the Northern Hemisphere (or the Spring Star Chart for the Southern Hemisphere, depending on your location).

Introduce the activity with something like this: **One way we can see God as powerful and wise is to spend time gazing at the stars. It's like seeing Psalm 19:1 in action!**

Allow time for preteens to create their star charts. (Be sure to let students know that this chart is for fall [or spring]. As the earth rotates around the sun, the positions of stars move in the night sky.) To create the charts, students clip a copy of the star chart to the cardboard and then

carefully poke a hole through each star on the chart using a pushpin.

After the supplies have been put away, give preteens time to hold their star charts up to the light to look at them. Read Isaiah 40:26. Then encourage preteens to follow the directions on the star chart to use at home as a worship time. They may want to invite their families to join them.

● **Some scientists say there may be a thousand stars for every grain of sand on the earth. That's a lot of stars! And the verse in Isaiah says God knows each of them. How does looking at the stars help you know God is powerful and wise?**

Note: This activity includes a family component to be done during the week. Let parents know about the activity sent home for this lesson.

Craft Option: PSALM 19:1 POSTER

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Poster board or large paper
- Pencils

This activity gives the group an opportunity to create an artistic expression of Psalm 19:1.

Introduce the activity with something like this: **When we read the psalms, we see the word pictures the writers painted. In Psalm 19, David paints a picture of the heavens being God's work—reflecting His glory, power, and wisdom. Let's work together to create a visual picture of Psalm 19.**

Invite students to work together to create a poster that illustrates God's glory, power, and wisdom in Creation.

- Crayons
- Markers
- *Optional:* construction paper, other available craft supplies

Encourage them to be creative in using the words of the verse and decorating the poster to show what they think Psalm 19:1 means. Have them talk about the question below while they are working on the poster. If possible, hang the poster in your classroom as a worship reminder over the next couple of weeks.

Optional: Provide construction paper for students to create individual posters to take home.

● **How does your poster show others that God is powerful and wise?**

Discussion Option: TALK ABOUT IT

MATERIALS

- ["Talk About It"](#) PowerPoint slide for Lesson 1
- Media device

This activity lets preteens explore the power and wisdom of God in the context of Psalm 104.

Divide preteens into two groups. You could say something like this to introduce the topic: **Talk About It times are when we, as a group, discuss and explore a specific topic. Often we'll divide into smaller groups. Your group will always have a Bible verse to refer to. If your group needs to write things down, feel free to use the board. Be sure to give everyone in your group an opportunity to share thoughts and feelings without**

- Bibles
- Whiteboard and markers

being judged. Both groups should have their Bibles open to Psalm 104. Project the slide during the entire discussion time. The discussion questions from the slide are included here for your reference.

● **What do you appreciate most about God's wisdom and the world He created?**

● **Verses 31 and 33-34 are at the end of the psalm. They share how the psalmist praises God's power and wisdom. How do you see God's power and wisdom?**

Bridge to MAKE CONNECTIONS

Transition to MAKE CONNECTIONS with something like this: **We've discovered what the Bible says about God being powerful and wise. Let's take a few minutes to see how that fits into our own lives.**

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Preteens personalize the connections they've made through an activity, a time of reflection, and a time of worship. It's also a time to ask questions.

GET IN TOUCH

MATERIALS

- Card stock
- Glow-in-the-dark-paint (available at discount or craft stores) *or* glow-in-the-dark origami paper (available

If you are using the paint option, cut out a star for each student from card stock before the lesson. Cover the table to protect it from the paint.

For all options, start with something like this: **Our Remember It verse, Psalm 19:1, talks about the heavens showing glory to God. We can declare, or strongly state, the glory of God. We can proclaim, or openly praise, God because He is powerful and wise.**

Encourage students to quietly pray and praise God while they work on creating a glow-in-the-dark star: either decorating a paper star with thin lines of glow-in-the-dark

online—search glow-in-the-dark paper) and scissors *or* glow-in-the-dark plastic stars (available at discount stores or online)

paint or cutting out a star from a piece of glow-in-the-dark paper.

If you are using the plastic stars, set the stars in the middle of the group and turn off the lights. Encourage students to quietly pray and praise God for a couple of minutes while looking at the stars.

After students have finished their stars or prayer time, invite the group back together. Encourage them to put their stars in their rooms at home to remind them to spend time during the week responding to God, who is powerful and wise.

REFLECT

MATERIALS

- [My Response sketch sheet](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)

Introduce this part of the lesson with something like this: **The Bible tells us that God is powerful. In Psalm 33:6, the psalmist says God created the heavens with just His words! And God is wise—His creation is amazing, orderly, and in harmony. Think of any questions you have about the Bible Study, the Remember It verse, or**

- Pens or pencils

that God is powerful and wise. Write or draw what you're thinking as well as any questions you may have.

Give students time to write or draw their ideas. Allow time to talk as a group about their thoughts and questions. Since these are their own ideas, don't look for or offer specific answers. Instead, let preteens offer their ideas to each other.

WORSHIP

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Inexpensive sunglasses (1 per student)

With the group still together, move into worship with something like this: **Let's take time to look at Creation and worship God from a different viewpoint. Put on your glasses and imagine you are seeing what the psalmist who wrote Psalm 104 saw when he wrote these words:**

Read aloud Psalm 104:24-35. **Let's praise God for His power**

- Labels*
- Pens

and wisdom in creation. Give students time to praise God for seeing His creation in new ways. After each student prays, respond as a group: "Praise the Lord!"

*Give students time to label their glasses so they can be used by the same person each week the glasses are used.

GO WITH GOD

Leaders send each preteen into the week with a blessing—either for each person or for the group. This blessing shows students who God is and what they mean to Him. Leaders also give students the *In My Life* take-home with daily devotions, a reminder of this blessing, and a parent page.

MATERIALS

- [In My Life take-home sheets](#) for Lesson 1 (1 per student)
- *Optional:* Scripture Memory Cards for Lesson 1 (1 per student)

As the preteens leave, take a moment to bless each one with something like this: [Student's name], **you are never alone because God is always with you. May you see His power and wisdom in your life.**