



**Shape hearts.  
Change lives.**



**Teacher  
Guide**

**Preschool  
Ages 3-4**

# Preschool Contents

Ages 3-4, with options for 2s

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# How to Use HeartShaper®

## Welcome to HeartShaper Children's Curriculum!

With HeartShaper Children's Curriculum, your students will be engaged in Bible stories through multisensory learning, Bible skill-building activities, and focused life application.

### Here's how to start

- Pray for God's help to guide children as they learn about God, Jesus, and the church.
- Familiarize yourself with the teacher guide. Each lesson includes material for two complete hours of teaching.
- Use all the HeartShaper teaching tools.

### How the lessons are organized

- 1 Getting Started:** Preschoolers are introduced to the Bible story or lesson focus
- 2 Bible Discovery:** Preschoolers sing and pray to God. They learn a Bible story and Bible verse.
- 3 Grow and Go:** Preschoolers apply the Bible story lesson to their young lives.


**2+ Hours of material: Extra Hour** includes the same types of activities as the first hour—**More! Getting Started, More! Bible Discovery, More! Grow and Go.**

### Want a more detailed overview?

Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com). Click on Age Levels and choose Preschool. Scroll down to learn more about the features, products, and resources available for this age level. You'll be glad you did!

### Important things to know

- **Bible Memory** lists the passage children will learn in each unit.
- **Focus** is the main thought that children will learn and remember in each lesson.



### A Crowd Welcomes Jesus












**Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-11  
**Bible Memory:** Matthew 16:16  
"You are . . . the Son of . . . God." (ICB)  
"Thou art . . . the Son of . . . God." (KJV)  
**Focus:** We can praise Jesus.

**Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion**  
The psalm writers certainly knew how to praise God! Their exquisite poetry tells of His righteousness, compassion, faithfulness, majesty, glory, and holiness. The children you teach have few words compared to these great poets, but their praise sounds just as sweet to the ears of our heavenly Father. Encourage children to use their simple words of praise to glorify the one who made them. God will be pleased with their innocent worship.

**Bible Background for the Teacher**  
Bethshaze was near the top of the mount, about two miles from Jerusalem. Though most kings entered a city in wheeled vehicles or on horseback, Jesus rode into the city on the colt of a lowly donkey, thus fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. Spreading cloaks and palm branches was something people did to honor a king. *Hosanna*, literally meaning "to save" or "deliver," was both a word of welcome and praise and a cry for help.

**Special Unit: Triumphal Entry**

### Triumphal Entry Lesson at a Glance

	Quick Step	HeartShaper Materials	Other Materials
<b>1 GETTING STARTED</b> Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore ways to welcome people.	 <b>Welcome Around the World</b>  <b>Getting Ready</b>  <b>Welcoming Parade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• none</li><li>• Resources CD Palm Branch printable file</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• none</li><li>• family living center supplies (see activity)</li><li>• green paper, scissors, jumbo craft sticks, glue sticks, blocks, toy people</li></ul>
<b>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY</b> Use all of these activities to help children tell what people did when Jesus came to Jerusalem.	 <b>Sing and Pray</b>  <b>Bible Time</b> A Crowd Welcomes Jesus  <b>Bible Review</b>  <b>Bible Memory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resources CD, Scamper puppet, Resources sheet 1 Bible story mask TEA, Teaching Picture Triumphal Entry, Resources CD "A Crowd Welcomes Jesus" printable file</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CD player, Bible, small bag with handles, paper fasteners, yarn, broom, palm branches made for Welcoming Parade, highlighter</li></ul>
<b>3 GROW AND GO</b> Use one or more of these learning centers to help children choose a way to praise Jesus.	 <b>Quick Step</b> Pass It Along  <b>Praise Game</b>  <b>Praise Parade</b>  <b>Closing the Hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resources CD</li><li>• Make-n-Share for Triumphal Entry lesson</li><li>• Teaching Picture Triumphal Entry, Resources CD</li><li>• Heart Tugs Triumphal Entry issue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CD player, palm branch made for Welcoming Parade</li><li>• crayons, blunt-tip scissors, paper fasteners</li><li>• CD player, rhythm instruments, palm branches made for Welcoming Parade</li><li>• none</li></ul>

- **Quick Step™** activities are easy to prepare and teach. All that's needed are the curriculum materials and normal classroom supplies.
- **Option** activities are provided for Getting Started and Grow and Go. Ideas for teaching 2-year-olds are also included. YOU choose what works best for you and the different kinds of learners in your class. Use all the activities in Bible Discovery.



# Special Needs/Teaching Tools

## Reach kids with special needs

HeartShaper gives the resources you need to train teachers and adapt lesson activities so you can include kids with special needs right in your Sunday school classes.



Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs.



- When you see the symbol after a title, it means the activity will work well for all kids, including those with special needs.
- When you see the symbol in the narrow column, it may give you a helpful tip on how you can tweak the activity to make it better for kids with special needs.
- Or this symbol may indicate that there's an adaptation on the *Resources* CD that will make the activity work better for kids with special needs.

Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found at [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

## Multisensory teaching tools are an integral part of HeartShaper!

### Preschool Make-n-Share

Children will love the full-color activity pages designed just for them—including sticker and WATERPAINT™ pages!



### Preschool/Pre-K & K Teaching Pictures

These large colorful illustrations include the Bible story printed on the back in both English and Spanish.



### Heart Tugs family resource

This weekly paper helps children take the lesson home. In the paper you'll find:

- Read-to-me Bible stories
- Activities for 4- to 6-year-olds
- Fun family activity ideas



### Preschool Resources

These multisensory teaching tools include visual, printed, and audio resources.



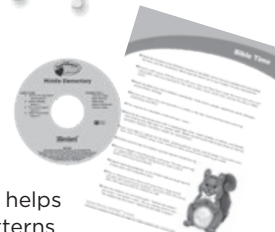
### On the 8 sheets you'll find:

- Interactive Bible story visuals (figures, story scenes and cards, puppets)
- Photo and picture cards, games, posters



### On the CD you'll find:

- Audio tracks—reproducible songs and music activities
- Coloring and activity pages
- Bible Memory posters and motions
- Special needs helps and teacher helps
- Scamper the squirrel puppet patterns



For simple lesson planning, get the **Preschool Teacher's Convenience Kit**. It contains one *Preschool Teacher Guide*, one *Preschool Make-n-Share*, the complete *Preschool Resources* pack, *Preschool/Pre-K & K Teaching Pictures*, and one set of *Heart Tugs* family resource.

## Go online to [HeartShaper.com](http://HeartShaper.com) and [DavidCCook.org](http://DavidCCook.org)

Find loads of resources for teachers and families! Sign up to receive free e-newsletters. Discover all the ways you can purchase your HeartShaper curriculum.

# Unit 1

# God Made the World

## Bible Memory

Genesis 1:1, *ICB*

"God created the sky and the earth."

Genesis 1:1, *KJV*

"God created the heaven and the earth."

## Preschool Bible Skills

Activities in this unit of lessons will help the children

- Know the Bible is God's special book.
- Point to and repeat simple Bible Memory verses.
- Point to main characters in Bible pictures.

## Especially for 2s!

Depending on children's motor skills, activity suggestions geared for 2-year-olds can also be used by younger 3-year-olds.

## Special Needs Helps

Look for this symbol to identify activities that work well for all children, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching children with special needs can be found at [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).



## Online Helps

See the introductory pages for information about downloads that are available.



## Lesson

### Lesson 2

God Made Fish and Birds

## Scripture

Genesis 1

## Focus

♥ God made fish and birds.

## HeartShaper Materials for Unit 1

### Preschool Make-n-Share

- [Activity Pages](#), [Stickers](#)

### Preschool Resources

#### CD

##### Audio Tracks

- [Audio Track - "Thank You, God"](#)
- [Audio Track - "In the Beginning"](#)
- ["In the Beginning" lyrics](#)
- [Audio Track - "God Made the World"](#)
- ["God Made the World" Bible story music activity](#)
- [Audio Track - Underwater Sounds](#)
- [Audio Track - Bird Sounds](#)
- [Audio Track - Animal Sounds](#)

##### Printable Files

- [Bible Memory Poster - ICB or KJV](#)
- [Bible Memory Motions - ICB or KJV](#)
- [Family Letter - ICB or KJV](#)
- [Coloring Page](#)
- [Leaf Patterns](#)

#### Visuals

- [Creation cards - PDF or JPG](#)
- [Photo cards - PDF or JPG](#)
- [Neighborhood Fun poster and Scamper Quarterly poster - PDF or JPG](#)

### Preschool Teaching Pictures

- [Lesson 2](#)

### Preschool Heart Tugs

- [Issue 2](#)

**Scamper puppet**—Use the patterns provided, or purchase a plush squirrel puppet.

- [Scamper Bag Puppet](#), [Scamper Stick Puppet](#)

# Extra Moments, Extra Ideas for Unit 1

Give a copy of this page to each teacher or helper. Use the activities for early arrivers, during transition times, or whenever there is extra time.

## Welcoming New Children

“If anyone accepts children like these in my name, then he is also accepting me” (Mark 9:37, *ICB*). Welcoming new children into your classroom is a God-given privilege. As you begin this new quarter, be prepared to give a cheerful greeting. Let children and parents do as much as possible before entering the room: sign in, receive identification tags, and hang coats. Respect other children by having parents say good-bye at the door.

## Unit 1 Bible Memory Activities

From the *Resources* printable files, display the unit 1 Bible Memory poster (*ICB* or *KJV*) in several places around the room, making it accessible to all teachers. Make extras for children to color and decorate. Teach the Bible Memory motions (*ICB* or *KJV*) also found in *Resources*.

Using the Bible Memory song “[In the Beginning](#),” children can clap to the song, march around the room, or play rhythm instruments.

Send home the Family Letter (*ICB* or *KJV*) also found in *Resources*. Ask parents to reinforce the Bible Memory words each day throughout the week.

The music on the CD is reproducible. Send a CD home with each child so parents can sing the songs with their children all week long!

## Unit 1 Learning Center: Wonder Center

Unit 1 center is a wonder center. You will need to gather these items:

Lesson 2: magnifying glasses, fishbowl with goldfish, books about fish and birds, feathers

## Fall Bulletin Board Idea

Children love the changing seasons and holidays. Appropriately decorating the classroom for these special times can help the children understand from a biblical perspective the times and seasons God gave us. Allow children to help decorate a classroom bulletin board for fall. Include the *Resources* sheet 8 [Scamper quarterly poster](#). Cut out colorful paper leaves for a border. [Leaf patterns](#) are included in *Resources*. Let children draw and add pictures of other favorite fall nature items—apples, pumpkins, acorns, and so forth.

## Guided Playtime

Play is the way children learn, build relationships, and communicate with others. During times of guided play, allow children to play with toys of their choice. The teacher can supervise and guide the conversation to correlate with the day’s lesson: “Blake, I like the animals you are playing with. Do you think Noah had some of these animals on his ark-boat?”

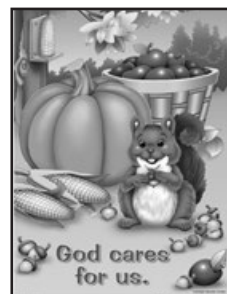
### Allergy Notice

Before class, print and fill out the [Allergy Notice](#) for each snack that is served. Post it visibly for parents to take note. And always check your own children’s information.

Mark name tags so volunteers can easily identify dietary needs.

### Teaching Tip

The *Resources* printable files include both the *International Children’s Bible* and the *King James Version* for Bible Memory Posters, Bible Memory Motions, and Family Letters.



### Something More!

For a fun fall craft idea, go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com) and check out Holiday and Seasonal Helps under Teacher Resources.

# God Made Fish and Birds

## Lesson 2



**Scripture:** Genesis 1:20-23

**Bible Memory:** Genesis 1:1

“God created the sky and the earth.” (ICB)

“God created the heaven and the earth.” (KJV)

**Focus:** ♥ God made fish and birds.













### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

How do you respond when you see creation? Does it strengthen your belief? Do you feel peace? Does it make you want to care for what’s been entrusted to you? It’s amazing that God said “Let there be,” and it was so. When we are faced with God’s sovereign power in creation, we can’t help but worship and praise Him. Children naturally thank God over and over for what He has done in the acts of creation. Jump in with them and worship our God, our creator.

### Bible Background for the Teacher

On Days 1–4, God made the skies, gathered the waters, and prepared the land. On Day 5, God began to fill the earth He had made. Notice that when God created fish and birds, He organized them into groups. He also set limitations on them, saying that they were to multiply within their groups (Genesis 1:21). God blessed the creatures of the sea and sky, which is appropriate because the idea of blessing relates to the giving of life.

## Lesson 2 at a Glance

<b>1 GETTING STARTED</b> Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore things God made on Day 5</i> .	<div>  Craft         </div> <div>  Wonder         </div> <div>  Active Play         </div> <div>  <b>Quick Step</b>            Fish and Bird Puppets         </div> <div>           Wonder Center            (unit center)         </div> <div>           Flying and Swimming         </div>	<b>HeartShaper Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Make-n-Share</a> for lesson 2</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 <a href="#">photo cards 2b-2g</a></li> <li>• Audio Tracks <a href="#">10</a> and <a href="#">11</a></li> </ul>	<b>Other Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scissors, crayons, tape</li> <li>• magnifying glasses, fish bowl with goldfish, picture books about fish and birds</li> <li>• Books about fish and birds</li> </ul>
<b>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY</b> Use all these activities to help children <i>tell what God made on Days 1–5</i> .	<div>  Sing &amp; Pray         </div> <div>  Bible Time         </div> <div>  Bible Review         </div> <div>  Bible Memory         </div> <div> <b>Sing and Pray</b> </div> <div> <b>Bible Time</b>            God Made Fish and Birds         </div> <div> <b>Bible Review</b> </div> <div> <b>Bible Memory</b> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 <a href="#">creation cards</a> 1a-1d and 2a, Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file (<a href="#">ICB</a> or <a href="#">KJV</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tape, ruler, Bible with Bible Memory highlighted</li> </ul>
<b>3 GROW AND GO</b> Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>thank God for making fish and birds</i> .	<div>  Game         </div> <div>  Art         </div> <div>  Music         </div> <div>  <b>Quick Step</b>            Guess Who?         </div> <div>           Fish and Bird Models         </div> <div>           “Thank You, God”         </div> <div>           Closing the Hour         </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 <a href="#">photo cards</a> 2b-2g</li> <li>• none</li> <li>• <a href="#">Teaching Picture 2</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Heart Tugs issue 2</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> <li>• Bible with Bible Memory highlighted, modeling dough</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>

# Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore things God made on Day 5.**

## Welcome

- Use Scamper to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

## Quick Step Fish and Bird Puppets

Before class, cut the fish and bird puppets from the activity pages.

SAY: **The Bible tells us that ♥ God made fish and birds. Let's make some fish and bird puppets. Then we'll talk about fish and birds.**

Give each child a fish and bird to finish coloring. Help the children fold their puppets in half and tape the sides. Show them how to put four fingers inside each puppet. They can wiggle the fish back and forth as though they are swimming and move the birds up and down as though they are flying.

ASK: **What helps a fish swim? (fins) What helps the bird fly? (wings)**  
**Can you name some things that are different about fish and birds?**

## Wonder Center (unit center)

SAY: **The Bible tells us that ♥ God made fish and birds. Let's look at some of the fish and birds God made.**

Guide the children to look through magnifying glasses at the goldfish. Show the photo cards and look at books that picture fish and birds. Encourage the children to talk about the animals.

ASK: **What are some colors God used when He made fish? birds?**  
**Which is your favorite fish?**  
**Name some birds God made.**

### ***Especially for 2s!***

Provide stuffed animals of fish and birds for the children to look at and hug. Talk about the different colors, shapes, and sizes.

## Flying and Swimming

SAY: **When God made the world, ♥ God made fish and birds. Let's look at some pictures of fish and birds. Then we'll pretend to swim like the fish and fly like the birds God made.**

Talk about fish swimming, breathing, and blowing bubbles. Talk about birds flying and landing, building nests, and eating worms. Look at the books you have provided. In an open area of the room, practice swimming like fish and flying like birds as you play the sound effects from the tracks.

ASK: **Do you think most fish swim fast or slowly?**  
**What do you think birds see when they are flying high in the sky?**

Make swimming like a fish more visual by blowing bubbles and having the children pretend to swim around to catch them.



## Focus

♥ God made fish and birds.

**Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.**

### Materials

[Make-n-Share for lesson 2](#), scissors, crayons, tape



### Materials

magnifying glasses, fishbowl with goldfish, [Resources sheet 2 photo cards 2b-2g](#), books about fish and birds (optional: fish and bird stuffed animals)



### Teaching Tip

If you or someone you know has a caged bird, add this to your Wonder Center for the day.

### Materials

books about fish and birds, audio tracks [10](#) and [11](#)



### Cleanup

Form a line and "swim" or "fly" around the room, stopping at each area that needs to be cleaned. Clean it, then "swim" or "fly" to the next area.





## Focus

♥ God made fish and birds.

# Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2

Use all these activities to help children **tell what God made on Days 1–5.**

### Materials

Audio tracks [1](#) and [4](#)



### Materials

Bible, *Resources* sheet 1 [creation cards](#) 1a–1d and 2a, tape (or glue), ruler (or paint-stirring stick)



### Teaching Tip

[Creation cards 1a–1d](#) should have been prepared for lesson 1. If they weren't, do so now.

### Materials

none



### Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted, *Resources* Bible Memory Motions printable file ([ICB](#) or [KJV](#))



## Sing and Pray

Sing “Thank You, God” (vv. 1, 2) and “In the Beginning.”

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for all the great things You made. I especially like the fish and birds. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SAY: **Today’s Bible story is about the very first animals God made for His new world. Let’s look in our Bible to find out what they were.**

## Bible Time

Before class, tape a ruler to the back of card 2a.

SAY: **The Bible book of Genesis** (show Genesis) **tells us that when God made the world, He started with nothing. On Day 1, God made day and night.** Hold up card 1a. **On Day 2, God made the sky and clouds.** Show card 1b and look upward. **Can you look toward the sky? On Day 3, God made the seas and land with all kinds of trees, plants, and flowers.** Show card 1c and lead in the motions. **Can you put one hand on top of your other hand and then move your hands apart like tall, growing flowers?** Do so. **On Day 4, God made the sun, moon, and stars.** Show card 1d and circle arms overhead. **Let’s make round suns above our heads.**

**Now God’s world was ready to be filled with animals and people. On Day 5, ♥ God made fish and birds.** Show card 2a. **God made fish in every color. God made little fish. He made big fish. Let’s put our hands together and move them like fish. Our fish hands can swim fast because they are glad God made wonderful fish.** Demonstrate swishing hands.

**Next, God made birds. He made little birds. He made medium-size birds. And God made big birds. God made black birds and yellow birds. God made red birds and blue birds. He made birds that live close to the water and birds that live in very cold weather. Let’s pretend our arms are bird wings. We can flap them up and down because we are glad God made wonderful birds.** Lead children in the motions.

**All the fish and birds that God made helped His world to work just right. God made good things for His wonderful world.**

## Bible Review

SAY: **Let’s play a game to remember what God made on the first five days. I’ll call out a number. If you know what God made on that day, jump up and tell me.** Begin by calling out the numbers 1–5 in numeric order; then mix them up. You can also increase the speed of calling out numbers.

ASK: **What did God make on Day 3? Day 2? What animals did God make on Day 5?**

## Bible Memory Genesis 1:1

Before class, print and display the Bible Memory motions from *Resources*.

SAY: **Let’s read a verse in the Bible that tells about the time when God made the world.** Let each child carefully hold and open the Bible and point to Genesis 1:1. Read the verse. Ask the children to say the Bible Memory with you, reviewing the motions from *Resources*.

# Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

3

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **thank God for making fish and birds.**

## Focus

♥ God made fish and birds.

### Quick Step Guess Who?

SAY: ♥ God made fish and birds when He made the world. Let's look again at some of the fish and birds God made. Then we'll play an animal guessing game and thank God for making fish and birds.

Show the photo cards and talk about the differences in the various fish and birds. Have the children take turns pretending to be the various pictured animals. The other children can guess which animal is being acted out. Guide the children to thank God for each fish and bird.

ASK: **What fish or bird do you want to thank God for?** Lead in prayer.

**How can you thank God for what He made?** (prayer, helping take care of animals)

### Fish and Bird Models

SAY: **The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:1 that God made the sky and the earth.** Open your Bible and read Genesis 1:1. Have the children say the Bible Memory with you. **When God made the world, ♥ God made fish and birds. Let's make some fish and birds that remind us of the wonderful animals God made. Then we'll thank God for the animals He made.**

Guide the children to shape fish and birds from the dough. Children also might enjoy shaping bird nests and bird eggs from the dough. As children work, repeat the Bible Memory, using the motions learned during Bible Memory time. Thank God for making fish and birds.

ASK: **What does our Bible Memory say God created?**

**When can we thank God for making fish and birds?**

### "Thank You, God"

SAY: ♥ God made fish and birds for us to enjoy. Let's look at a picture of some of the fish and birds God made. Then we'll sing a song and thank God for making these wonderful animals.

Show and talk about the teaching picture. Encourage children to name as many details as possible about each bird and fish shown in the picture. Count the fish and the birds. Sing "Thank You, God." Lead children in a simple prayer, thanking God for the many different fish and birds He made.

ASK: **What do you think this bird eats?**

**Where does this bird live?**

#### Especially for 2s!

Guide young children to count the fish and birds on the teaching picture. Ask children to name the colors of the animals and tell whether they are big or small. Listen to the song "Thank You, God." Say a simple prayer, thanking God for the fish and birds.

### Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving now have their activity projects and a copy of this week's [Heart Tugs](#). Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

#### Materials

Resources sheet 2  
[photo cards](#) 2b–2g



#### Teaching Tip

Give children hints about how to act out the fish and birds—stand on one leg, hold your arms as though you are a large fish, and so on.

#### Materials

Bible with Bible Memory highlighted, various colors of modeling dough (optional: fish- and bird-shaped cookie cutters)



#### Materials

[Teaching Picture 2](#),  
[Audio track 1](#)



#### Teaching Tip

If you made the fish and bird puppets in *Getting Started*, children will enjoy playing with these as they sing the song.



If children have difficulty naming details, slightly change the activity by naming a detail of a certain fish or bird and asking the children to point to the fish or bird you are describing.