

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1—3

(Creation/Fall of Man)

**God Is Eternal****REMEMBER VERSE**

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalm 90:2

**SCHEDULE****CONNECT****10 minutes****GATHER****30 minutes****RESPOND****15 minutes****BLESS****5 minutes**



## Leader Prep

Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

## Further Resources

A Small Group Enhancement is available for this lesson.

**Download the following resources to help you plan and lead TruStory lessons:**

Customizable copy of Lesson 1

[TruStory Cycle A Scope and Sequence](#)

[TruStory How It Works document](#)

If you have questions about Tru curriculum or are looking for great training, blogs, and other support resources, visit [truministry.com](http://truministry.com).

## Inspire *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

A few years ago I visited the Grand Canyon. While I enjoyed the view, a cloud billowed into the canyon and filled it with ribbons of mist. The buzzing of conversations and the scuffling of footsteps stopped as thunder rolled through the canyon like a low growl. "The heavens declare the glory of God," Psalm 19:1 says, and even though I didn't hear an audible voice that day, God's majesty spoke clearly.

That day offered just a glimpse of God's beauty and how much He deserves our praise. I wanted nothing but to worship Him. Maybe you've felt this way before\_\_\_while looking at a field of grass rippling in the breeze or waves bombarding a craggy cove or the colors of the sky changing into fluorescent hues at sunset.

Standing quietly outside, looking at creation, I marveled that the same God who made everything I saw was also present with me\_\_\_a cosmic, awe-inspiring, awesome God. He is eternal.

*Tori Funkhouser*

**ROCKHARBOR Church**

## Equip *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

God is eternal. He has always been and will always be. His creation of and interaction with humans can be found in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which sets up the backdrop for the rest of The Big God Story. Genesis explains our need for the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who will one day defeat Satan and redeem us back to Himself.

The first chapter of Genesis gives an account of creation from the beginning of the universe to the creation of man in God's image. It refers to God as *Elohim*, the infinitely powerful One who created the universe and our earth out of nothing. Chapter 2 focuses more on the creation of man and woman and speaks of God as *Yahweh Elohim*\_\_\_"I Am who I Am," who formed Adam from the dust, like a potter forms a pot from clay, and breathed into his nostrils, giving him life.

Genesis 3 describes the fall of mankind and gives us a picture of God as a pursuer. At the outset of sin, God began to draw Adam and Eve\_\_\_and subsequently fallen humanity\_\_\_back to Himself. When Adam and Eve hid from Him, God looked for them. He also protected them by making clothes for them.

In the Genesis account we see the relationship God desires to have with us\_\_\_one in which we're in perfect harmony with the eternal One.

**Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

As you prepare for this lesson, spend time reading the Scripture passage on your own, and ask the Holy Spirit to transform you with the same words you'll be bringing to the children. Let what you share be infused with the passion and conviction that comes from the overflow of your own life.

Pray the Holy Spirit powerfully impacts your time with the kids, bringing them into closer relationship with Him. Pray that your kids and parents will be transformed by their encounter with God, that they will know Him better, and that they will respond to Him with faith and obedience. If possible, find a time to pray with the parents for their role as spiritual leaders.

Ask God to use His story to reveal His great love for all of you and His desire to be in perfect relationship with you.



## LESSON 1 SUPPLIES

### Connect//

What's in a Name?

- None

### Gather//

Storytelling

- Bibles
- Butcher paper (3 pieces, each approx. 2')
- Tempera paint (various colors)
- Paintbrushes (several)
- Disposable cup
- Water
- Paper towels
- Tape
- Optional: markers or drawing chalk

Remember Verse

- [Remember Verse cards](#)

Game: Word Scramble

- Paper (20 sheets)
- Marker
- Optional: additional paper (20 more sheets)

### Respond//

Create: God's Great Creation

- [Creation images](#)
- Scissors
- Poster board (1 sheet, black)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Tape or glue

Engage: Let There Be Light

- None

### Bless//

- [Remember Verse cards](#)
- [At Home Weekly](#)
- Bible
- Stones (1 per child, small)

## CONNECT// 10 min.

*Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.*

God created the world and everything in it. He is eternal, which means that He's always existed and always will exist. God created people to be in relationship with Him. Even though people sinned, breaking our relationship with God, He loves us so much that He made the way to bring us back into a perfect relationship with Him!

**CONNECT QUESTION:** Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: **What is your favorite thing in nature?**

## What's in a Name?

### RELATE

**Before God created the first people, He created animals.**

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Ask children to think of either a type of animal or an animal noise that matches the first letter of their name—for example, Darien Duck or Mooing Melissa. Ask one child to start by sharing her fun new name. Then move on to the next child in the circle, who will attempt to share the first





child's name as well as his own unique name. Continue around the circle this way, with the last child attempting to remember the name of every child before him.

## Developmentally Speaking

Because young children can feel uncomfortable when trying to remember facts in a group, encourage the kids to help each other by providing the noise their animal makes as a fun hint!

# GATHER// 30 min.

*Children experience and learn more about God through memorizing Scripture, storytelling from The Big God Story, prayer, and discussion.*

## Prayer

Gather your children into a circle. Encourage them to hold their hands in front of them, palms up, as a posture of receiving what God might speak to them today. Before you pray, designate a leader (or two) to open and close the time of prayer. Encourage the children to participate in this time of prayer if they would like to. Remind them that praying is simply talking to and listening to God and that He always hears us when we pray.

As you pray, leave space between prayers for the children to take the opportunity to pray, in case some may be apprehensive and need a little more time. Pray that God would bless the day's lesson as you are in His Word. Pray that God would speak to the hearts of His children, revealing to them the truth of today's Ponder Point, that **GOD IS ETERNAL**.

## Storytelling

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1—3

**Storytelling Technique:** Illustrating the Narrative  
**God Is Eternal**

### Prayer of Release

The **Prayer of Release** allows children and leaders to pause, be still, and ask God to quiet their hearts and minds. Before you pray, you might ask the kids to hold out their hands, palms up, in a spirit of releasing their worries and distractions in order to better receive what the Holy Spirit might have for them today. Then encourage the kids to quiet their voices, take a seat, and pray with you.

### SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Butcher paper (3 pieces, each approx. 2')
- Tempera paint (various colors)
- Paintbrushes (several)
- Disposable cup
- Water
- Paper towels
- Tape



- Optional: markers or drawing chalk

### SET UP

Tape the pieces of butcher paper to the wall. Fill the cup with water and set it out along with the paint and paintbrushes. Optional: Instead of the paint supplies, set out the markers or chalk.

### RELATE

Last week we celebrated the Feast of Jubilee and gave thanks for God's gift of freedom. Today we're starting a new year of journeying through The Big God Story, and we're starting back at the very beginning. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us today. Lead children in Prayer of Release.

**Keep your eyes closed for a moment and tell me what you see.** Interact with responses. **When I close my eyes, I can't see anything—only darkness!** Invite children to open their eyes. **The Big God Story tells us it was like this in the very beginning. Before God created the animals or the trees or the sun, everything was empty. There was nothing—nothing except for God. He is eternal. What does *eternal* mean?** Invite responses. **It means that God has always been and will always be. Ever since creation God has been working to tell His big story to the world and to invite every person to know and love Him.**

Go to first piece of butcher paper and pick up painting or drawing tool. **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.** Have children turn to Genesis 1 and follow along as you read verse 1. **The Bible tells us God's Spirit hovered over the waters. He was in control of everything that would happen—of everything that He would create.** On the first piece of butcher paper, draw blue wavy lines in the middle to represent the waters. **Our powerful God was about to begin His big story that continues today!**

**God spoke, and with His words He began to create the world. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.** Have children find the word "light" in verse 3. Still on the first butcher paper, fill in the top left portion with bright yellow. **God separated the light from the darkness, and He saw that it was good** (verse 4). Fill in the top right portion with dark blue or black. **God continued by creating the land and the seas.** Draw a brown patch of land and a big body of water.

**God also created plants—fruit trees and flowers and bushes.** Move to second piece of butcher paper and draw a large fruit tree. **God created the sun, the moon, and the stars.** Return to first butcher paper and draw a sun, moon, and stars. **He created animals on the land, fish in the sea, and birds in the air.** Still on first paper, draw a few simple animal shapes.

Move to third piece of butcher paper. **Then God created people in His image. And instead of speaking mankind into being, God used dirt from the ground to form a man.** Draw simple figure of a man. **Then God breathed into the man, and he lived! Then God created a woman to be the man's partner. He took a rib from the man and made a woman to be his wife.** Draw simple figure of a woman. **Does anyone know the names of these first two people?** Allow responses. **That's right—Adam and Eve.**

**God put Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, a beautiful place where they could live and take care of the things God had created. In the garden, they enjoyed a perfect relationship with God and each other. God told Adam and Eve they could eat anything in the garden except the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.** Go back to second piece of butcher paper and point to tree. **God told them that if they ate from this tree, they would die. God is eternal, which means He knows the beginning and the end. He didn't want harm to come to Adam and Eve.**



**One day a snake spoke to Eve.** Still on second piece of paper, draw a snake near the tree. **Can you hear him coming?** Invite children to make hissing sounds with you. **The snake told Eve that the things God had said about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil weren't true. The snake told Eve that God was trying to keep her from being like God—the eternal One. Eve believed the snake. She took a piece of fruit and ate it. Then she gave a piece of fruit to Adam, and he took a bite too.** Draw a piece of fruit with a bite mark in it. **When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. Their choice broke their relationship with God.** Draw a jagged line down middle of paper.

**Adam and Eve's choices broke the relationship between God and people. But because God is eternal, He made a plan to send His Son Jesus to die for our sins so we could be in relationship with Him forever.** On third piece of paper, draw a cross. **Jesus took the punishment for our sin. God loves us so much that He invites each of us to know Jesus and accept His forgiveness for our sins.** Still on third piece, draw a heart.

**God is eternal. He has always existed and will always exist! He created all that we can see, taste, touch, hear, and smell. He created you and me. He invites you, me, and everyone to be a part of The Big God Story.** Share a personal story about how you've seen the eternal God in creation.

## Investigate

### Discussion Questions

- **What existed before creation?** Genesis 1:1
- **What did God create?** Genesis 1:3–27
- **How did God create the world?** Genesis 1:3–27
- **How was God's creation of man and woman different from His creation of everything else?** Genesis 2:7, 21–22
- **What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God?** Genesis 3:7–19
- **What did God do so we can be in relationship with Him?** John 3:16

### God the Creator

The Big God Story tells us how God created all things. He is powerful, loving, and good. Throughout the Bible, people praised God for His creation.

Read Psalm 8:3–9 as kids follow along.

- **What do these verses tell us about God?**
- **Why do you think the writer of this psalm wanted to praise God for the things He created?**
- **What are some of your favorite things that God created? Why?**
- **How can you praise God for the things He has created?**

## Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

### SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse cards](#)



- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)

#### RELATE

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

## Game: Word Scramble

#### SUPPLIES

- Paper (20 sheets)
- Marker
- Optional: additional paper (20 more sheets)

#### SET UP

Write each word of the verse and the verse reference on a separate sheet of paper. (If you have a large group of kids, write the verse again on another 20 sheets of paper.) Scramble the papers.

#### RELATE

Talk with your children about the Remember Verse and how it relates to today's Ponder Point—God Is Eternal. Then give the kids the sheets of paper and invite them to put the words in the correct order on the floor. Once they have the words in order, they can read the Remember Verse out loud. Then have the children scramble the words again and repeat the process. Keep playing until the kids have memorized the verse.

## RESPOND// 15 min.

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

## Create: God's Great Creation

#### SUPPLIES

- [Creation images](#)
- Scissors
- Poster board (1 sheet, black)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Tape or glue

#### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Creation images and cut them apart. Make sure you have one image for each child.

#### RELATE

**God is eternal. He created the world and everything in it. No one else helped God create the world. He has always existed, and He is the one true God who rules over everything. Whenever we see a mountain or a beautiful flower or a buzzing bee, we can know that God created its beauty. What is your favorite part of God's creation?** Allow responses.



**God also created you and me. The Bible says that God created us in His image, and when we accept Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us become more like Him (Colossians 3:9–10). How does it make you feel to know that God created you in His image? Allow responses.**

**It's amazing that even after people chose to disobey God, He provided Jesus so we could have a perfect relationship with Him again. When we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, God cleans us from all our sin and invites us to be a part of The Big God Story!**

Encourage your kids to respond to the ways God has shown His grace and love in their lives. Invite each child to take one of the Creation images and color it with colored pencils or crayons. Then, in the space around the image, they can either write or draw a word that represents one thing they're grateful for about God. It could be something they love about His creation, or a special person He has placed in their lives, or one of His characteristics—His mercifulness or eternal nature or love.

Then invite the children to come up one at a time and tape or glue their images of creation to the black poster board. As each child places her image on the poster, invite her to share what she wrote or drew. Together the kids' images will create a beautiful collage of God's creation and His wonderful characteristics. Also encourage kids to share with their families what they chose to express about God.

## Engage: Let There Be Light

### RELATE

**When God created the world, He simply spoke and things started to happen! God is eternal; He has always existed and will always exist. God made everything in the world by simply speaking it into existence.**

Lead the children in a fun game to help get them moving and thinking about our great God who creates something out of nothing. Tell the kids you're going to play a game similar to Simon Says, and they'll need to pay close attention! There will be three possible things you will ask them to do. If you say, "God said, 'Let there be light!'" they should jump up and wave their hands over their heads. If you say, "God said, 'Let there be water!'" they should move their arms in a swimming motion. If you say, "God said, 'Let there be animals!'" they should make an animal noise or move like an animal. In order to do the action, the kids need to hear you say, "God said." If you don't say this first, the kids should remain still. Any kids who start doing the action anyway are out. Play until one child remains, and feel free to play a few rounds.

- **What was easy about this game? What was hard?**
- **How is this game similar to listening for God?**
- **How does God talk to us today?**

**Our God simply spoke and things started happening. All of creation listened to what God had to say. We can continue listening for God's voice because we know we're a part of The Big God Story, which began with creation and continues today!**

# BLESS// 5 min.

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

## SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse cards](#)
- [At Home Weekly](#)
- Bible
- Stones (1 per child, small)

## RELATE

**Our God is eternal. He existed before anything else—before the mountains or rivers or lakes or people. God created everything in the world, and He created people. And even though people disobeyed Him and chose to sin, God has worked throughout The Big God Story to provide the way for us to be in perfect relationship with Him again.**

Give a stone to each child. **God existed before He made the mountains.** Open a Bible and read Psalm 90:2:

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Now take a moment to bless each child with one of the following statements:

(Child's name), **God loves you and created you. He has a plan for your life. May you live in His love and peace this week.**

Or

(Child's name), **God has always been. He is our Creator, and He loves you deeply. Rejoice in His love this week.**

After you've blessed the children individually, invite the group to gather and join hands as you finish with these words.

**May God remind you that He is the Creator, eternal and good. May you know He invites you to be a part of The Big God Story today and forever.**

Encourage the children to take their stones home as reminders of God's creation and His plan to redeem everything through Jesus.

**At Home Weekly** is provided as a parent resource with each week's lesson (see Resources) and can be emailed or printed and distributed. This preteaching tool encourages families to spend time in God's Word together before children arrive at church. The best part is that parents are the first to introduce their kids to the Bible content they'll hear at church. In this way, the church is supporting families as they spiritually nurture their children.