

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 tru ministry.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//

Who Are You Like?

- Paper (4 sheets)
- Marker

GATHER//

Storytelling

- [Images: Sun, Moon, Stars](#)
- Bibles
- Cup
- Water
- Flashlight
- Bucket (small or medium-sized)
- Sand or dirt (to fill bucket approx. half full)
- Potted plant

Remember Verse

- [Remember Verse cards](#)

Game: Word Scramble

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

RESPOND//

Create: Personal Praise

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens
- Markers
- Optional: watercolors (several sets), paintbrushes (1 per child), watercolor paper (1 sheet per child), cups (several), water, newspapers or plastic tablecloths, paper towels

Engage: Sculpting Creation

- Play dough or modeling clay (1 lump for every 3–4 kids)
- Paper (at least 2 sheets)
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Bowl or basket (medium-sized)
- Stopwatch

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 perfect relationship with Him!

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

Who Are You Like?

SUPPLIES

- Paper (4 sheets)
- Marker

SET UP

At the top of each sheet of paper, write one of the following animals: "Lion," "Deer," "Fox," and "Dove." Tape the four sheets in four corners of the room or in four different places on the wall.

RELATE

Before God created man and woman, He made animals. Each animal has its own characteristics. Lions are known for being powerful and fierce. Deer are known for being quick and quiet. Foxes are known for being clever, and doves are considered peaceful.

Encourage your children to think about their own personalities and get to know each other through the following game. Invite the kids to go stand by the animal they think they're most like when they're at school. Then have them stand next to the animal they're most like at church, the animal they're most like while participating in a hobby (such as sports or art), and the animal they're most like when they're with their families or when they're alone. For each scenario, ask the following questions:

- **Why do you think you're like this animal?**
- **Was it difficult for you to choose one animal? Why or why not?**

Developmentally Speaking

During the preteen years, kids really begin to figure out who they are. Encourage the kids to think about their own personalities as they choose their animals and answer the questions.

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 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: Acting Out 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

- [Images: Sun, Moon, Stars](#)
- Bibles
- Cup
- Water
- Flashlight
- Bucket (small or medium-sized)
- Sand or dirt (to fill bucket approx. half full)
- Potted plant

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Sun, Moon, and Stars images.

SET UP

Fill the cup with water.

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 minute and tell me what you see. Interact with responses. **That's right—nothing! The Big God Story tells us it was like this in the very beginning. Before God created the animals, the trees, or the sun, everything was empty. There was nothing—nothing except for God. He is eternal, which means He 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.**

Ask for a few volunteers to help tell today's portion of The Big God Story. Ask one child to hold the cup of water and another to hold the flashlight, which he will turn on when you direct him to do so. Give another child the bucket of sand or dirt and another child the potted plant. Give three children the Sun, Moon, and Stars images. Invite some children to be birds and others to be fish. Ask one child to play Adam, another to be Eve, and another to be the snake.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Have children turn to Genesis 1. Invite a volunteer to read verse 1. **The Bible tells us God's Spirit hovered over the waters. He was in control of everything that He would create and everything that would happen.** Have child with the water dip her fingers into the cup and *lightly* sprinkle it on a few other kids. **Our powerful God was about to begin His great story that continues today!**

God simply spoke, and with His words He began to create the world. He said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Read Genesis 1:3 aloud. Have child with flashlight turn it on. **God separated the light from the darkness, and He saw that it was good** (verse 4). Have child turn off flashlight. **God continued to create over the next few days. He created the land and the seas.** Have child with bucket of sand or dirt invite a couple of children to run their fingers through it. **He also created plants—fruit trees and flowers and bushes.** Have child with potted plant stand up and show plant to everyone. **God created the sun, the moon, and the stars.** Have children holding Sun, Moon, and Stars images stand up and show them to everyone. **He created animals on the land, fish in the sea, and birds in the air.** Invite “fish” and “birds” to make swimming and flying motions.

Then God created people. Instead of speaking mankind into being, God used dirt from the ground to form a man. Have child playing Adam stand up. **Then God breathed His breath into the man, and he lived! Next, God created a woman to be the man’s partner. God took a rib from the man and from it made the woman to be the man’s wife.** Have child playing Eve stand up. **Does anyone know the names of these first two people?** Allow responses. **That’s right—Adam and Eve. God gave something special to humans that He didn’t give to the rest of His creation. The Big God Story says that God created people in His image—He put His fingerprint on each of us!**

God put Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, a beautiful place where they could work and live and take care of the things God had created. In the garden, they enjoyed a perfect relationship with God and each other. Have Adam and Eve work and look joyful. **God told Adam and Eve that they could eat anything in the garden except the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. 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. Have child playing the snake hiss loudly. The snake told Eve that the things God had said about the fruit of 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. Have Adam and Eve act this out. **When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. Their choice separated people from God, and sin is now a part of The Big God Story.** Have Adam and Eve look sad. Then have all the volunteers sit down.

Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He still loved them. He told them that because of sin, life would be harder now—there would be pain and hard work in the world, and death would come. Sin broke Adam and Eve’s relationship with God, and they could no longer live in the garden of Eden. But God still provided for Adam and Eve. He made them clothes to cover and protect them. God loved His creation so much that He still wanted to provide for them.

Adam and Eve’s choices broke the relationship between God and people. But God is eternal. He knows the beginning and the end. He didn’t let the story end with sin! Ever since then, He has been working throughout The Big God Story to restore our relationship with Him. He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins so our relationship with Him could be made right. Jesus took on the consequences of our sin. And although brokenness still exists the world, God invites each of us to know Jesus and accept His forgiveness for our sins. Because of Jesus, we can receive the gift of eternal life—meaning we can be with Him forever!

The Big God Story doesn’t end there! At the end of time, God will make everything perfect. Life will be perfect because God will again live in a perfect relationship with His people. And it will be good.

Let's say it together: "It is good!"

God is eternal. That means He has always existed and always will exist. He created all that we can see, taste, touch, hear, and smell. He created you and me, and He has been working throughout all of history to call us back into perfect relationship with Him. He invites you, me, and everyone else to be a part of everything He's doing in The Big God Story! Share a personal story of how you've seen the eternal God working in creation.

Investigate

Discussion Questions

- What existed before creation? Genesis 1:1
- Who and what did God create? Genesis 1:3–27
- What do you think it would have been like to watch God create the world?
- 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
- How did Adam and Eve disobey God? Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–7
- 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 Revealed in Creation

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

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

- What does this psalm say about God?
- What aspect of God's creation reminds you most of God's majesty?

Read Psalm 148:1–4.

- Psalm 148 says the sun, moon, and stars praise God. How can God's creation praise Him?
- Why do you think the writer of this psalm wanted to praise God for His creation?

Ask a volunteer to read Romans 1:20.

- How does creation tell us about who God is?

The Bible tells us that God's creation praises Him! And part of the way God has shown Himself to people is through the things He created. For example, we can go outside and see the oceans or the mountains, and we know—just by how amazing they are—that someone had to have created them.

- What are some of your favorite things that God created? Why?

The things God created help people to know that God exists. We can then get to know God in more detail through The Big God Story—the Bible! God loves us so much that He makes Himself known to us in many ways.

- How can we praise God for the things He has created?

Ask a volunteer to read Romans 8:19–21.

The Bible tells us that when Adam and Eve disobeyed, all of creation became broken. But after Jesus came to earth, His death and resurrection provided the way back to a restored relationship with God.

- How did Jesus restore our relationship with God?

These verses in Romans let us know that all of creation—people, the animals, and the earth—excitedly await the time when God will make everything perfect at the end of The Big God Story.

- How does it make you feel to know that God has always been and always will be?

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](#)

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 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: Personal Praise

SUPPLIES

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens
- Markers
- Optional: watercolors (several sets), paintbrushes (1 per child), watercolor paper (1 sheet per child), cups (several), water, newspapers or plastic tablecloths, paper towels

SET UP

Optional: If you're using watercolors, cover the tables with newspapers or plastic tablecloths and fill the cups with water.

RELATE

God created all of the things we see in nature. He created you and me, and He invites each of us to be a part of The Big God Story. And, as we learned earlier, even after people sinned, God continued to love us, and He provided Jesus so we could be in a perfect relationship with Him. All throughout The Big God Story, we read about people who praised God for what He's done.

- **What section of The Big God Story contains many praises and songs to God?**

The songs and praises in the book of Psalms remind us of all of God's great works, and they encourage us to praise God for everything He's done.

Remind the kids of Psalm 8 and Psalm 148, which they read earlier. Then encourage them to express their own praises to God for His great creation. Point out the paper and markers (or watercolor supplies). Some kids may want to write their own psalms or songs. Others may want to paint a picture of some of the beautiful things God created. Encourage them to be creative! God is a very creative artist.

After the children have had a few moments to create, invite the group back together and ask volunteers to share what they made.

- **What does God's creation tell us about Him?**
- **When does creation stand out in parts of The Big God Story?**
- **How does seeing God's creation remind you to praise Him?**

It's amazing that our great Creator—the very same God who created the mountains and the oceans—knows each of us so well. When we praise God for His creation, He reminds us that although He's so amazing and big, He also loves and knows each of us perfectly and completely. We have an amazing God!

Engage: Sculpting Creation

SUPPLIES

- Play dough or modeling clay (1 lump for every 3–4 kids)
- Paper (at least 2 sheets)
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Bowl or basket (medium-sized)
- Stopwatch

PREPARE AHEAD

Cut the paper into strips, and on each strip, write something that God created. Some examples: “sun,” “moon,” “stars,” “man,” “woman,” “trees,” “animals,” and “sea.” Put the strips in the bowl or basket.

RELATE

God created the world and everything in it. He spoke, and things came into existence. But when God created people, He made them with His own hands and breath. What an amazing God we have!

Invite your kids to play a game in which they get to sculpt objects from creation. Divide the kids into two teams. On your signal, one child from each team should come up front, take a strip of paper from the bowl, and begin sculpting the item on the paper. Give the kids 90 seconds to sculpt. Each child’s team should try to guess the item being sculpted. If the team doesn’t guess correctly within 90 seconds, they get 10 more seconds. If they still don’t know the answer, the other team can guess for a point. Continue playing until each child has had a chance to sculpt. At the end, the team with the most correct guesses wins.

BLESS// 5 min.

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can 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 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.