



**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1—2:14  
(Creation)

## God Is Creator

### REMEMBER VERSE

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory  
and honor and power, for you created all things.

Revelation 4:11a

### Schedule

CONNECT

GATHER

RESPOND

BLESS

## SAMPLE LESSON

Includes links to related resources



## 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

[Small Group Enhancements](#)

[Lesson 1 Discussion](#)

[TruWonder Timeline](#)

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

Customizable copy of Lesson 1

[TruWonder Cycle A Scope and Sequence](#)

[TruWonder How It Works document](#)

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

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

"Cristi! Cristi!" I could hear my name being called from some distant location. I was in my happy place in the backyard. As I lay in the grass, all that seemed to matter were the white clouds in the blue sky, the breeze, and the tops of the eucalyptus trees that danced above me. Here, I could dream. Here, I could listen to the trees seeming to talk to one another, their leaves making a whistling sound each time the wind blew through their branches. One moment I was blissfully unaware of the pressures of being four years old, and the next I was being called inside to take a bath.

This has been a regular rhythm of my life. I'm most happy, recharged, peace-filled, and alive when I'm surrounded by nature. The sound and feel of rushing water, wild winds, and a terrific rainstorm spark something within my soul. It's in these moments that I fall easily into conversation with my Creator. I can see Him in His creation. I can feel His presence and most easily hear Him when I'm surrounded by the things His hands made.

God has revealed Himself through His creation, but this is just the beginning of the story between God and mankind. He didn't just leave us with the revelation of Himself through His creation, but gave us so much more by revealing Himself in His Word, His incarnation, and His Spirit—all so we may know Him personally and become a part of His big story.

*Cristi Thomas*

Tru Team

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

With all the busyness and stress of everyday life, we can sometimes lose sight of how involved God really is in every aspect of our lives and our world. Some people think God "wound up the universe" and left it to run by itself. The beginning of the book of Genesis reveals the exact opposite. We see God present and active from the very first phrase of the Bible, "In the beginning God ..." Within the first few words in Scripture, we see God moving to create a world and a people who He can love and bless.

Knowing God as Creator, we can envision the loving hands of an artist who passionately forms and fashions





not only a magnificent masterpiece of a creation, but also creatures made in His own likeness, upon whom He can pour out His boundless love. In the very next verse, we see God “moving” over the face of the waters. This same word translated *moving* is used elsewhere in Scripture for a mother bird brooding over her young. From this image we see a loving, caring, even “doting” parent.

Other words used of God in the creation part of The Big God Story reveal much about God. The Hebrew word translated “God” in chapter one of Genesis is *Elohim*. This word for “God” is often used when His power is being emphasized. Here we see the One who created the vast universe out of nothing, by simply speaking words. In chapter two, another term is added to *Elohim*—*Yahweh*—which is the name God told Moses to call Him. This emphasizes relationship. God is not only powerful but also wants to be in relationship with us.

God is Creator; God is *our* Creator. He is not only powerful, but also loving, caring, active, and involved\_\_\_and He created us for relationship.

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

Read Genesis 1 through 2:14 without pausing at any phrase or verse. After you’ve read it through once, read it again. This time note any phrase, verse, or section that stands out to you. Once you’ve finished, revisit the verses you noted in your second reading. As you do, pause over each section or verse and ask God to speak—in His deep and indescribable voice\_\_\_to your heart the things He wants you to ponder about who He is. Ask Him if He has anything to say to you about your part in this love story between Him and His creation. Allow yourself the time and quiet to linger in this space with the Lord.

May your life be transformed and infused with the depth and power of His Holy Spirit. And may your interaction with the children this week be filled with the passion that comes from knowing you’ve been given a unique part to play in this story that began with creation.

# Supply List

## LESSON 1

### 4s-5s

#### CONNECT::

##### Parachute Pass

- Rainbow parachute
- Optional: bedsheet (large, flat)

#### GATHER::

##### Remember Verse

- [Remember Verse cards](#) and [image](#)
- Gizmo puppet
- Bible
- Treasure Trunk

#### The Big God Story

- Beach ball (white) or poster board
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Dry erase markers (orange and/or yellow)
- Tape
- Paintbrush
- Disposable bowl (small)
- Glue
- Tissue paper (4–5 sheets, blue)
- Cotton balls (5–6)
- Sandpaper (several sheets, brown or tan)
- Palm tree picks (several, can be purchased at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com))
- Stickers (6 of each kind: star, ocean life, bird, animal)

#### Wonder Questions

- [Wonder Question strips](#)
- Small bag with drawstring

#### Prayers & Praises


- Prayers & Praises book
- Index cards
- Pen or marker
- Treasure Trunk
- Pictures of creation or blanket (large)

#### RESPOND::

##### Engage: Beach Ball Madness

- Beach balls (1 for every 2 children)
- Optional: stopwatch

##### Create: Leafy Greens

- Leaves (at least 1 per child) 
- Paper (2 sheets per child)
- Crayons (green, brown, yellow, and red)
- Optional: magnifying glasses (1 for every 2 children), Learning Leaves! Rubbing Plates (can be purchased at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com))
- Pens

#### BLESS::

- [Remember Verse cards](#)
- [At Home Weekly](#)
- Handheld mirror

## **CONNECT::** 10 min.

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

### **Parachute Pass**

#### **SUPPLIES**

- Rainbow parachute
- Optional: bedsheet (large, flat)

#### **RELATE**

Welcome the children, then open up the parachute or bedsheet and place it on the ground. Invite children to gather around the parachute with you and pick a color or section to hold. **Today in The Big God Story, we're going to hear all about God's creation! He made the oceans, sky, and land, fish and animals, and all the plants and the trees! He even made you and me. God created each one of us to be a part of His story. God made each one of us special. We're going to play a game to help us learn a little bit about each other.**

Explain that you'll all lift the parachute really high up in the air and then you'll call out a color. Each time you call out a color, the kids who are holding that color on the parachute must run underneath and trade places. Practice this a few times to allow kids to become acquainted with the way the game is played. (If you're using a bedsheet rather than a parachute, simply call out colors kids are wearing instead.) Once they've tried it a few times, add another layer to the game. Explain that you'll begin to call out different likes or dislikes. (For example: "If you like chocolate ice cream, go!" or "If you have more than two brothers and sisters, go!") Then all the children who have those qualities must let go of the parachute, run underneath, and try to find a free space at the other side. Continue this process until all the children have had a few turns. If you have a large group, have kids walk rather than run under the parachute. Toward the end of the game, begin to call out characteristics that nearly all the children are included in, so they're all under the parachute scrambling for a space!

#### **Transition Tool**

["The Cleanup Song"](#) from TruBlessings Worship may be a helpful tool to cue children it's time to transition into another activity or portion of the service.

## **GATHER::** 20 min.

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

For detailed information on the GATHER section, including how to prepare the Treasure Trunk and where to





purchase Gizmo, please refer to the [How It Works document](#) for TruWonder Classroom Edition in Resources.

Begin GATHER with a Welcome Song. You can enhance this time with the [Welcome Song pieces](#) (see Resources). Refer to the [How It Works](#) document for instructions for this resource.

## Remember Verse

### SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse cards](#) and [image](#)
- Gizmo puppet
- Bible
- Treasure Trunk

### SET UP

After placing the Remember Verse cards in the Bible, set the Bible in the Treasure Trunk.

### RELATE

**Friends, the Bible is such a wonderful book! It's one of my favorites. Gizmo, what's your favorite book?** Gizmo whispers in your ear. Smile brightly. **Really? Who can raise her hand and tell me what she thinks Gizmo's favorite book is?** Interact with a few responses. Gizmo nods in affirmation. **Yes! Gizmo's favorite book is the Bible!** Gizmo nods with enthusiasm and whispers again. **Oh, Gizmo, you make me smile! Gizmo loves the Bible because it tells us all about The Big God Story. God's story is so special because it includes you and me. The Big God Story starts with the very beginning of our world and continues until today. Gizmo, would you please get the Bible for us?** Gizmo retrieves the Bible. **I can't wait to share a special verse with you!** Open the Bible to the Remember Verse and read aloud.

### REMEMBER VERSE

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory  
and honor and power, for you created all things.  
Revelation 4:11a**

### REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

**Worthy:** Deserving; only God is worthy of worship

**Glory:** Brilliant, radiant beauty that brings praise to God

**Honor:** Worship, exalt

### REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

**You are worthy:** Point to sky then place hands on heart.

**our Lord and God:** Make letter "L" with right index finger and thumb at left shoulder. Move "L" diagonally down to right hip.

**to receive glory:** Hold out open, bent arms, palms up.





**and honor:** Keep arms out and tilt head back to face up to sky.

**and power:** Make strong arms.

**for you created all things:** Cross arms over each other in front of body and then open arms up and out.

## THE REMEMBER VERSE GAME

Gather kids in a circle and ask them to have a seat. Explain that they'll be playing a game with Gizmo in which all the children must repeat everything Gizmo says. Start out with funny phrases or tongue twisters to get the kids laughing and involved. For example, make silly animal noises or try a sentence like, "The great Gizmo rides galloping gazelles." After a few rounds, encourage Gizmo to practice the Remember Verse with children. Explain to kids that sometimes Gizmo forgets or mixes up the words in the verse, and they'll need to help him when he says something wrong. Practice together, encouraging kids to help Gizmo when he says the verse incorrectly. Repeat the verse several times to help the class memorize it.

Remember Verse cards are available to print and send home with parents along with the At Home Weekly (see Resources).

# The Big God Story

**Genesis 1—2:14**

**God Is Creator**

**Storytelling Technique: Interactive Beach Ball Globe**

## Prayer of Release

The **Prayer of Release** is a time for children and leaders to pause, be still, and ask God to quiet their hearts and minds. As you pray, encourage children to hold their hands out in front of them as if releasing their worries and distractions. This posture also shows they're open to receive what the Holy Spirit might have for them.

## SUPPLIES

- Beach ball (white) or poster board
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Dry erase markers (orange and/or yellow)
- Tape
- Paintbrush
- Disposable bowl (small)
- Glue
- Tissue paper (4–5 sheets, blue)
- Cotton balls (5–6)
- Sandpaper (several sheets, brown or tan)
- Palm tree picks (several, can be purchased at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com))





- Stickers (6 of each kind: star, ocean life, bird, animal)

### PREPARE AHEAD

Cut the blue tissue paper into three- by three-inch squares. Cut out three-inch wide oval shapes (like islands) from the sandpaper. As an alternative to the white beach ball, cut a huge circle out of the white poster board.

### SET UP

Inflate the beach ball. If possible, use the yarn to hang it from the ceiling. Make sure you hang it low enough for you to easily draw on and interact with it. Put some glue in a bowl and place the paintbrush in it. You'll be using tape quite a bit in this lesson and may want to prepare about 15 to 20 small circles of it before you begin storytelling. Set the cotton balls, tissue paper squares, sandpaper ovals, palm tree picks, and stickers within reach.

### RELATE

After you're finished with the Remember Verse game, invite children to get their wiggles out, return to their Story Spots in the GATHER circle time area, and have a seat.

**Hi, friends! I'm so happy to see you! In a minute, we're going to take a look at the very beginning of The Big God Story. But before we get started, let's pray to God and ask Him to help us understand what He wants to teach us.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release.

**I brought this beach ball to help me share a part of The Big God Story. God's Word says that there was a time when the world didn't even exist. There were no houses, animals, oceans, or people. There wasn't even light! Can you imagine a place like that? Allow responses. It's hard to imagine, isn't it? But there was someone who existed. Do you know who? Allow responses. Yes—God! He spoke, and things were created. He is Creator.**

**Let's pretend this beach ball is the earth. On the first day, God created light and dark, and He saw that it was good.** Begin painting glue on the lower portion of the beach ball. Cover it with the blue tissue paper. Don't worry about making it even; it should look like there are waves. **On the second day, God created water and air. Let's imagine the blue tissue paper is water, and let's pretend these cotton balls are clouds in the sky.** Pass cotton balls around so each child can feel their texture and hold them. Then glue on cotton balls several inches above the tissue paper water, at about the middle of the ball. **God saw the sea and sky He created, and He saw that they were good.**

### Teaching Tip

Be sure to take your time when adding each item to the beach ball. Enjoy the process of making a representation of the events in Genesis 1 together with your group.

**What comes next?** Kids respond. **Well, on the third day, God created land.** Tape sandpaper at the horizon of the sea and sky. You may need to use a few strips of tape, rolled into a circle, to make the sandpaper stick thoroughly. **He then created plants and trees.** Stick the trees on top of the sandpaper using the tape. **God saw the land, trees, and plants He created, and He saw that they were good. On the fourth day, God created**







**the sun, moon, and stars. Who would like to help me put some stars in the sky?** Invite volunteers to place the star stickers around the top of the beach ball. Use the dry erase markers to draw the sun and moon. **God saw the sun, the moon, and the stars He created, and He saw that they were good.**

**On the fifth day, God continued His creation. He made all the fish and sea creatures\_\_whales, dolphins, coral, and more\_\_and put them into the ocean. But He wasn't finished! He created all kinds of fun and feathery birds too.** Place the ocean life and bird stickers around the beach ball. **When He finished, He saw all the sea life and birds He created, and He saw that they were good. The next day\_\_the sixth day\_\_God made animals. What kinds of animals did God create?** Interact with responses. **That's right! God created all the animals.** Place the animal stickers on the ball.

**Is something missing?** Pause and wait for children's responses. **You're right! God had one last thing to make: people. God created the first two people—Adam and Eve. God loved the people He created. After man and woman were created, He looked at all of His creation and saw that it was very good. Then God was finished. On the seventh day, God rested to enjoy what He had made. He was full of joy because of it all. God is the Creator, and we can tell others His amazing story!**

## Wonder Questions

### SUPPLIES

- [Wonder Question strips](#)
- Small bag with drawstring

### RELATE

**I wonder ... What is my favorite part of God's creation?**

**I wonder ... What would I have said if I was there when God created the world?**

**I wonder ... How can I praise God for all the wonderful things He made?**

## Prayers & Praises

### SUPPLIES

- Prayers & Praises book
- Index cards
- Pen or marker
- Treasure Trunk
- Pictures of creation or blanket (large)

### PREPARE AHEAD

If you plan to go outside, scout out a comfortable spot to lay a large blanket. If you plan to remain inside, gather pictures of creation.

### SET UP

Place the Prayers & Praises book in the Treasure Trunk.





### RELATE

After your time discussing the Wonder Questions, you'll have the opportunity to pray with and for each of the children in your group. **I just love God's creation. It's big, grand, and wide, and yet there are so many itty-bitty details in all the things He has made. I feel loved when I think of God's creation. How does it make you feel?** Interact with responses.

**Let's take a look at God's creation.** Either show pictures of creation, or take children outside and let them explore and look at different aspects of what God has made. **When we see God's creation, we're reminded that He made everything! God is Creator. He cares about every little detail of every piece of creation. That means He even cares about every little part of your life!**

**Let's close our eyes. Now think of one thing in the world that you want to thank God for. When you've thought of something, you can say "thank You" to God.** Allow time for kids to pray. **Now, with your eyes still closed, you might want to thank God for creating you and for letting you be a part of The Big God Story.**

Open up the Treasure Trunk and take out the Prayers & Praises book. Ask children to share updates on the things they previously asked the class to pray with them about. Celebrate the praises and recommit to praying for things not yet answered. You may want to give children a chance to share what makes them feel afraid or sad, and add those requests to the book. Pray for the praises and requests mentioned, and let children know you'll continue to pray for them in the coming week.

## RESPOND:: 20 min.

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

## Engage: Beach Ball Madness

### SUPPLIES

- Beach balls (1 for every 2 children)
- Optional: stopwatch

### PREPARE AHEAD

Blow up the beach balls and set them aside.

### RELATE

After you put away the supplies from Prayers & Praises, bring your children into an open area in your room and invite them to sit down. **Today we heard The Big God Story in a very special way. Now we're going to use beach balls to play a super fun game. Who's ready?**

Pair up kids and explain that each pair will need to work together to move their beach ball from one side of






the room to the other. On the first round, both teammates can use two hands to carry the ball across the room as fast as possible. After each team has taken a turn, invite the teams to carry their beach ball using only one hand each. On the third round, challenge children to attempt to move their beach ball without using any hands at all. If they have trouble thinking of ways to move the ball, encourage children to try using their stomachs or backs. You may also want to demonstrate each suggested movement for the group. Consider using a stopwatch to find out which team is the quickest.

### Developmentally Speaking

Children this age are becoming stronger at large motor skills and can begin to understand movement as they travel. For example, this is a wonderful activity to encourage kids to move in a straight line, and to move in a variety of ways such as hopping, jumping, skipping, and so on. Providing opportunities to use these skills will help build greater awareness of self and all the body is capable of!

## Create: Leafy Greens

### SUPPLIES

- Leaves (at least 1 per child) 
- Paper (2 sheets per child)
- Crayons (green, brown, yellow, and red)
- Optional: magnifying glasses (1 for every 2 children), Learning Leaves! Rubbing Plates (can be purchased at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com))
- Pens

### PREPARE AHEAD

Gather leaves with unique shapes and patterns. Remove the paper from the crayons.

### RELATE

Invite your children to go from big steps to baby steps as they move to the area where your Create supplies are. Encourage children to get slower and quieter with each step. **Earlier in The Big God Story, we heard how God created the entire world. Who can remind me of some of the things God created?** Pause for responses. **Good thinking. Have you ever gone on a nature walk?** Encourage responses. **It's fun to walk outside and see the things God has made. Each of us sees leaves every day, but have you ever taken the time to look at a leaf up close?** Pass out leaves (and magnifying glasses, if available). **What do you see?** Interact with responses. Encourage kids to trade with a friend to study a new leaf. **Each leaf is different in size and shape\_\_none of them are exactly the same!**

Pass out two sheets of paper and set the crayons in the center of the table. **Let's create leaf rubbings so we can study God's amazing handiwork.** Demonstrate for your kids first by placing a leaf between two sheets of paper. As you rub the side of the crayon over the paper, the leaf pattern should appear. You may need to press hard on the crayon for the pattern to appear. After you've demonstrated this, allow children to make their own leaf rubbings. They may even choose to arrange several leaves on their page to create a pattern or collage. While they're coloring, ask them open-ended questions about God as Creator. **What does it say about God that He created all these things? How do you feel about God right now? What would you**





**like to tell Him?** As kids share their thoughts, leaders may want to write them down on their leaf rubbing papers.

**Wow! Your leaf rubbings look wonderful. I love that God created the whole world, and He put so much thought into every small detail. Let's take a moment to pray and thank God for His creation.** Lead children in a prayer of thanks for the ways we see God's love in His creation.

**God's creation is amazing, and as His people, we can share His story with others. When you take your leaf picture home, remember to show it to your friends and family and use it to share God's story.**

## **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](#)
- Handheld mirror

### **RELATE**

Have children form a circle on the floor. **Today we heard that God is Creator. He made the entire world. He made the stars, the oceans, and the forests. He made all the animals and sea creatures. Above all, God made you, and He loves you so much! Isn't that good news? We can share that good news with others! God invites us to share His love and His story with others.**

Invite each child up individually to receive his blessing. As he walks up, encourage him to look at himself in the mirror while you speak a blessing over him.

(Child's name), **God made you special. May you know how deep and wide His love is for you, and may you share His love with others.**

After each child is blessed individually, invite kids to stand together while you say the following blessing over them as a group:

**Children, may you know the Lord your Creator who loves you. May you praise God and share His story with others.**

### **Note**

Remember to give children a Remember Verse card before they leave so they'll have a chance to memorize the verse during the week with their parents.





[At Home Weekly](#) is provided as a parent resource with each week's lesson and can be emailed to parents 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 child.

