

date: 9/3/17**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

### 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.

## Small Group

SECTION

### EXPLORE:: 10 min.


#### Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

### Option 1: The Lord God Made It All

In the beginning God created. He made the earth, sky, water, flowers, trees, plants ... He made everything. Today children will be able to engage with various items as they explore the beauty and details in God's designs and prepare to hear the first part of The Big God Story celebrating God as the Creator.

#### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Pictures of trees, leaves, and flowers (full color)
- Leaves or flower petals (variety; suggestions: shrubs, bushes, trees, pine needles, etc.) 
- Crayons (large)
- Paper (1 sheet per child, white)
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- Optional: age-appropriate magazines, scissors, heavy book, extra paper

#### PREPARE AHEAD

Print color pictures of trees, leaves, and flowers from the Internet or cut from magazines. If any of the leaves suggested above aren't readily available, substitute a houseplant or silk leaves. If using real leaves or flower petals, it may be helpful to flatten them ahead of time by placing them between sheets of paper and then pressing them between the pages of a heavy book for a few hours. Be careful the leaves don't dry out too much, or they'll be difficult to use. Peel the paper off the crayons and set crayons aside.

#### SET UP

Cover the table with newspaper, and tape the edges down with masking tape. Place the pictures of trees, leaves, and flowers in the center of the table along with the real leaves and petals. Set a crayon and one sheet of paper at each child's place setting.

#### RELATE

Welcome children and show them the pictures of the trees, leaves, and flowers. **What do you see in this picture? What colors do you see? What shapes? What do you think the tree (or flower/leaf) would feel like if you touched it? What do you think it smells like?** Next, encourage your children to investigate the leaves and petals on the table. Allow them to feel the textures and observe the shapes, colors, and smells of each piece.

Invite children to choose a leaf to make a nature rubbing. To make a rubbing, simply place a sheet of paper over a leaf or petal. Then gently rub the side of a crayon across the paper and over the leaf; the shape and pattern of the leaf will begin to appear on the page. Ask children about their observations. **Friends, where can we find trees with these leaves? Where can we find these flowers? Who made the trees and flowers? God did, that's right. We're going to hear more about the different things God made when we gather to hear from The Big God Story.**

## Large Group

SECTION

### DISCOVER:: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

### Ponder Point

## God Is Creator

### Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

#### SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos or scripts \(see Resources\)](#)
- Worship music (suggestions: "Everybody, Everywhere" and "Thank You," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

#### RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

### Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

#### SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- Mailbox

#### RELATE

Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while the children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

**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 the 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.

## Wardrobe of Wonder

**Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader**

**SUPPLIES**

- **What’sIt:** [Picture of Creation](#) (suggestions: picture of people, trees, animals, ocean, cloud, sun, moon, etc.; see [optional image in Resources](#))
- Wardrobe of Wonder

### What’sIt: Picture of Creation

God is the Creator of all things. Scripture tells us that after God created something, He looked upon what He created, and with satisfaction, said that it was good.

**RELATE**

*Tech:* Cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image*. Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What’sIt by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect*. Have him whisper the identity of the What’sIt in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’sIt. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’sIt from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

**ASK**

**What have we found in the wardrobe today?** Children answer. **It’s a picture! Let’s take a look.** As you show the picture to the children, ask them to identify the images they see. Interact with and affirm their answers. **There sure are many different kinds of things in this one picture! What do all of these things have in common?** Allow children to

answer. Those are all some very good thoughts. Well, we're about to find out more about this interesting picture, because next our Storyteller is coming to tell us a wonderful and true story from The Big God Story. I'm so excited!

# The Big God Story

Genesis 1—2:14

God Is Creator

Storytelling Technique: Images, Sound Effects, and Lighting

## SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story images: #3 Evening, #5 Morning, #7 Water, #8 Trees, #10 Grass, #11 Flowers, #12 Sun, #13 Moon, #14 Stars, #15 Animals (see Resources)
- Sound effects: #1 Construction, #2 Science Lab, #4 Evening, #6 Morning ("Morning" by Grieg available on iTunes), #9 Trees Growing, #16–18 Animals (see Resources for all sound effects except #6 Morning)

## PREPARE AHEAD

Gather materials and set up your teaching space. When you load the images and sound effects, they're numbered to place in the order they're used during storytelling.

## RELATE

*Tech: Cue The Big God Story intro clip and image.* Storyteller enters and moves downstage as he greets the children. Storyteller then leads children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

**Welcome, friends! It's time to hear the beginning of a very big story—The Big God Story. Before we begin, close your eyes.** *Tech: Dim the stage lights.* Imagine that there's nothing in the world. No trees or animals—no sun, moon, or sky. No people. Now, open your eyes. In the beginning, that's what it was like; there was nothing ... except God! He has always been. And He created everything—out of nothing—because God is Creator. He made our world with all of His love, all of His creativity, and all of His power.

**Our God is all-powerful. There's no one like our God. When He began to create our world, He just said the words, and the things He wanted to create appeared. God said, "Let there be light,"** *(Tech: Bring stage lights up to 100%)* and light appeared. He didn't have to use tools *(Tech: Cue #1 Construction sound effect)* or mix a bunch of things together in a science lab. *Tech: Cue #2 Science Lab sound effect.* He just spoke, and everything began! "Let there be light," He said. And **bam ... there was light! What does it mean when I say that God is Creator?** Allow children to answer; interact with answers given. **He made everything! That's right. He created everything. There wasn't anything before God made it! So He is the Creator!**

**Then God separated the light from the dark. He called the light "day" and the dark "night." Then there was evening** *(Tech: Cue #3 Evening image and #4 Evening sound effect)* and morning. *Tech: Cue #5 Morning image and #6 Morning sound effect.* **And that was the very first day!** Have children hold up a finger to indicate the number of the day God is creating, such as one for the first day, and so on. **Then, God separated the water that covered the earth. He put some water above the earth in the clouds of the air, some under the earth, and left the rest on the ground. What do you think God named this great space between the water in the air and the water below?** Children will respond. **That's right. He named the great big space above the ground "sky!"** As you storytell through the next section, speed up the tempo a little and list the things God created more quickly, then dramatically catch your breath at

the end. You'll go back and repeat these more slowly for the children again after you catch your breath.

**It went on like this for four more days. God was very busy creating the oceans and waterfalls** (*Tech: Cue #7 Water image*), **trees, grass, and flowers** (*Tech: Cue # 8 Trees image and #9 Trees Growing sound effect, #10 Grass image, and #11 Flowers image*), **the sun** (*Tech: Cue #12 Sun image*), **moon** (*Tech: Cue #13 Moon image*), **stars** (*Tech: Cue #14 Stars image*), **and all of the animals** (*Tech: Cue #15 Animals image and #16–18 Animals sound effects*); **in the same way! God created everything you see. God created everything else that lives—all of the fish, birds, cattle, horses, lizards, bugs, you name it! He is Creator!** *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* **What was that?** Allow responses. **It's the Wardrobe of Wonder!** Show the picture of creation again. **Everything God made shows how beautiful and how wonderful He is.**

God made everything, just the way He wanted it to be, and He said that it was good. Before He was finished, there was something else He wanted to do. He created the very first people—Adam and Eve. Then, God rested from His good work. All of creation served God by doing what it was made to do. The sun rose and set every day. The moon and stars came out at night. The flowers bloomed. The animals and people did the different things they were made to do. All of creation served God and worshipped Him. And guess what? God made you too. He loves you and has a special place for you in His big story! I'm so happy that God is our Creator!

## RESPOND:: 20 min.

### Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

**SUPPLIES** (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)

#### RELATE

**God is the Creator of our world and everyone in it. When He created the world, He said the words, and everything He wanted to create appeared. In the beginning, all of creation served God and worshipped Him.**

- I wonder ... What have I learned about God and His creation?
- I wonder ... What might be the most amazing thing God made?
- I wonder ... How can I celebrate that God is the Creator?

## **BLESS::** 5 min.

### **Small Group Leaders**

*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** (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards](#) (see [Resources](#))

### **RELATE**

As a part of the blessing, read this paraphrased version of Nehemiah 9:5b–6 over the children, and encourage them to echo each line you read as a response to God.

**Lord, may Your glorious name be praised!** Children echo.

**Only You are the Lord.** Children echo.

**You are the Creator of all things.** Children echo.

**You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars.** Children echo.

**You, oh Lord, made the earth, the seas, and everything in them.** Children echo.

**You are the only One who can give life.** Children echo.

**The angels of heaven worship You.** Children echo.

**Amen.** Children echo.

Close this time by blessing the children.

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

Send home Remember Verse cards and the HomeFront Weekly with your kids.