

date: 9/10/17**Bible Passage: Genesis 1:26–31; 2:4–25**  
(Adam and Eve)

## God Created Me

### 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*

My first week of college, I found myself living in a new city, in a new room with two roommates I had never met before. Trying to connect with something familiar, I went online and began to check my email. There it was ... an email from home. This mail wasn't just from one friend. Instead, it had been written by four of my closest friends. The subject line plainly stated: You're a terrible friend. As I began to read, outlined in front of me were all the ways this group of friends felt I had fallen short over the past six years.

I was hurt and broken inside. I'd been trashed by four of the closest people in my life. As the evening went on, I wasn't my talkative self and it showed. My two new roommates asked if everything was all right. I told them that everything was fine, and I continued studying. Again they asked, and I responded with the usual, "I'm fine." This time they took more initiative. Walking over to my desk, they sat down and looked me in the eyes. What followed was the most amazing thing total strangers had ever said to me. "Kit," they said, "we love you, and we care about what's going on in your life. Let us know what's going on." I remember thinking, "Who makes such statements to someone they hardly know?"

This conversation was the start of relationships that have drastically transformed my life. In that one moment, those two men served me by pushing through my defenses to ask me what I needed. They broke through the barrier I'd tried to create in order to hide my true self and allowed me to feel known and loved. Almost a decade later, I still meet weekly with these men. Through them, I have learned about God's unconditional love, the way He views us, and what it means to be a man. It's through relationships like these that we're often transformed to look more and more like Christ. We've been designed to enter into relationship with God and others. We've been designed to be a part of God's story.

## Equip

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

God's story begins with the book of Genesis. "God" is translated in chapter one from *Elohim*, the name used when the powerful nature of God is being emphasized. *Elohim*—powerful and majestic—created the universe and our earth from nothing ... only through His infinite power.

The retelling of the creation of man and woman follows in chapter two, as well as their relationship with one another, the earth, and the Lord Himself. Here, God is referred to as *Yahweh Elohim* who breathed into Adam's nostrils and formed him from the dust. Using this name for God establishes His relationship with all of creation; as He relates to mankind, God maintains power and position. Added to this is the dimension of personality in relationship to human beings by being referred to as *Yahweh Elohim*. From the very beginning of creation, God was weaving together a story that is all about relationship.

God created man and woman in His image. He established the authority we would have over the earth and all created things upon the earth, in the skies, and in the waters. They (man and woman) were to rule over all earthly created things. After God created man and woman, He blessed them. They were to have children and fill the earth. They were to maintain order—to keep creation under control.

"Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh"—mankind was created in the likeness of God and one from another. We were united from the onset, designed to care for one another as we would care for our own flesh. When asked what was the most important commandment, Jesus said, "The most important one ... is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29–31). Jesus reminds us that the relationship God initiated with us is to continue with each other to this day. God created us.

## Support

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

This week, pause in your regular schedule to reflect. You may want to find a quiet place and journal about a specific instance where being in relationship with God had a significant impact on your life. What were the circumstances of your story? How did you feel? What were you in need of or unsure of? What were you celebrating or mourning?

After you write your story, consider sharing it with someone else. Maybe you regularly gather with friends or family to share life or a meal. In that time, talk about God's faithfulness and how He changes you through the relationship you have with Him. Begin by telling (or reading) your own story, and then encourage others to join in. Share the ways you've experienced God together.

As you interact with the children in your ministry this week, remember that the story of God is the story of relationship. The relationships you're creating with each of them are a vital part of The Big God Story you were created to live in.

## 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.*

## In His Image

When God created people, He chose to make us in His image. In this EXPLORE activity children will be able to make their own person puppet using the materials provided.

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Person template \(see Resources\)](#)
- Paper or card stock (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons
- Optional: safety scissors (1 pair per child)

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print one copy of the Person template per child. Depending on the age of the children in your small group, you may choose to precut the templates, or provide safety scissors for children to cut out their own people. If you provide scissors, allow time and provide direction for younger children.

### SET UP

Place one template at each child's place setting. Set the remaining materials in the center of the table.

### RELATE

Welcome children and encourage them to create a picture of themselves using the materials provided. Encourage discussion as the children are working. **What color are you using for your eyes? Who made your eyes? Ears? Nose? Mouth? Who made you?** Note: Be sure to write each child's name on the back of his person. They'll be taking these to large group as a part of Worship Response.

## 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 Created Me

## Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

### SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)
- Worship music (suggestion: "Everybody, Everywhere," 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 \(see Resources\)](#)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

### RELATE

*Tech: Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image.* 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 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’s/it:** Jar of Dirt (see optional image in Resources)

### What’s/it: Jar of Dirt

God created us. When He created Adam, He formed him out of the earth and then breathed His breath of life into him. A jar of dirt represents the dust from which God created the first man.

### RELATE

Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What’s/it 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’s/it 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’s/it. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’s/it from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

### ASK

**What’s this we’ve found in the wardrobe today?** Hold up the jar of dirt. **It’s a jar of dirt! Why do you think we have dirt in our wardrobe?** Allow responses. **Friends, we’ll soon found out how this jar of dirt fits into the Bible, because it’s time for ...**

Note: Return the jar of dirt to the Wardrobe before beginning The Big God Story.

# The Big God Story

Genesis 1:26–31; 2:4–25

God Created Me

Storytelling Technique: Call and Response with Verbal Cues; Prop

**SUPPLIES**

- Table (small)
- Wet wipes
- Optional: cup or bottle of water

**SET UP**

Place the small table onstage (downstage right or left). Set wet wipes on the table (along with cup or bottle of water if using).

**RELATE**

*Tech: Cue The Big God Story intro clip and image.* Storyteller enters and moves the table center stage as she 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.

**It's so good to be here with you today. Last week we heard about what God did at the very beginning of the world. What was it?** Storyteller pauses and does an exaggerated thinking face. Encourage children to share their thoughts. **Good thinking! God created the world and everything in it. He is the Creator. How did God make everything?** Take suggestions from children and interact with their answers. **He just said it, and it happened. God wanted to create a bunny rabbit, He said it, and then there was the bunny rabbit. What are some other things that God said and they were made?** Allow children to shout out some answers. **God looked at what He had created and said it was good.**

**When God created people, He did it a little differently.** *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* **What's that sound? The Wardrobe of Wonder!** Open Wardrobe of Wonder and pull out jar of dirt. **Let's see how this jar of dirt is going to fit into The Big God Story today! God used dirt from the ground to form the very first man.** Take a handful of dirt and run it through hands while talking. **He didn't just use His words to create people; He used His breath too! God actually breathed into the man and gave him life. I wonder what would happen if I try to make a person out of this dirt. Do you think it will come to life?** Allow children to respond. **Let me give it a try.** Try to form something out of the dirt by breathing or blowing into it. Sit and look at it, pause, and address children. **What happened? Nothing. I must be doing it wrong! Let me try again.** Repeat; use water if you'd like. **What happened this time?** Children reply. **Nothing happened, that's right. I can't breathe into anything to give it life for the very first time. The only One who can do that is God! Only He is the Creator, and there's no one like Him.**

**What did God name the first man?** Children respond. **Yes! He named him Adam! Was God finished?** Children respond. **No, not yet! After God created Adam, He said that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. There were lots of animals and great things Adam could take care of and explore, but there wasn't anyone else to share it with or talk to. Adam needed someone like him so he wouldn't be alone. So, God created a woman out of the man's rib bone while he was asleep. Does anyone know her name?** Children respond. **That's right, Eve!**

**God formed both Adam and Eve with His hands and breathed life into them—which was different from how God created any of the other creatures. The Bible says that God made man and woman in His own image. What does that mean: in God's image?** Kids will respond. **It means that God wanted us to be like Him ... and to have things about us that would remind us of who He is. Wow!**

**When God was finished He stopped, looked at all that He had made, and said it was very good. God blessed Adam and Eve, and then He rested. Let's rest together.** Encourage children to lie down for a moment or put their hands to their cheeks and close their eyes as if they're sleeping. **God didn't rest because He was tired, but because He was satisfied with all He created. He wanted to enjoy His work.** Ask children to open their eyes and sit quietly

again.

**Adam and Eve had a perfect friendship with God. They were able to spend time with God. They walked with Him and talked with Him. They could even hear God’s footsteps as He was coming to meet them. Can you imagine being able to hear God’s footsteps as He walked? God loved Adam and Eve. He wanted them to know His great love and to share that love with each other.**

**Who made the very first people? Children answer. God did, that’s right. Who made you and me? Allow kids to answer. Yes, God did. He made us, and He loves us. And, because of Jesus, we get to know Him and love Him too. He is the Way for us to be a part of The Big God Story.**

## Worship as Response

### SUPPLIES

- Worship music (suggestions: “I May Be Small,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours* and “He Knows Me,” TruWorship *Your Love*)
- Response Wall
- “In His Image” people from EXPLORE
- Tape or magnets
- Optional: basket

### SET UP

Place the people from EXPLORE in a basket or distribute them to the children.

### RELATE

**Friends, God is so big and so strong. He made everything! He made you and me! Even better than all the things God made is His great, big love for you and for me. His love is bigger and stronger than anything!**

As you lead children through the first song, consider breaking them into two groups. One half of the room would dance to the first half of the song—creating their own moves and motions. The second half of the room would then dance to the second half of the song. If you’d like to give them ideas for dancing, one half of the room can act as the sky and ocean by making waves with their whole bodies. The second half of the room can act out motions as if they’re great big trees—arms out to their sides and swaying. Encourage those who aren’t dancing to listen to the words of the song and watch their friends as they dance.

**When we sing about God’s love and praise Him, it helps me remember that He loves me and wants me to be a part of His story—The Big God Story. He wants you to be a part of His story too! Earlier today you made a picture of yourself using different shapes and colors. If you want to say thank You to God for making you so very special, you can bring your picture and place it on the Response Wall when the music starts to play. Demonstrate for children as you explain. After you place it on the wall, you can put your hand over your picture and say, “Thank You, God, for making me!” When you’ve finished, you can go sit with your small group. Let’s celebrate God together as we say thank You and sing another song for Him!**

Play second worship song. As children are singing, encourage them to bring their picture and either use a magnet or tape it on the Response Wall when they’re ready. Close this time in a prayer of corporate blessing and dismiss to small groups.

## 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)
- Crayons

### RELATE

Today in The Big God Story, we heard how God made the very first people and what it was like in the garden.

I wonder ... What did it sound like when God walked around in the garden?

I wonder ... What did Adam and Eve do when they spent time with God in the garden?

I wonder ... How did Adam think of all the names for the animals?

## 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

God's story specifically includes each of us. He has always known and loved us. Gather the children in a circle. This week as a part of the children's time of blessing, open a Bible and read Psalm 139:1–7, 13–14a. Then encourage the kids to participate by giving a portion of the blessing to the person standing next to them.

**You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.** Cue children to turn to the person next to them and say, "God knows you." Continue: **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You [know] my going out and my lying down; you [know] all my ways.** Cue children to turn to another person and say, "He knows when you go to sleep and when you wake up." **Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?** Cue children to turn to the person next to them and say, "God is always with you." **For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.** Cue children to turn to another person and say, "God made you." **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.** Cue children to say together, "God, I give You praise! Thank You for making me, Lord!"

Close with this blessing for the children:

**Children, may you know the Lord who made you and loves you.**

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