



# LIVING THE WORD

*Teaching Kids God's Story  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4*



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## Teacher's Guide

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## Sample Lesson

Lesson #4-1—September 12, 2021

## CONTRIBUTORS

### **Publisher**

Gregory Rawn

### **Editors**

Kari Osmek  
Cynthia Fairman Paulson  
Elaine Seekon

### **Writers**

Renaë Boehmer  
Beth Cox  
Victoria Hoppes  
Kari Osmek  
Gregory Rawn  
Anne Tews Schwab  
Ann Schwarz  
Rev. Anna Shirey  
Kara Smith-Laubenstein  
Nicole VanderMeulen

### **Graphic Designers**

Nicholas McDougal  
Benjamin Borter  
Amanda Wolfe

### **Layout**

Nance Keyes  
J. Pace Warfield

### **Illustrators**

Amanda Wolfe  
Rev. Tom Pairan

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## Lesson #4-1

# GOD'S GOOD CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

**KIDS**  
**3RD-6TH**

NL

**Key Verse:**

God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good.  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a

**The Point:**

God declares that creation is good.

**Making Connections:**

God Provides Blessings

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

What is the Bible?

**Spiritual Practice:**

Worship



# ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

## ACTIVITIES

## SUPPLIES

### INTO THE STORY

#### GOOD

God made everything, and it is good!

**5 MIN.** † None

### BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

#### WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the sections of the Bible.

**10 MIN.** † Bibles  
† Activity Sheet #4-1.A  
† Markers

### LEARNING THE STORY

#### IN THE BEGINNING...

Use props to learn the story of creation.

**10 MIN.** † Bibles  
† Activity Sheet #4-1.B  
† Flashlight  
† Spray or squirt bottle of water  
† Dirt or soil  
† Fruits, vegetables, houseplants, leaves  
† Pictures of stars, planets, galaxies  
† Pictures of fish and birds  
† Pictures of land animals  
† Mirror  
† Hand stamp  
† Washable stamp pad  
† Pillow  
† Large box  
† Optional: stuffed animals

# ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

## LIVING THE STORY

### ALL THAT WE ARE...

We are made as stewards of creation.

**10 MIN.** † Whiteboard or large sheet of paper  
† Markers

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### IN THE IMAGE

Honor the image of God and others.

**10 MIN.** † Paper  
† Pens or pencils

### TAKING CARE

Make a poster of how to be good stewards of creation.

**10 MIN.** † Whiteboard or mural paper  
† Markers  
† Paper  
† Markers or crayons  
† Magazines  
† Scissors  
† Glue sticks

### CREATION RE-CREATION

Learn some actions for Genesis.

**10 MIN.** † Bible

### BIBLE BOOK (PK-2ND)

Optional ongoing activity.

**10 MIN.** † Bible  
† Bible Book page (found at the end of lesson)  
† Card stock or plain paper  
† Pens  
† Markers or crayons  
† Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

## SENDING THE STORY

**5 MIN.** † None

# BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

## Making Connections

The Narrative Lectionary, just like the Bible itself, begins with the story of creation. This is the story of beginnings. In fact, our name for this book of the Bible comes from the Greek word for “origin.” How a story begins is critical to understanding the story as a whole.

## Story Summary:

### *God’s Good Creation*

It is in the first verse of Genesis where we meet the main character of the Bible: God. But all ancient peoples had one (or more) god, so how do we know which god we are talking about? Genesis introduces God as the Creator of all things. This is the God we are talking about.

This creation is good. From ancient times to now, some religious people have thought that the physical world is somehow bad or second-rate. The story of creation in Genesis, however, repeats over and over that what God created was called good. And if God called the world of energy and matter good, then it is good!

Not only does the story of Creation emphasize that all of creation is good, but it also emphasizes that humans (both male and female) are created in God’s image. The “image of God” has much depth in meaning, but this lesson focuses on the fact that this makes each student special and beloved of God, and that we have the responsibility to treat all other image-bearers of God with love and respect.

### *Notes:*

- *You do not always have to know the answer! It is fine to tell a student, “Hey, that is a great question! I do not have a great answer for you now, but let me find out and tell you next Sunday, okay?” This makes the student feel great and encourages them to dig deeper into the topic.*
- *The first day of Sunday school can be busy, so do not worry if you cannot get to everything. If things get too crazy, focus on the “Learning the Story” and “Living the Story,” only moving to the others if you have time.*
- *Each week, there will be an ongoing Student Bible Book project that you can choose to use as an additional activity. Instructions and a page template will be included at the end of each lesson, before the student take home pages.*

## The Point

**God declares that creation is good.** From the earliest days, God has blessed and cared for God’s people. God created this beautiful world and all that it contains to provide for God’s people. The relationship between humankind and creation is reciprocal. In God’s loving wisdom, God provided all that we need in this complex, mysterious creation.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### *What is the Bible?*

In addition to exploring the lectionary text of the week, each lesson will introduce something about the structure of the Bible to the students. This week, students will discover that the Bible is not truly one book, but instead a library of books put together into one volume. You can also think of the Bible as a book series. As in many book series, there are the individual stories told in each book, but there is a larger story or plot arc that includes the entire series. The Bible does not follow one human character throughout the different books; instead the main character is God. The Bible is God’s story of love and faithfulness to God’s whole creation.

## Spiritual Practice: Worship

Each lesson will also incorporate one of four spiritual practices: worship, prayer, service, or fellowship. Activities will be included to help the students dive deeper into these spiritual disciplines while also learning more about the lesson topic. This week we begin with worship.



# LESSON PLAN



## INTO THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

### GOOD

God made everything, and it is good!

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. As students gather, make a point to tell each of them “GOOD morning (afternoon, or evening),” emphasizing the word “Good.”
2. **How many of you have gone to the church service today?** [*Students may answer by raising their hands or just saying it.*]
3. **Do you remember what Bible story you heard? What was it?** [*The Creation story.*]
4. **We’re going to talk about the story of Creation today too. The Creation story is from the book of Genesis, the very first book in the Bible. In this story, we’ll hear about how God created everything that exists, and called it GOOD! We will also talk about what that means for how we should live our lives.**

# BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (10 MINUTES)

## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the sections of the Bible.

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #4-01.A
- † Markers

*During class:*

1. Hold up a Bible. Ask: **What is this?** [*A Bible.*] **We're going to look closely at our Bibles today so we can learn more about this...book?**
2. **Is the Bible one book or lots of books?** [*Students may choose either option, ask them to explain their answers.*]
3. **In fact, the Bible is actually a library! Packed between these book covers are 66 books. There are book of stories, books of songs, books that talk of the past and books that talk of the future.**
4. **Turn to the front of your Bible, where all of the books are listed.** If your students all have the same Bible, help them by giving the page number. **We're going to make a diagram, or picture, of the different categories of books that are in the Bible.**
5. Complete Activity Sheet #4-01.A as a class. The Bibles that students use may or may not clearly give these answers, so an answer sheet is included as second page of Activity Sheet #4-01.A.



## LEARNING THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

### IN THE BEGINNING...

Discuss the story of creation with props.

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #4-01.B
- † Flashlight
- † Spray or squirt bottle of water
- † Dirt or soil
- † Fruits, vegetables, houseplants, leaves
- † Pictures of stars, planets, galaxies
- † Pictures of fish and birds
- † Pictures of land animals
- † Mirror
- † Hand stamp
- † Washable stamp pad
- † Pillow
- † Large box
- † Optional: stuffed animals

*Before class:*

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

*During class:*

1. Put all of the props in the large box or otherwise keep them from view.
2. Using Activity Sheet #4-01.B as a guide, display the props after the appropriate passage has been read. As an alternative, after each section has been read, have a student go to the box and find an item that matches what was just read.

## LIVING THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

### ALL THAT WE ARE...

We are made as stewards of creation.

*You will need:*

- † Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- † Markers

*During class:*

1. **In Genesis, we learn that God is the source of all creation. That means that everything belongs to God, even you! Everything that you have and all that you are ultimately belongs to God. We are only allowed to have our things, our time, and ourselves for a little while. In church, we say that this makes us stewards. A steward is an old-fashioned word that means something similar to a manager. A store manager is not the person who owns the store and everything in it; that person is the owner. But the manager is the one who runs the store and takes care of it for the owner.**
2. **What do you think would happen if the manager doesn't take good care of the stuff in the store?** *[She might get fired.]*
3. **How we use our things and our lives is called "stewardship." We are like managers of our lives and our things. We won't get fired if we don't take good care of things, but we will be unhappy. God wants the best for you and God knows that you will be happier if you are a good steward.**
4. **What are some of the things that you have?** Write, or have the students write, the answers on the whiteboard or paper under the category "Your Things."
5. **How do you think you can be a good steward of these things?** Help students go through each of the things on the board and decide how to be a good steward of each. *[Treat things well and don't break them, share them with others, be careful when we spend money.]*
6. **What are some things that you are good at?** Write or have the students write the answers on the whiteboard or paper under the category "Your Life."
7. **These are all part of what you have in your life. You also have time and your body.** Add "time" and "your body" to the list under "Your Life."
8. **How do you think you can be a good steward of your life?** Help students go through each of the things on the board and decide how to be a good steward of each. *[Help others, study hard in school, eat healthily and exercise, do the things you're good at, have fun!]*

9. **God loves you more than you can ever understand. And God wants us to practice good stewardship. How do we know if we're being good stewards? Jesus gave us a simple rule: Love God and love others. The more we practice these, the better stewards we are!**

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### IN THE IMAGE (10 MINUTES)

Honor the image of God in others.

*You will need:*

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

*During class:*

1. Split students into pairs or small groups.
2. **We are all created in God's image. This makes us special. It also makes everyone we ever meet special. Everyone is an image-bearer of God, and loved by God. Imagine a world where everyone treated everyone else with love and respect. Wouldn't that be wonderful? It is our responsibility, and good stewardship, to treat everyone we meet with love and respect.**
3. **Let's practice this. In your groups, decide how to act out two scenarios. First, have one actor honoring the image of God in someone when it's easy. Second, have another actor honoring the image of God in someone when it's difficult.**
4. Give students a few minutes to create, using the pens and paper as necessary to write notes.
5. Invite the pairs or groups perform their skits in front of the class.
6. Discuss:
  - a. **Is it always easy to see the image of God in other people?**
  - b. **When might it be easier?**
  - c. **When is it more difficult?**
  - d. **How can we remember, and help each other remember, to watch for the image of God in everyone?**

## TAKING CARE (10 MINUTES)

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Make a poster of how to be good stewards of creation.

*You will need:*

- † Whiteboard or mural paper
- † Markers
- † Paper
- † Markers, or crayons
- † Magazines
- † Scissors
- † Glue sticks

*During class:*

1. **God made everything in the universe and called all of it very good! We have the responsibility as good stewards to take care of our selves, our families, our communities, and our world.**
2. **What are some things we can do to take care of ourselves? Our families? Our communities? Our world (people, plants, and animals)?** Write the ideas on the whiteboard or mural paper.
3. Pass out paper and art supplies.
4. **Pick one of these ideas or use one of your own, and illustrate a way that you can be a good steward. At the bottom of your paper write: “I can be a good steward of God’s creation by \_\_\_\_\_.”**
5. If possible, find a place to hang the posters around the church to encourage others to be good stewards.

## CREATION RE-CREATION (10 MINUTES)

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Learn some actions for Genesis.

*You will need:*

- † Bible

*Before class:*

1. Familiarize yourself with the text and actions for *The Beginning* below.

*During class:*

1. Hold up the Bible. **Today we heard the story of creation, which is found in the very beginning of the book of Genesis. What parts of the story do you remember?** Allow students to list as many as they can.
2. **Who remembers what happened to Adam and Eve next?** [*They disobey God; they sin; the serpent tempts them; they eat the fruit; they have to leave the garden.*] **Even as the story goes on and Adam and Eve disobey God, God still loves them and keeps the promises that God made. To help us remember the story, we are going to use our bodies to act out parts of the book of Genesis.**
3. Read the paragraph below with either yourself or an assistant demonstrating the actions listed.

*The Beginning:*

**In the beginning, the very beginning, nothing existed besides God.** Curl into a ball. **God spoke, and the whole universe was created.** Stretch and stand up. **God created earth and sky, water, and land. God created animals and fish and birds.** Act as any animal that God created. **God created the first people, Adam and Eve. They lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden, and the only rule they had to follow was to not eat from one of the trees. But, they broke this rule and ate the fruit of that tree. Pick and eat a fruit. Since they broke the rule they could no longer live forever in the Garden with God. Act scared and sad. But God still loved them and kept the promises that God had made.** Hug yourself and be happy and excited.

4. Have the students do the actions as you read it through a second time.

## BIBLE BOOK (10 MINUTES)

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Optional ongoing activity.

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Card stock or plain paper
- † Pens
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

*Before class:*

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on card stock or copy paper for each student.

*During class:*

1. Hand out one piece of card stock paper and markers or crayons to each student.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**  
*[Answers will vary.]*
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of your important things you've learned. Do not forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. You can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

## SENDING THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

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### REVIEW AND PRAYER

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Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer. Tell the kids there will be a place in the prayer for them to thank God for their favorite parts of creation.

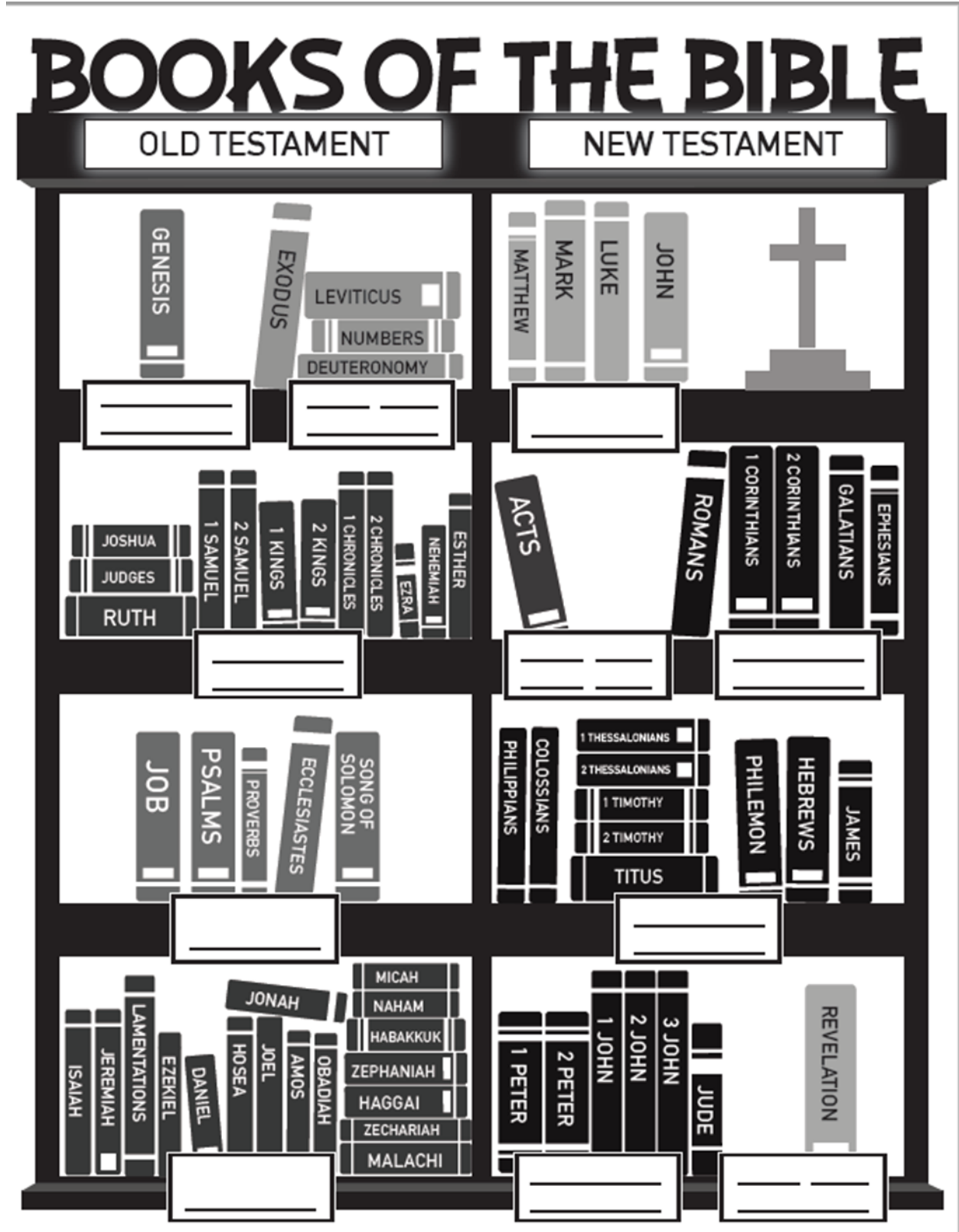
**Creator God,**

**You have made everything! We love that you have made...**allow time for students to name things in creation that they find amazing. **Help us to be good stewards of your world. Thank you that you made us in your image. Help us to treat everyone we meet like you treat us, with love and care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



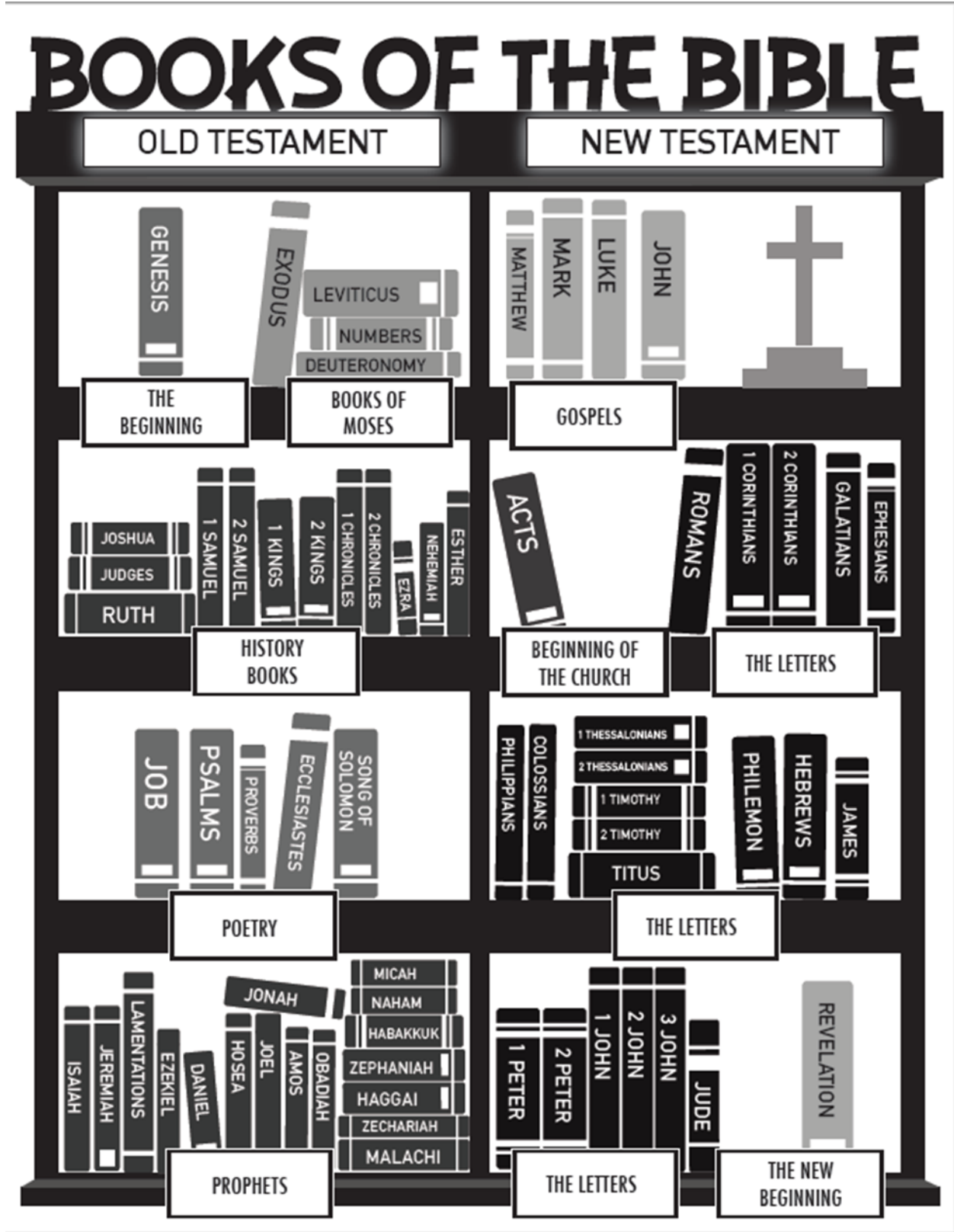
# WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

*Explore the sections of the Bible.*



# WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the sections of the Bible.



# IN THE BEGINNING

*Use props to learn the story of creation.*

Passage	Props/Actions	Questions/Explanations
Genesis 1:1-2	Action: Turn off the overhead lights or have students close their eyes.	<b>In a story, the beginning matters. It tells you something about what to expect for the rest of the book. What is the first thing we learn about God in Genesis?</b> <i>[God is a God who creates.]</i>
Genesis 1:3-5	Action: Turn on the lights or shine the flashlight at the students.	<b>In this story of Creation, what was the first thing that God created?</b> <i>[Light.]</i> <b>How did God describe the light?</b> <i>[It was good.]</i> <b>Pay attention to that word “good” in this passage. It will show up again!</b>
Genesis 1:6-8	Prop: Sealed container or a squirt bottle of water. Action: Have each student touch the water with a finger or squirt them with water (watch the Bibles!)	<b>For the people of Israel, a new day didn’t start at sunrise or even at midnight like it does for us. The new day started when the sun went down. That’s why this day starts with evening.</b>
Genesis 1:9-10	Prop: Container of soil or dirt.	For the rest of the passage, have the reader say, <b>“And God saw...”</b> and coach the other students to respond, <b>“that it was good!”</b> <b>What is good about land or soil?</b> <i>[It gives us something to walk on, plants grow in it.]</i>
Genesis 1:11-13	Props: Fruit, vegetables, houseplants, leaves. If you have fruits or vegetables, have them washed and cut up for students to eat.	<b>What are some of your favorite fruits? What are some of your favorite vegetables? What are your favorite plants?</b>
Genesis 1:14-19	Props: Pictures of stars, planets, galaxies, etc.	<b>What are the lights in the sky that God created?</b> <i>[Stars.]</i> <b>Did you know that ancient peoples used the stars as a kind of calendar? That way they knew when to plant and harvest and other things. What are the greater and lesser lights?</b> <i>[The sun and the moon.]</i> Show the pictures of the astronomical objects. <b>Aren’t these amazing and beautiful? God made them all! And God saw...</b> <i>[“That it was good!”]</i>



# IN THE BEGINNING

*Use props to learn the story of creation.*

Passage	Props/Actions	Questions/Explanations
Genesis 1:20-23	Props: Pictures of fish and birds	<b>Animals are amazing! Birds and fish, and every animal fit where they live perfectly. Creation is like God's art gallery. What are your favorite fish? Favorite bird? Why?</b>
Genesis 1:24-25	Props: Pictures of land animals or stuffed toy animals	<b>This includes farm animals, pets, reptiles, wild animals, and even bugs.</b> Go around the room and ask students to act out their favorite land animal.
Genesis 1:26-31	Props: Mirror, hand stamp, ink pad	<b>This is the biggest part of the creation story! When God created humans, God made girls and boys, and women and men in God's image! It was like God put a stamp on every person and said, "This one is mine and I love them!" Who did God make in God's image?</b> Hold up the mirror so the students can see themselves. Have the students say, <b>"ME!"</b> Give each student a stamp on the hand so they can remember that they were made in God's image. Have students repeat Genesis 1:31, focusing on the fact that all of creation was VERY GOOD!
Genesis 2:1-3	Prop: Pillow	<b>In this creation story, we get to know God as the Creator, and we learn that everything in all of creation is good. We learn that God made people in God's image. Now God gives us a new lesson. What does God do on the seventh day?</b> <i>[God rests.]</i> <b>God didn't rest because God was too tired, but God wanted to teach us that rest is important. We need to take time to rest, to enjoy God's creation and to be with the people we love.</b>



# GOD'S GOOD CREATION

**Genesis 1:1-24a**

**I LEARNED:**

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# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2021-2022)

**Lesson #4-1**  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a

## THIS WEEK

The Narrative Lectionary, just like the Bible itself, begins with the story of creation. This is a story of beginnings. In fact, our name for this book of the Bible, Genesis, comes from the Greek word for "origin."

## STORY SUMMARY

### God's Good Creation

In the first verse of Genesis we meet the main character of the Bible: God. Genesis introduces God as the Creator of all things. This creation is good. The story of creation in Genesis repeats over and over that what God created was called good. And if God called the world of energy and matter good, then it is good! Not only does the story of Creation emphasize that all of creation is good, but it also emphasizes that humans (both male and female) are created in God's image. This lesson reminds us that each of us is special and beloved of God, and that we have the responsibility to treat all other image-bearers of God with love and respect.

## PRACTICE: WORSHIP

Each lesson incorporates one of four spiritual practices: worship, prayer, service, or fellowship. This week we begin with worship. As a family, go outside and look around at God's beautiful creation. Take turns naming what you see, then thank God together for God's good creation"

## THE POINT

**God declares that creation is good.**

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *What is the Bible?*

"In addition to exploring the lectionary text of the week, each lesson will introduce something about the structure of the Bible to the students. This week, students discovered that the Bible is not truly one book, but instead a library of books put together into one volume. You can also think of the Bible as a book series. As in many book series, there are the individual stories told in each book, but there is a larger story or plot arc that includes the entire series. The Bible does not follow one human character throughout the different books; instead the main character is God. The Bible is God's story of love and faithfulness to God's whole creation

## NEXT WEEK

Next week, the early story of God's provision for God's people continues as we look at how God provides for Abraham.

### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✦ Where do you see the message that "It is GOOD" in this Scripture?
- ✦ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✦ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

God created everything, and it was good! Take turns naming things that God created. After each person shares, respond together, "And it was GOOD!"

#### **Monday—Read Genesis 2:7-9, 15, 18-25**

In this second creation story, Man is given a partner to help care for creation. What are things your family can do to help care for creation?

#### **Tuesday—Read Genesis 3:8-19**

Adam and Eve's sins are discovered. Adam places the blame on Eve, and Eve in turn blames the serpent for their bad behavior. Talk about times it was tempting to blame someone else for something that you did wrong.

#### **Wednesday—Read Genesis 12:1-9**

God promises to bless Abram. Consider the history of your family. How do you see God's blessing throughout the generations? Go outside and try to count the stars.

#### **Thursday—Read Genesis 15:1-6**

God promises that Abram's descendants will be as numerous as the stars. This seems like an impossible promise, especially because Abram and Sarai were nearing 100 years old.

#### **Friday—Read Genesis 17:15-21**

God changes Abram and Sarai's names and promises blessings. The meaning of names can be powerful. If you don't already know them, go online to find the meaning of the names of your family members.

#### **Saturday—Read Genesis 18: 1-15**

The Lord appears to Abraham and Sarah. Sarah is so startled by God's promises that she laughs at the improbability. Share a time you were surprised by God's ability to keep a promise.