

KIDS (3RD-6TH)

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LIVING THE WORD

Narrative Lectionary



**Teaching Kids God's Story
KIDS (3RD-6TH)**

Teacher's Guide

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Lesson #2-1

GOD CREATES HUMANS

Genesis 2:4b-25



Key Verse:

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.”
Genesis 2:4b-25

The Point:

We are created to be partners in God’s work.

Making Connections:

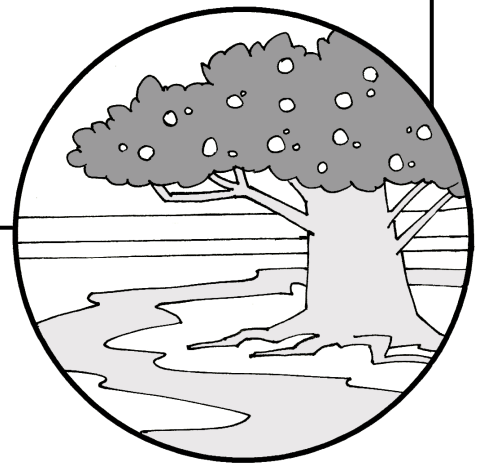
God Creates Family

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Bible? (Old Testament)

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

INTO THE STORY

ANIMAL MIXER

Introduce yourself as an animal.

10 MIN. † None

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible.

10 MIN. † Bibles
† White board or mural paper
† Marker

LEARNING THE STORY

THE CREATION

Create and act out the story.

15 MIN. † Activity Sheet #2-1.A
† Construction paper
† Markers or crayons
† Optional: blocks, play clay, or other building materials

LIVING THE STORY

THANK YOU, GOD

Participate in litany and prayer.

10 MIN. † Activity Sheet #2-1.B
† Optional: battery-operated candle, worship music, music player

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

CREATION CARE

How can you care for creation?

10 MIN. † Paper
† Pens or pencils

COMMUNITY MURAL

Create a visual of Genesis 2:18.

15 MIN. † Bible
† Mural paper
† Paper
† Markers or crayons
† Tape

ANIMAL PRAYER

Pray a silly interpretive prayer.

5 MIN. † None

BIBLE BOOK

Optional ongoing activity.

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

SENDING THE STORY

5 MIN. † The Story @ Home

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Making Connections

Today is the start of a new year exploring the story of the Bible through the Narrative Lectionary—and we start at the beginning of that story. Today you will start at the first story in Genesis: the story of the creation, where God creates family.

Story Summary:

God Creates Humans

If you look in the first two chapters of Genesis, you will find two different accounts of the creation story. In both of them, God creates the world and everything in it. However, each story explains a different approach to creating animals, humans, and nature.

Today your students will explore the second account of creation in Scripture. In this account, God begins by forming the earth, and then God forms the first human. God also creates a garden, filled with animals. In the story, God creates the first human and instructs him to take care of the garden and all of the animals within. He is charged with naming the animals and caring for them. God realizes one person cannot do this job alone. God creates the first woman—someone who can be a partner to the man and help him care for the earth. God created humans to be in community with all of creation.

The Point

We are created to be partners in God's work. God has created us to be in community with all of creation, too. Just like the first humans in the garden, we have also been created to be in community with all of creation. We are commanded to love God and each other. Furthermore, we are asked to sustain and renew the life of the earth. We live in community with God and with all of creation.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Bible? (Old Testament)

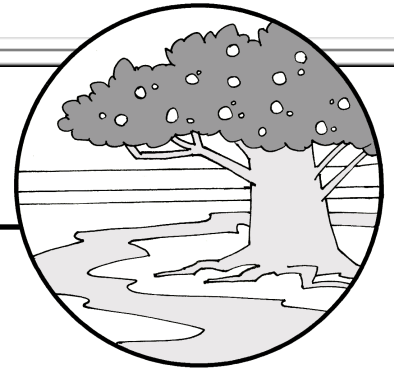
The Bible is a well-known book that has been read and interpreted throughout history. The biblical narrative contains many different stories that have different characters and plot lines. Though these stories may be different, they all have one theme in common—these stories tell us about God and about our lives as humans. The Bible is a collection of stories that tell us more about the relationship humanity has with God, and about the relationships that we have with each other. The creation story is the first story in this great narrative.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

As Christians, we praise and worship God for creating all of the beautiful earth. One of the ways in which we do this is through prayer. In today's Living the Story activity, students will participate in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving, thanking God for creating all of the wonders of creation—including each other.



LESSON PLAN



INTO THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

ANIMAL MIXER

Introduce yourself as an animal.

You will need:

- † Nothing

During class:

1. **Welcome! Today we are going to start a journey together through the Bible. Let's start by playing a game to get to know each other.**
2. **First, I want you to think of an animal that begins with the first letter of your first name. Then, think of a hand motion or movement that symbolizes your animal.**
3. Start by introducing your name and animal with its motion. Invite students to repeat back your name, animal, and motion.
4. Invite the person to your right to share their name and animal. Have the class repeat back the name and animal of both the person who just shared and everyone prior.
5. Continue around the circle to the right. Each person should share their name and animal, with the class repeating it back them all back.
6. If you have time, test your memory by going around the circle and saying the name and animal of each student.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (10 MINUTES)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore a Bible!

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † White board or mural paper
- † Marker

During class:

1. Hold up a Bible. **What is this?** [*A Bible.*] **Let's look in to some Bibles to see what's inside.**
2. Hand out Bibles to each student. Help them find the table of contents and look up the text of today's story: Genesis 2:4b-25.
3. **What are some stories that you know are in the Bible? Let's make a list.**
4. Invite students to share their ideas. Write these stories on the white board or mural paper.
5. **There are so many stories in the Bible, and we are going to learn about different ones each time we meet together. All of these stories may have different characters or take place at different times, but they all teach us about how to live with God, and with each other. Some of the stories are about the beginning of the world and people who lived a long time ago. That is called the Old Testament. Other stories, that we will hear later this year, are stories about Jesus. Those stories are in the New Testament.**
6. Help students look in the table of contents to find the division between the Old and New Testaments.
7. **Today we are going to hear the first story in the Bible, which is also the first story that we will hear from the Old Testament.**

LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

THE CREATION

Create and act out the story.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-1.A
- † Construction paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: blocks, play dough, or other building materials

Before class:

1. Read through the story script on Activity Sheet #2-1.A.
2. Collect materials to create props. You may wish to make some examples to share with students.

During class:

1. **Today we are going to hear one of the very first stories in the Bible—the story of creation. As I read the story, close your eyes and try to picture what the story looks like.**
2. Tell the story using the script on Activity Sheet #2-1.A.
3. Make available paper, crayons or markers, and building supplies (if desired). Split students into pairs.
4. **If you were to retell the creation story to another person, how would you tell it? Use these supplies to make some props to help you tell the story. When you are finished, we will share our creations with each other.**
5. Give pairs time to work. When they are finished, invite them to tell the story to their classmates while using their props.
6. After concluding the activity, use the following questions to discuss the story:
 - **What are some of the things God creates in this story?** [*Water, people, animals, a garden, etc.*]
 - **According to the story, why does God make two humans?** [*Because people should not be alone; people should have company.*]
 - **What special job does God give the humans in the story?** [*To name and take care of the animals in the garden.*]



7. In this story, God creates everything—plants, water, animals, and even humans. After creating man, God decides it is was not good for man to be alone. So, God created a second person—a woman—to live with him and help him in the garden. God has created all of us to have relationships with other people. God does not want us to be alone!

LIVING THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

THANK YOU, GOD

Participate in litany and prayer.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-1.B
- † Optional: battery-operated candle, worship music, music player

Before class:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.B for each student.

During class:

1. Invite students to sit in a circle. If you are using a candle, switch it on and place it in the middle of the circle.
2. **In today's story, God creates everything—people, animals, and the beautiful earth. Let's spend some time in prayer, thanking God for creating these wonderful things.**
3. Give each student a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.B. Invite them to follow along with the liturgy and prayer, saying the words in the bold print.
4. If you wish to sing some worship music, play it at an appropriate time, encouraging students to sing.
5. Encourage students to take the Activity Sheet home with them and say the prayer at home with their families.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

CREATION CARE (10 MINUTES)

How can you care for creation?

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

Before class:

1. Arrange for your students to implement the service project they plan during this activity.

During class:

1. **God created the first humans to help take care of the Garden of Eden and the animals living in it. We are also asked to take care of the earth. What are some ways that we can take care of God's creation? Let's make a list.**
2. Make a list of ways in which you can care for God's creation. Ideas may include: recycling, encouraging people to walk or bike places, clean up a park or other outdoor area, etc.
3. After you make your list, pick one of these ideas for the class to complete as a service project.
4. Plan your project. Some things to consider while planning include: what materials will you need? Will you invite others to help, and how? When can you complete this project? How will you let people know that this project is going on?
5. Implement the plans for your service project at an appropriate time.

COMMUNITY MURAL (15 MINUTES)

Create a visual of Genesis 2:18.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Mural paper
- † Paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Tape

During class:

1. Read Genesis 2:18. **In this verse, what does God decide to do?** *[To create a partner for man so that he is not alone.]* **This verse reminds us we are never alone. God has created us to be with one another and be a community. Let's make a reminder of the community we have in each other.**
2. Give each student a sheet of paper. Invite them to draw a self-portrait.
3. Give students time to work. As students finish, invite them to tape their portrait to the mural paper. If there is space, write the words of Genesis 2:18 on the banner.
4. If possible, arrange to hang the banner somewhere in your church, for your community to see.

ANIMAL PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Prayer a silly interpretive prayer.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. **Today, we are going to share some prayers... from animals! For each prayer, I will need two volunteers. One person will be an animal, and will say a brief prayer in their “animal language,” one sentence at a time. The second person will interpret for the class what the animal is saying in each sentence of its animal prayer.**
2. Invite pairs forward to pray. Do not allow animals and their interpreters to discuss the prayer beforehand; half of the fun of this activity is watching them try to “interpret” the prayers, and their creativity and openness in making up a prayer in this way.

BIBLE BOOK (5 MINUTES)

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 have 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)

REVIEW AND PRAYER

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Dear God, (echo)

You made everything in the world, including each one of us. (echo)

Thank you for creating a beautiful world! (echo)

Help us remember to love every person, and all of creation, too. (echo)

Amen. (echo)

THE CREATION

Create and act out the story.

In the beginning, God created everything. God created everything when there was nothing—there were no plants, animals, or even humans!

But God started creating. God created water, in the form of a river. God made a man from the dust of the ground. God breathed into the man, and the man began living! Then God created a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. The garden was full of trees and plants, and in the middle of the garden was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. There were even four rivers that ran through this beautiful place. And God placed man in the garden, and the man lived there.

God placed the man in the garden so he could take care of the land. God said to the man, “You can eat things from every tree in the garden, except for the tree in the middle of the garden. That is the tree of knowledge of good and evil. You may not eat the fruit there.”

Then God looked at the man, and saw he was alone. God said, “It’s not good that the man is alone. I will create someone to help him, and someone to be his partner.” So, God began creating different animals and birds, and God sent them to the man. The man began naming each of them.

As the man gave each animal its name, God saw there was not a good partner in any of them. So, instead, God caused the man to fall asleep. While the man was sleeping, God took one of the man’s ribs and used it to create a woman. When the woman came to the man, he realized God had created someone to work together with him and love each other. God helped create a community and a home for the first humans. They lived together in the garden, taking care of all the plants and animals that God created.

THANK YOU, GOD

Participate in litany and prayer.

Leader: God, you created the whole world! For all of creation,

Group: We thank you, God!

Leader: For animals and plants that make our world beautiful,

Group: We thank you, God!

Leader: For creating people, all of us in the world,

Group: We thank you, God!

Leader: For making us a community, to help and love one another,

Group: We thank you, God!

Leader: You have made our world so beautiful, God. We praise you for creating all of these wonderful things, like:

Invite the group to say their own praises and thanksgivings for God's creation.

Leader: For all of these things,

Group: We thank you, God!

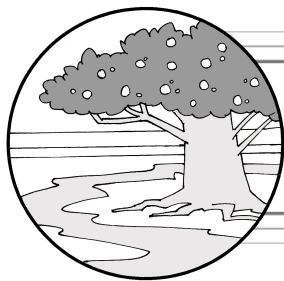
Leader: Lord, we thank you and praise you,

Group: Because you have filled the world with so many wonderful things. Amen.

GOD CREATES HUMANS

Genesis 2:4b-25

I LEARNED:



THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Lesson #2-1

Genesis 2:4b-25

THIS WEEK

In a second creation story, God creates the first human from dust and God's own breath. To create a suitable partner, God forms the second human out of the first, creating the first family and community (Genesis 1:1-2:4a).

STORY SUMMARY

There are two different accounts of the creation story in Genesis. In both of them, God creates the world and everything in it. In the second account, God begins by forming the earth, and then God forms the first human. God also creates a garden, filled with animals. In the story, God creates the first human and instructs him to take care of the garden and all of the animals within. He is charged with naming the animals and caring for them. God realizes one person cannot do this job alone. God creates the first woman—someone who can be a partner to the man and help him care for the earth. God created humans to be in community with all of creation.

PRACTICE: PRAYER

As Christians, we praise and worship God for creating all of the beautiful earth. One of the ways in which we do this is through prayer. In today's Living the Story activity, students used a simple litany of praise and thanksgiving to thank God for creating all of the wonders of creation—including each other. Pray this or a similar prayer together.

THE POINT

We are created to be partners in God's work.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

What Is the Bible? (Old Testament)

The Bible is a well-known book that has been read and interpreted throughout history. The biblical narrative contains many different stories that have different characters and plot lines. Though these stories may be different, they all have one theme in common—these stories tell us about God and about our lives as humans. The Bible is a collection of stories that tell us more about the relationship humanity has with God, and about the relationships that we have with each other. The creation story is the first story in this great narrative.

NEXT WEEK

God promises that the elderly Sarah and Abraham will have a son, to which Sarah laughs in disbelief. God's promise comes true, and with joyous laughter they name their child Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7).

Family Discussions

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

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme, God Creates Family?
- ✚ 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 2:4b-25

God creates humans.

Take turns talking about your favorite things that God created.

Monday—Read Genesis 3:1-21

The first sin.

Make and eat a fruit salad together. How can these different fruits remind us of our different sins and God's forgiveness?

Tuesday—Read Genesis 11:27-32

Introducing Abram and Sarai.

Share stories and pictures of your ancestors.

Wednesday—Read Genesis 12:1-9

God's promise to Abram.

Take your most important possession and "travel" as you read this story. Walk through your yard, neighborhood, or house.

Thursday—Read Genesis 14:14-20

Battle and blessing.

Share the blessing in verses 19-20 with each other as you end a meal or before bed, replacing Abram's name with yours.

Friday—Read Genesis 17:1-8

A new name.

If God were to change your name, what do you think your new name should be? Why?

Saturday—Read Genesis 17:15-22

The promise of a child.

What things have happened to you that you once thought were impossible?