

KIDS (PK-2ND)

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LIVING THE WORD

Narrative Lectionary



**Teaching Kids God's Story
KIDS (PK-2ND)**

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:

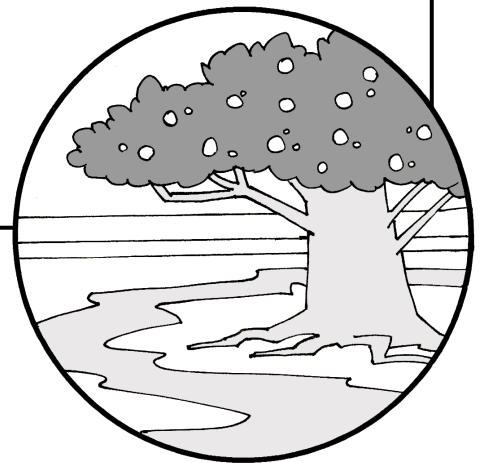
God Creates Family

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Bible? (Old Testament)

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

STORY CENTERS (PK-K)

15 MIN.

GOD MADE ANIMALS

Play with animals.

† Stuffed animals

GOD MADE PEOPLE

Who did God create?

† Paper

† Markers or crayons

GOD MADE THE GARDEN

Plant your own garden.

† Paper cups

† Soil

† Seeds

INTO THE STORY (PK-2ND)

MY FAVORITE ANIMALS

Get to know a friend's favorite animal.

5 MIN.

† Card stock

† Markers or crayons

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (1ST-2ND)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible.

10 MIN.

† Story Bibles

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

LEARNING THE STORY (PK-2ND)

THE CREATION

Retell the story using props.

- 15 MIN.**
- † Activity Sheet #2-1.A
 - † Brown paper bag
 - † Empty cup
 - † Piece of blue fabric
 - † Soil or dirt
 - † Artificial flower or plant
 - † Small stuffed animal
 - † Picture of a girl or woman
 - † Small shovel or gardening tool

LIVING THE STORY (PK-2ND)

WIGGLE PRAYERS

Pray to God with movement.

- 10 MIN.**
- † Activity Sheet #2-1.B

SINGING THE STORY (PK-2ND)

GOD'S CREATION

Sing a piggy-back song to the tune of
"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

- 5 MIN.**
- † None

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

GENESIS 2:18 (PK-2ND)

Make a reminder of today's Key Verse.

- 10 MIN.** † Large craft sticks
 † Markers or crayons
 † Yarn
 † Glue

NAME THAT ANIMAL (PK-2ND)

Play an animal memory game.

- 10 MIN.** † Activity Sheet #2-1.C
 † Card stock
 † Scissors

ANIMAL CHARADES (PK-2ND)

Act out favorite animals.

- 10 MIN.** † None

BIBLEBOOK (PK-2ND)

Optional ongoing activity.

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

SENDING THE STORY (PK-2ND)

- 10 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)

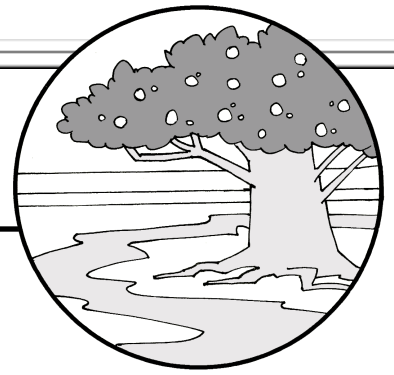
The Bible is a well-known book that has been read and interpreted throughout history. The biblical narrative contains many different stories that have different characters and plot lines. Though these stories may be different, they all have one theme in common—these stories tell us about God and about 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



STORY CENTERS (PK-K; 15 MINUTES)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

GOD MADE ANIMALS

Provide stuffed animals. Allow students to play with these stuffed animals.

GOD MADE PEOPLE

Provide paper and markers or crayons, have students draw a picture of themselves or each other.

GOD MADE THE GARDEN

Provide paper cups, soil, and seeds. Help students fill a paper cup with soil and plant a seed, creating their own “garden.” This activity can be messy! If possible, do this activity outside or in an area that can easily be cleaned. Also, be sure to protect students’ clothing, if needed.

INTO THE STORY (PK-2ND; 5 MINUTES)

MY FAVORITE ANIMAL

Get to know a friend's favorite animal.

You will need:

- † Card stock
- † Markers or crayons

During class:

1. **Welcome! This year we are going to go on a journey together through the Bible. We are going to hear so many stories! Before we start, let's learn everyone's name... and their favorite animal!**
2. Ask each student to share their name and favorite animal.
3. **We all have great favorite animals! Let's make a nameplate to help us learn everyone's name and favorite animal.**
4. Give each student a sheet of card stock. Have each student fold the card stock in half, creating a table tent.
5. Invite students to write their name, assisting students as needed, and draw their favorite animal on the card stock.
6. After everyone has finished, invite each person to place their nameplate in front of them.
7. At the end of class, collect the nameplates. Use them throughout the year to remind everyone of names and animals.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (1ST-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Explore the Bible.

You will need:

- † Story Bibles

Before class:

1. Gather one story Bible for every two students.

During class:

1. Hold up a Bible. **What book is this?** [*A Bible.*] **That is right! This is a Bible. Have you ever heard Bible stories? What are some stories you have heard?** Accept all answers.
2. **There are a lot of different stories in the Bible. Let's open some Bibles and see what stories are inside.**
3. Split students into pairs. Give each pair one story Bible.
4. Help students open the Bibles and flip through the stories. Invite them to look through the Bible and tell you some of the stories they see as they turn the pages.
5. **What are some of the stories you see in the Bible?** Accept all answers.
6. **There are so many different stories in the Bible! All of these stories have different characters, but they all teach us about God and about the world. The Bible is a book that teaches us about how we relate to God, and how we relate to other people. Some of the stories are about the beginning of the world and people who lived long, long 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.**
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. Let's see what that story is!**

LEARNING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 15 MINUTES)

THE CREATION

Retell the story using objects.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-1.A
- † Brown paper bag
- † Empty cup
- † Piece of blue fabric
- † Soil or dirt
- † Artificial flower or plant
- † Small stuffed animal
- † Picture of a girl or woman
- † Small shovel or gardening tool

Before class:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.A for each student.
2. Collect the objects needed to tell the story. Place all of these objects in a brown paper bag.

During class:

1. Use the script on Activity Sheet #2-1.A to tell the story.
2. As you work your way through the script, reach in the bag and pull out the listed objects at an appropriate time to show students.
3. After telling the story once, place all of the objects back in the bag. Pull objects out of the bag one at a time. As you pull out each object, invite students to say how that object is connected to the story.

4. Discuss the following:
 - **What are some of the things God created in the story?** [*Humans, plants, the garden, animals, etc.*]
 - **What did God form from the dust?** [*A man.*]
 - **When God saw that the man was lonely, what did God do?** [*Created animals, and then created a woman.*]
 - **Why did God create the woman?** [*Because God did not want man to be lonely, because the man needed a partner, etc.*]
 - **Where did these first humans live, and what did they do there?** [*They lived in the garden, to take care of it.*]
 - **Has there ever been a time in your life when you have felt lonely? What happened?** [*Answers will vary.*] Invite students to tell stories. You may wish to answer this question first.
 - **What are some things in the world that remind you that you are not alone?** [*Family, friends, nature, church, etc.*]
5. Send home a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.A with each student.
6. *Alternate activity for older students:* After telling the story once, challenge students to retell the story in sequence by pulling the appropriate objects out of the bag themselves. You can also dump the objects out of the bag and invite students to work together to order the objects in the way they were presented during the story.

LIVING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

WIGGLE PRAYER

Pray to God with movement.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-1.B

Before class:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.B for each student.
2. Practice reading the script with the movements, so you are familiar with them.

During class:

1. **In today's story, God creates the whole world! What are some of the things you are thankful that God created?** Accept all answers.
2. **There are so many beautiful things in our world, and God created them all! Let's talk to God by saying a prayer together to thank and praise God for creating these things.**
3. Read aloud each line of the script on Activity Sheet #2-1.B, while demonstrating the movement. After reading each line, invite students to copy you by repeating back the words and actions.
4. Invite students to say their own thanksgivings at the appropriate time.
5. If you have time, go through the script again, saying it together.
6. Send a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.B home with students.

SINGING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 5 MINUTES)

GOD'S CREATION

Sing a piggy-back song to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

Animals, plants, and you and me,
God created all we see.
Sun and stars and things so high,
Creatures of the earth and sky.
Animals, plants, and you and me,
God created all we see.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

GENESIS 2:18 (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

Make a reminder of the day's Key Verse.

You will need:

- † Large craft sticks
- † Markers or crayons
- † Yarn (representing different colors of hair)
- † Glue

Before class:

1. Make a sample craft to show the class.

During class:

1. **In our story, God created the whole world, including people! God has created us to be unique, and to be friends with one another. Let's make a reminder of this.**
2. Give each student a craft stick. Invite them to color a self-portrait on the craft stick.
3. Cut some short lengths of yarn. Invite students to pick a couple of small pieces that reflect the color of their hair.
4. Glue the yarn to the top of the craft stick, giving the person hair.
5. If you have time, give students additional craft sticks. Invite them to make these craft sticks into people representing their family or friends.
6. **Keep your stick people somewhere you will see them all the time! Every time you see your people, thank God for creating us to love each other.**

NAME THAT ANIMAL (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

Play an animal memory game.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-1.C
- † Card stock
- † Scissors

Before class

1. Print a copy of Activity Sheet #2-1.C on card stock.
2. Cut apart the different animal cards.

During class:

1. **Today we have learned about everything that God has created. In our story, what are some of the things that God has created?** *[People, animals, plants, birds, water, the whole world, etc.]*
2. **God created everything! When God saw that man was alone, God began creating animals to keep him company. Then the man was asked to take care of the animals and give them names. Do you think this job was hard or easy? Why?** Accept all answers.
3. **Let's play a game and name some animals ourselves. Pay close attention to what animals are on these cards. You will need to remember them later.**
4. Place all of the animal cards in front of the class, laying them face down. Flip one card over, showing them the picture. **What animal is this?**
5. After students have correctly guessed the animal, flip the card back over, so the blank side is facing up. Find a different animal card and flip it over, revealing the animal. Invite students to name the animal.
6. Once students have correctly named the animal, flip the card back over. Continue flipping over cards and inviting students to name the images, until all of the animals have been identified.
7. **Now we are going to play a little memory game. I am going to say the name of one of our animals. When I say an animal's name, try to remember which card the animal is on.**

8. Pick one of the animals on the cards. Say the animal, and invite students to guess the card with that animal. Flip over their guess, and see if students are correct. If the guess is correct, move on to another animal. If the guess is incorrect, invite students to continue guessing until their guess is correct.
9. Once a guess is correct, give students another animal. Continue playing until all of the animals have been correctly guessed.

ANIMAL CHARADES (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

Act out favorite animals.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. Today we learned about the creation of all the animals, and about the first humans naming and caring for those animals. What are your favorite animals? Instead of answering my question out loud, I want you to think about your favorite animal. What does it look like? How does it act? What does it sounds like?
2. We are going to take turns acting out our favorite animals. Students, when you think you know what animal our friend is pretending to be, shout out your answer! We will keep going until everyone has had a turn to act out their favorite animal.

BIBLE BOOK (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † 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 Bible Book pages.
2. Read the bottom of the Bible Book page aloud, reminding students of what they learned in the lesson.
3. Have them put their names on their pages, and draw a picture of something they particularly liked or remember from story in the middle of the page.
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. If you wish, 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 (PK-2ND; 5 MINUTES)

PRAYER

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

Dear God, (echo)

Thank you for creating everything in the world! (echo)

Thank you for creating us. (echo)

Help us remember to love each other, and all of creation, too. (echo)

In Jesus' name. (echo)

Amen. (echo)

THE CREATION

Retell the story using objects.

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

But God started creating. God created water, in the form of a river. Show a small piece of blue fabric.

Then God took some dust from the ground, and made a man. God breathed into the man, and he was alive! Show a bag of soil or dirt.

Then God created a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. The garden was full of trees and plants. God placed the man in the garden so that he could take care of the land. Show a fake flower or plant.

Then God looked at the man, and saw that he was alone. God did not want the man to be alone. So, God began creating different animals and birds to keep him company, and the man began naming each of them. Show a small stuffed animal.

God saw that the animals were not enough for the man. So, 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 another person—a woman. Show a picture of a girl.

The man realized that God created the woman to live in the garden with him. They lived together in the garden, taking care of all the plants and animals that God created. Show a small shovel or gardening tool.

WIGGLE PRAYER

Pray to God with movement.

We praise you, God, for making the whole world!

Raise your hands high, making a circle above your head.

The tall trees,

Raise both your hands straight above your head, wiggling your fingers.

The birds of the sky,

Act like you are flying.

And all the beautiful animals of the earth!

Move like your favorite animal.

We thank you for making us, all unique and special,

Point at others in the room.

And for giving us all friends to love and care for.

Shake hands with others in the room.

God, you have made the whole world beautiful.

Stretch your arms wide open.

We praise you, God, for everything!

Turn in a circle.

Invite students to share the things they are thankful for.
With each thanksgiving, students should act out what they are thankful for.

Thank you, God, for everything!

Stretch your arms open wide.

NAME THAT ANIMAL

Play an animal memory game.

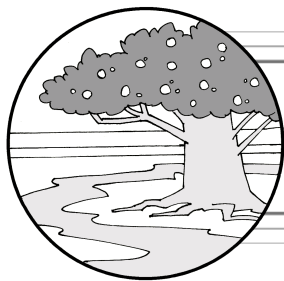


GOD CREATES HUMANS

Genesis 2:4b-25

THE POINT:

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



THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
PK-2ND**

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?