



DIRECTOR GUIDE



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You can contact the Vacation Bible School team at Concordia Publishing House by email at vbsteam@cph.org.

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WELCOME AND OUTREACH IDEAS

REACH OUT WITH THE GOSPEL!

Welcome to God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace. This suite of resources helps churches center everyone on seven accounts in the Bible that emphasize the soul-quenching grace that surrounds us in Jesus. Focusing on Jesus, the Living Water, this series stretches from creation to the Early Church, as believers experience the grace of God. This particular resource is a curriculum for kids. How can you use it? Check out the options below.

CURRICULUM FORMATS

There are several ways you can teach this curriculum. Will you use this curriculum for a weeklong Bible camp? Maybe you'll use this in step with the adult and youth Bible studies as your church goes through the corresponding sermon series. You could do a little of both and even use some material for a churchwide kickoff event. The goal of this curriculum is to provide plenty of options so you can pick the right activities for your children and your format.

- **Weeklong event:** Learn the five middle lessons in one week to get kids excited about God's overflowing grace! Grab portions of this curriculum, but leave other parts (such as extenders) as a follow-up. Drop the first and last lesson to highlight five accounts over half-days.
- **Every week:** Walk with adults and youth as the whole church learns the lesson together alongside the sermon of the week.
- **Outreach day:** Create a sample day where families move from station to station. Use a craft for the first account, a game for the second, and so on. This gives just enough of a teaser to foster excitement for more. You can do the rest of the activities throughout each week!

USING THIS GUIDE IN DIFFERENT FORMATS

How can you use this leader guide? Here are some tips:

- **Weeklong event:** Build your days around the Bible account found in each lesson! Start with the Opening, then plug in the Snack, Craft, Science, and Game station options found in the back of this guide. Add in the Skit and Memory Words, and wrap up with the Closing. If you want a music station, use the Music Suggestions page for help.
- **Every week:** If you are using the stations for a weeklong event but also plan to teach for a weekly Bible time on Sundays, focus Sunday lessons mainly on the extenders after reviewing page 3 for the account. You could turn the extenders into stations for smaller groups or use a one-room classroom style for the summer.
- **Outreach day:** Pick one station per lesson, and set up seven stations for your big day!

OUTREACH EVENT SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.	Big welcome
9:15 a.m.	Stations (Pick from the lesson, craft, game, or other activities to introduce the account assigned to your station.)
9:30 a.m.	Transition; play a song.
9:35 a.m.	Stations
9:50 a.m.	Transition; play a song.
9:55 a.m.	Stations
10:10 a.m.	Transition; play a song.
10:15 a.m.	Stations
10:30 a.m.	Snack break! During snack, offer a challenge with volunteers, skit, or another kind of entertainment.
10:50 a.m.	Stations
11:05 a.m.	Transition; play a song.
11:10 a.m.	Stations
11:25 a.m.	Transition; play a song.
11:30 a.m.	Stations
11:45 a.m.	Lunchtime prayer
11:50 a.m.	Lunch break! During lunch, offer a challenge with volunteers, skit, or another kind of entertainment.
12:30 p.m.	Series launch: This is God's Living Water! Our church will be walking together in learning seven key accounts of the Bible.
12:45 p.m.	Hand out banner crafts and packs of conversation cards to all families. Send out extras for families to give away!

BIBLE CAMP SCHEDULE (EACH DAY)

9:00 a.m.	Big welcome
9:15 a.m.	Lesson site (Story, Craft, Game, etc.)
9:35 a.m.	Transition
9:40 a.m.	Lesson site
10:00 a.m.	Transition
10:05 a.m.	Lesson site
10:25 a.m.	Transition
10:30 a.m.	Lesson site
10:50 a.m.	Transition
10:55 a.m.	Lesson site
11:15 a.m.	Transition
11:20 a.m.	Lesson site
11:40 a.m.	Transition
11:45 a.m.	Wrap up
12:00 p.m.	End for the day

You could also add a lunch and spend the afternoon with flexible camplike activities.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

PREP PAGE

Be sure to share this guide with all volunteers or divide the pages among the leaders based on what they need. What is the lesson about? What activities will you prepare? The Prep Pages tell you everything at a glance.

MUSIC

On the Music Suggestions page, you'll see plenty of music options to suit your needs. If you have musicians, you can use the hymnals *Lutheran Service Book* or *One and All Rejoice*. There are also recordings for Bible verses and the theme songs. If you love to use your own playlists, we offer some suggestions of songs to find on your own.

SUPPLIES

Station Supplies: To see what supplies are needed for each station (crafts, game, etc.), look at the Prep Page of every lesson.

For Every Lesson: Use this checklist below as a reminder of items that you may want on hand for every lesson.

- Bibles
- Hymnals and songbooks
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens
- School glue, glue sticks, tape, glitter glue
- Child-friendly scissors, hole punch, stapler
- Device to stream music
- Plates, napkins, plasticware, hand sanitizer

Extender Supply Box: The items in the Extender Supply Box are used frequently. Gather them to be prepared for many of the lesson extenders. You can do any extender on the fly with the supplies below.

- White copy paper, construction paper, tissue paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens
- Paint, paint brushes, smocks
- School glue, glue sticks, tape, glitter glue
- Child-friendly scissors, hole punch, stapler
- Yarn, pom-poms, craft sticks, pipe cleaners
- Googly eyes, beads, buttons, stickers
- Paper plates, paper lunch bags, paper cups
- Play dough and tools
- Poster board or large sheets of paper

OPEN AND CLOSE

If you decide to use an Opening each time, make it work for your needs! It could be as simple as a prayer. It might incorporate the skit and music. For small groups, you could even cover the Bible story at this time to set the tone. You will find Opening and Closing suggestions in each lesson.

BIBLE STORY

Young: Read this narrative for prereaders. Encourage the actions and finish with the questions.

Older: Read this narrative geared for early readers. Consider using children's Bibles so kids can read and review.

Oldest: Dive right into the Bible! Ask kids to take turns reading. Then tackle the questions.

CRAFT

Be sure to check the Prep Page or Craft Station for the craft supply list for this station. These crafts use items that can be found at most craft stores. Create a sample craft ahead of time, and be sure you have plenty of volunteers. Use the prompts given to connect the craft to the lesson.

SNACK

Check the Prep Page or Snack Station for the supply list. Most ingredients can be found at grocery stores, but look ahead in case some items are best found online. Create a sample snack and be sure you have plenty of volunteers. Use the prompts given for connections.

GAME

Time to get up and move! The Game Station will often use similar items from lesson to lesson. Use the prompts to connect the game to the lesson.

SCIENCE

Kids love experiments! Be sure to check the Prep Page or Science Station for the supply list. Look ahead in case some items are best found online. Use the prompts to connect.

MEMORY VERSE

The Memory Verse Station is a shorter station. Use the recorded Bible memory songs, and reinforce the lesson. You may want to connect this station to the Science Station or add the music to this station.

SKIT

Skits could be used for Opening, Closing, or on their own!

EXTENDERS

Supplement with extenders or fill your Sunday mornings with many of these mini activities!

TAKE IT HOME

Wrap up with the prayer, or enhance with music or skits!

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

BIBLE LESSON	BIBLE VERSE	SONG OPTIONS
GOD CREATES ALL CREATURES Genesis 1; 2:10–14	PSALM 95:5 The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.	** “Covered in Jesus’ Grace” (Browning, Clark) “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord” (Starke, Potter) “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (Alexander, Shaw) “So Will I” (Houston, Hastings, Fatkin)
WATER FROM THE ROCK Exodus 17:1–7	EXODUS 3:12 But I will be with you.	* “Rescue” (Browning, Clark) “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (Toplady, Hastings) “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” (African American Spiritual, Cleveland, Nix) “So Good” (Butler, Hulse, Jones)
NAAMAN IS HEALED 2 Kings 5:1–19	2 SAMUEL 7:28 And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true.	* “Better than Before” (Browning, Clark) “Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old” (Plumptre, Vaughan Williams) “Speak, O Lord” (Getty, Townend) “Living Waters” (Cash, Getty)
JESUS AT THE WELL John 4:1–30	PSALM 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.	* “Living Water” (Browning, Clark) “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Robinson) “He Will Hold Me Fast” (Habershon, Merker) “Yes He Does” (Cleveland, Sojka, Feliz, Hulse)
JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES’ FEET John 13:1–20	2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him.	* “Only Jesus” (Browning, Clark) “Jesus, Greatest at the Table” (Starke, McCarthy) “This Is My Commandment” (based on John 15:11–12) “Love One Another” (Furler, Duncan, Taylor)
THOUSANDS BELIEVE IN JESUS Acts 2:1–41	1 PETER 4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.	* “Come, Holy Spirit” (Browning, Clark) “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” (Reed, Gibbons) “One in Christ and One in Spirit” (Clark) “God So Loved” (Bergthold, Cash, Cash, Cash)
LYDIA HEARS GOD’S WORD Acts 16:11–15, 40	MATTHEW 6:20 But lay up for yourselves trea- sures in heaven.	** “Covered in Jesus’ Grace” (Browning, Clark) “When Peace, like a River” (Spafford, Bliss) “Seek Ye First” (Lafferty) “Hymn of Heaven” (Johnson, Wickham, Johnson, Davenport)

** Theme song

* All-new songs with music videos

GOD CREATES ALL CREATURES

Genesis 1; 2:10-14

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Our triune God created all things: the expanse of the heavens and the depths of the waters. We see beautiful rivers and gardens and know that God steeps us in blessings.

BIBLE VERSE

“The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.”

Psalm 95:5

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God made me and gives me all I need.

SALVATION CONTEXT

The triune God made everything, from the largest galaxy to the smallest microorganism. God made stars and trees and fish and all kinds of animals. He made Adam and Eve. God cared for them and told them to care for His creation and for one another. Everything was perfect, but then Adam and Eve sinned, and the world became broken. Only God could fix the broken world, so He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus will come back someday to make everything perfect again!

LAW & GOSPEL

Sometimes, we find ourselves lacking what we need. We need outside help to save us from shame and ridicule. We don't know where to turn. We need to be treated with grace.

Jesus cares for us, not just giving the bare minimum, but also by blessing us with an abundance of the best things. In His grace, Jesus blesses us with far more than we expect or deserve. He points us to Himself, the Son of God.

STATION SUPPLIES

BIBLE LESSON

- Paper and crayons (optional)

CRAFT (PER KID)

- An 8-ounce water bottle (empty, cleaned)
- Colorful items (poms, buttons, sequins, beads)
- A 2-ounce plastic ramekin with lid
- Googly eyes
- Glue (water resistant, if possible, or electric tape)

SNACK (PER KID)

- Spoonful of graham cracker crumbs
- 2 gummy or pretzel fish
- Spoonful of blue icing
- 1 large marshmallow and 1 cardboard candy stick

GAME

- Sandwich bags filled with rice, sealed with twist-ties to look like fish tails. (For fun, add eyes with a marker.)
- Nets with handles (older) or buckets (younger)

SCIENCE

- Plastic juice bottle, filled with water
- Sticky tack (adhesive putty)
- Pen cap with no holes, cardstock or plastic fish cutout

MEMORY VERSE

- Play dough or sand table

SKIT

- Book (of animal facts, if possible)

OPENING

Use the following outline to help you with your opening. NOTE: Talk with your director. If the Memory Verse section or the Science section is not being used in any sites, you can ask your director for those site activities and add them to your opening or closing for added fun!

GREETING

Hey, everyone! Welcome! I want you all to close your eyes. Think about what you see. (Pause.) You don't see anything, right? Now, open your eyes. Look around you and see all of the amazing things in this room. What are some things you see? (Take some answers, and dialogue with the kids.) Wow! Those are all some pretty amazing things, and guess who made them all? God! He made you and me and everything else. Today, you are going to learn more about God's creation and even about His promise of a Savior, Jesus.

SING

Use the theme song for today, "Covered in Jesus' Grace." You can use an audio recording, a lyric video, or your own musicians to lead. **We can be sure that God will provide for us and has saved us by Jesus' grace.**

VIDEO

Play the video for today's Bible account. It will give a summary of what the kids will learn about today.

BIBLE VERSE

"The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land" (Psalm 95:5). **God created everything, including you! God cares about His creation and will always fulfill every need, especially a Savior: Jesus!** Play the Bible verse song once or twice to help kids start to learn it today.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, You created all things through Your mighty hand, and You care about everything You have made. Thank You for always providing for us and for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING

Play music as kids come in. Give high-fives and other greetings. Take a moment to ask about specific crafts and snacks for the day.

GREETING

Ask volunteers to share a special blessing God has given them. **God has given us SO much. He knows just how to care for His creation. Even when Adam and Eve sinned, God still knew how to take care of them. He promised them a Savior, who would right their wrongs and forgive all of their sins. That is what Jesus came to do. Jesus came to earth and died on the cross to save EVERYONE and cover them in His grace.**

SING

Review the theme song for today, "Covered in Jesus' Grace." You can use an audio recording, a lyric video, or your own musicians to lead. Don't forget that you have other music options as well, including hymns and videos found online. NOTE: If you would like to include Early Childhood music, find *Little Ones Sing Praise* and *Sing & Wonder* on your preferred streaming platform.

SKIT

We have some friends who were with us today too. Let's greet them. Everyone, say hello to [Person A] and [Person B, which could also be a puppet, such as a dolphin]. Two people can perform the skit, found on the next page.

SING

Sing the Bible verse song: "The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land" (Psalm 95:5). Remember, if your sites did not use the Memory Verse activity or the Science activity, you could choose to insert them here. Information is found on the next page.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You are so gracious to us. You came to earth to save us from our sin and to care for Your creation. Thank You so much for all the things You have blessed us with. Please continue to provide for us as You always have, fulfilling all of our needs. In Your name we pray. Amen.

BIBLE LESSON FOR PREREADERS

You can start by asking kids to draw pictures of creation. This could include planets, landscapes, animals—just about anything!

In the beginning, there was nothing except God. There were no people. There were no trees. There were no fish. There were no planets. There were no stars. God decided to make a beautiful creation. It was perfect! There were stars and moons and planets. There were waters and lands. There were trees and plants. There were birds and fish and all kinds of animals. There was Adam and Eve.

God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed. They could eat plants from the garden. They could drink from the rivers and streams. They had things to do, such as tending the garden and caring for the animals. They also had each other, another blessing from God.

God made super huge things, like galaxies! He also made super tiny things, like microorganisms. Can you say that word? It means tiny living things. He made animals that we don't usually see! Some live deep in the ocean or high up in the mountains.

- **What are your favorite animals? How does God take care of the animals? He gives them food, water, and a place to live. He also wants us to help take care**

of animals. Do you take care of any animals? God takes care of us too. He gives us food, water, and a place to live. He also wants us to help take care of one another. Maybe that means sharing with others. Sometimes it means being a good friend. It also means praying for others. How do you show care to other people?

- **God's creation was perfect, but it didn't stay that way. We sinned, and the world became broken. It was still beautiful, but now, things go wrong sometimes. We need God to fix it and make everything better again.**
- **The best way that God takes care of us is that God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus, to fix everything! Jesus came, died for our sins, rose from the dead. He will come back someday to make everything perfect again! Wow, that's a lot to think about! We'll be learning more about Jesus in all of our lessons. I can't wait to learn more with all of you!**

BIBLE LESSON FOR EARLY READERS

Depending on class maturity, you could read the narrative above and then ask kids to help read the Bible account in a story Bible to review. You could also read the summary below and then the account straight from the Bible so kids can listen.

In the beginning, there was nothing except the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There were no people. There were no trees. There were no fish. There were no planets. There were no stars. God decided to make a beautiful creation. It was perfect! There were stars and moons and planets. There were waters and lands. There were trees and plants. There were birds and fish and all kinds of animals. There was Adam and Eve.

God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed. They could eat plants from the garden. They could drink from the rivers and streams. They had things to do, such as tending the garden and caring for the animals. They also had each other, another blessing from God.

God made super huge things, like galaxies! He also made super tiny things, like microorganisms. He made animals

that we don't usually see! Some live deep in the ocean or high up in the mountains.

God created you. He made you special, and He loves you dearly. He gives you all that you need, including Jesus, your Savior! We'll learn more about Jesus in all of our Bible lessons.

- **What does creation tell us about God?** God makes incredible, beautiful things. God can do anything; He takes care of us.
- **What does the Bible tell us about God?** The Bible tells us that God loves us. People sinned and brought problems into the world, but God the Son, Jesus, came to fix everything! We'll learn more about that as we read the Bible together.

BIBLE LESSON FOR STRONG READERS

Read Genesis 1; 2:10-14 from the Bible as a class. Consider the discussion questions below.

- **What is the most amazing animal you can think of? What does this show us about God?** God is creative and amazing. We see this in the variety of creatures He made.
- **The world isn't perfect anymore. We sinned and tainted God's good creation. How does God promise to fix it?** The Bible tells us that Jesus, God the Son, came to rescue us from our sin and to restore His creation. We'll hear more about Jesus as we learn together!

SKIT

Person A can be an adult or teen volunteer. Person B can be a puppet or a volunteer that is okay with being a little silly. Use given names.

PERSON A: Hi, [Person B]! Whatcha reading?

PERSON B: Oh, hey, [Person A]! I have this great book of facts! Wanna hear what I've learned?

PERSON A: Of course!

PERSON B: Okay, here it goes. Venus spins in a different direction than all the other planets.

PERSON A: Really? That's cool!

PERSON B: Here's another one. There are some metals that actually explode when they touch water!

PERSON A: What?! I bet we keep those in science labs!

PERSON B: I've got one more. Guess which bird is the only

bird that can fly backwards!

PERSON A: Hmmm, I'm not sure. I wonder if our friends know. (*Take some guesses and dialogue with the kids.*)

PERSON B: Ready? (*Takes a deep breath*) Hummingbirds!

PERSON A: Wow! God is so awesome!

PERSON B: Can God fly backwards too?

PERSON A: That's not what I mean. God made all of the cool things you were talking about! If He made them, He's awesome too!

PERSON B: Hey, good point! Our God is awesome!

PERSON A: And our awesome God loves us. Awesome!

MEMORY VERSE

Read the Bible verse from the Bible. Play the Bible verse recording and sing along! Then try the brief activity.

BIBLE VERSE

"The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land." (Psalm 95:5)

DO THIS!

Have a sand table or clumps of play dough handy. Invite the kids to create a landscape at the table or to create creatures with the play dough. Kinetic sand is another option. Ask kids to share their work and talk about their creations!

SAY

- **God made mountains, rivers, oceans, stars, and so much more! What are some of your favorite creations that God made? God made everything, so everything is His. That means you too! He made you. He loves you so much. You are His favorite creations. Jesus, God's Son, came to rescue us from sin and death so we can live with Him forever someday!**

EXTENDERS

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

BLOOMING FLOWERS

Draw outlines of five-petal flowers, and ask students to color and cut them out. (Give precut flowers to younger kids.) Fold the petals upward, toward the center. Ask students to coax the flowers to open. Nothing will happen! Place the flowers in a shallow pan of water. Watch as the flowers open their petals! Say, **God made all of the beautiful flowers, and they open according to His design! We don't have power to open flowers on our own, but God does.**

OVERFLOWING BLESSINGS

Provide a water station with tubs filled halfway with water and many different containers. Ask kids to see which containers can hold more water. The smaller ones will overflow from the water of other containers! Include some cups that are sturdy but look fancy. Say, **In the Bible, Psalm 23 says that our cups overflow with the blessings of God. We have so many blessings, they spill out!**

UNDERWATER SNACK

Ahead of time, make blue gelatin squares, but include gummy fish before it sets. Say, **I made this snack because I care about you and I want you to have something to eat. But I needed ingredients and a recipe to make this treat. God made real water and real fish. He made everything, and He takes care of you, because He loves you. How does He share His love for you?** If kids do not mention Jesus as their Savior from sin, add it to the discussion.

THAT'S DEEP

Ask, **How deep is the ocean? Do you know?** After a few guesses, share, **The deepest part of the ocean is more than thirty-six thousand feet deep! That's like taking the tallest building in the world and stacking thirteen of the same tower! How deep is Jesus' love for you? Even deeper! Jesus' love for you never ends. He died on the cross to save you from sin.**

FISHY HANDS

Use washable paint, and let kids use their hands as "stamps." A colorful handprint on its side could look like a fish! An upside-down handprint can look like a jellyfish or octopus. A handprint facing up could look like a sea plant! Say, **God made a beautiful world! There are so many beautiful things, we don't even see them all, like things living underwater! This picture was made by another beautiful creature: you!**

THE GIFT OF GRACE

A major theme of this curriculum is that we are covered in grace! What is grace? Grace, first of all, is a gift. There is nothing we do to deserve or pay for a gift. Grace in the biggest sense is that we are forgiven, new, and reconciled with God! Because of Jesus, our Savior, all of our sins are gone. But there are little senses of grace too: any blessing given as a gift. Wrap up boxes with lids so that you can easily open and close them. Inside, include small "graces," such as food and sunny days. Be sure to include a cross in the biggest box!

GIVING GIFTS

Grace is great because nothing is expected in return! We can witness to the grace of God by sharing with others. Just as God takes care of us through other people, God takes care of other people through us! Help kids prepare a "gift box" filled with bottled water or similar. This box could be near a park, your church, or wherever it reaches others.

TAKE IT HOME

SAY

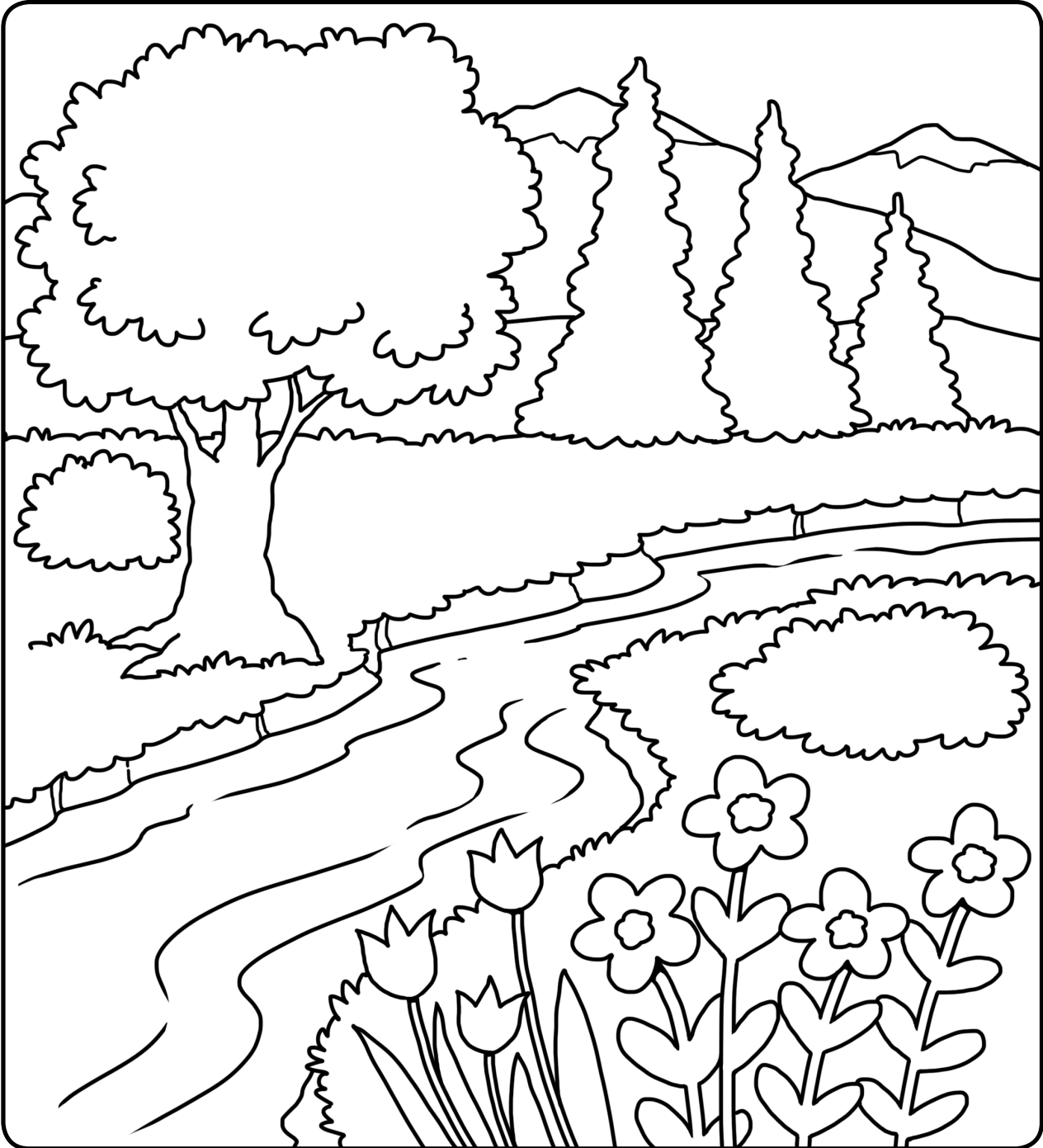
God gives us so many gifts! Grace is a gift. Grace is the wonderful blessings that God gives us even though we don't deserve them. In God's grace, He gives us food, clothing, a wonderful world, and more! He also gives us forgiveness and new life in Jesus.

PRAY

Loving heavenly Father, thank You for all of Your amazing gifts! Thank You for creating us and for creating everything! You give us so many gifts. Thank You for the gift of forgiveness in Your Son, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

COLORING PAGE

God made everything! Do you see the water? Water gives life to plants, animals, and people! Draw some fish in the water.



 **Color**

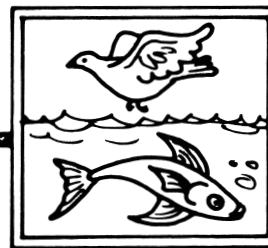
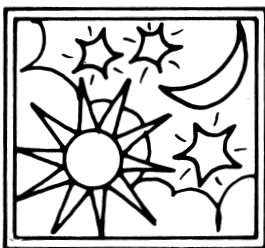
Color the picture. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He made rivers and oceans. He made flowers and trees. Everything God made was good. I wonder . . . what flower or tree do you like?



God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants, . . . and fruit trees.” **Genesis 1:11**

ACTIVITY PAGE

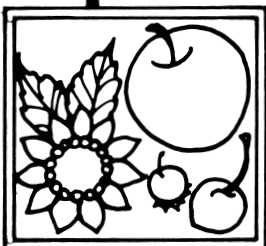
God created everything! Can you find the words that relate to this Bible account?



Creation Word Search

Adam	stars	dominion	creation	night
triumph	plants	light	day	image of God
Eve	seas	moon	heavens	earth
Word	creatures	fish	birds	garden

D	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	C	W
O	O	M	U	S	E	A	S	K	D
M	A	L	Y	V	A	X	B	R	B
I	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	I
N	I	G	H	T	M	W	U	M	R
I	M	A	G	E	O	F	G	O	D
O	E	D	O	U	I	T	A	O	S
N	B	A	J	S	D	H	R	N	M
E	I	M	H	S	Y	T	D	R	O
P	N	G	D	A	T	R	E	V	R
D	A	Y	H	P	L	A	N	T	S
S	E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C	A
G	T	R	I	U	N	E	T	S	S
F	O	G	S	Z	L	I	G	H	T



SNACKS

LESSON 1 SNACK

Don't forget to check for allergies! Ask parents for suggestions for snack alternatives to have on hand.

SUPPLIES (PER KID)

- Spoonful of graham cracker crumbs
- 2 gummy or pretzel fish
- Spoonful of blue icing
- 1 large marshmallow
- 1 cardboard candy stick

DIRECTIONS

- Place the marshmallow on one end of the stick. Roll or spread the icing on. (Provide plastic knives if needed.)

- Ask kids to dip the end of their covered marshmallow in the crumbs for sand. They can then press on the fish!

SAY

- **Today, we learned about God creating all things, including fish and all animals that live in the deep blue sea!**
- **There is no place too high in the sky or too deep in the ocean to be away from God. God made everything, and He is everywhere!**
- **God made everything, including you! He also gives you everything that you need, especially a Savior!**

CRAFTS

LESSON 1 CRAFT

This craft avoids some mess with decorations on the inside! Test ahead to be sure your items can fit inside the bottles. This is also a good way to repurpose bottles.

SUPPLIES (PER KID)

- An 8-ounce water bottle (empty, cleaned)
- Colorful items (poms, buttons, sequins, beads)
- A 2-ounce plastic ramekin with lid
- Googly eyes
- Glue (water resistant, if possible, or electric tape)

DIRECTIONS

- Ask kids to fill up their fish body (bottle) and tail (ramekin) with colorful items. Close both the bottle and ramekin with lids, sealing with glue or electric tape.
- Using glue or colorful electric tape, attach the small cup for a tail at the base of the bottle.

- Attach googly eyes (or use markers).
- If you have time, you can provide a clear tub with shallow water. Do any of the fish float? Which like to swim at the bottom of the tub?

SAY

- **You made a beautiful fish! But you needed materials. God made the fish out of nothing. And they are even alive! God is a wonderful Creator. He made everything, even things we don't always see, like fish deep underwater.**
- **God made you too. You are a wonderful creation! And He takes care of you too. He gives you food, clothing, and everything you need: especially Jesus!**

SCIENCE

LESSON 1 SCIENCE

If you have extra ramekins from the craft site, you can also fill one with water and one with vegetable oil. Place each in a clear bowl of water and talk about density. Fish have oil in their bodies to help them float!

SUPPLIES

- Plastic juice bottle, filled with water
- Sticky tack (adhesive putty)
- Pen cap with no holes
- Cardstock or plastic fish cutout

DIRECTIONS

- Test your cap in a wide-mouthed bowl of water. If it floats there, the experiment should work in the bottle.

SAY

- **Have you ever wondered how fish go up and down in water?** Wrap the sticky tack to the arm of the pen cap, and attach the fish cutout. (Be sure that it can still fit in the bottle opening!) Be sure the bottle is full.

- Once the pen cap is floating in your bottle, twist on the bottle cap to seal. **What do you think will happen when I squeeze this bottle?** After some guesses, gently squeeze and release the bottle, moving the fish up and down. **This experiment is about pressure! Fish have an air bladder inside them. When water pressure changes at different depths, the fish can change its air pressure to go up and down!**
- **God is amazing. He knew that fish would need special bodies so that they could float, sink, rise, and swim in the water. What did God give you so that you can live on land?** Pause for responses. **God made you special, and He takes care of you! God the Father sent Jesus, God the Son, to become a person with a body just like you! He was still God, but He was also man. He died on the cross and rose again to save us from sin!**

GAMES

LESSON 1 GAME

For an alternative with a splash, use water balloons instead! Don't forget to add eyes for your wiggly "fish."

SUPPLIES

- Sandwich bags filled with rice, sealed with twist-ties to look like fish tails (For fun, add eyes with a marker.)
- Nets with handles (older) or buckets (younger)

DIRECTIONS

- Group the kids into pairs. One kid throws three fish to the other, who catches them in a net or bucket. Once this is complete, switch roles.

- When the pair is finished, celebrate with a high-five and start again until everyone finishes one round.
- To add interest or a challenge, spread pairs farther apart for additional rounds.

SAY

- **God made the fish. God made you too! He takes care of you. Jesus, God's Son, is your Savior from sin!**

LEADER DEVOTIONS

LESSON 1: GOD CREATES ALL CREATURES

Getting ready for a big children's ministry event is daunting. How many checklists do we make just to be sure we have all the supplies, completed all the tasks, and contacted all the people? It's a challenge to be sure we have all that we need. The beauty of studying Genesis 1; 2:10–14 is that God provides everything we need. His vast creation gives more than enough to sustain a wonderful life. In our fear and doubt, we sometimes forget that God is the

almighty Creator who loves and cares for us perfectly. Because we sinned and tainted creation, God the Son came to give us what we need most: a Savior from sin and death. In Jesus, we have forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and the promise of a restored creation when Jesus returns. We are forgiven for our times of ingratitude or doubt, and we are encouraged in the assurance that God loves us and gives us all that we need.