

# Creation

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Trinity Sunday**

Lesson Focus  
**God gardens—so can we!**



### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Time</b> Kids draw pictures of things from nature and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Markers, pencils, mural paper, masking tape
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids greet each other with a class cheer, hear about the lectionary season, and describe their part of the mural.	Leaflet	Mural from Arrival Time, apple seeds
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pretend to be growing seeds as they pray.	None	Spray bottle of water

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Creation Storytelling</b> Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible and kids make sound effects with paper.	Spark Story Bibles	Paper
<b>God Creates!</b> Kids use sound effects and actions to retell the Bible story.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
<b>It Was Good!</b> Kids identify things that they have made.	Leaflets	Pencils, markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Digging in the Dirt</b> Kids solve a puzzle to find information from the Bible story.	Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Gardening</b> Kids match seeds with their mature plants.	Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Freeze Frames!</b> Kids create freeze frames to review the Bible story.	Spark Story Bible	Timer

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids select what they will do at home this week, say the lesson focus statement, and do a good-bye action rhyme.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids do a popcorn prayer.	Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Arrival Time

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Set out markers, pencils, and copies of the Activity Page for this lesson. Cover a table with mural paper. Secure the edges with masking tape.

**Today we're going to work together to create something beautiful! What are some of the amazing things God has created?** Affirm responses. **On this big piece of paper each of you can draw things that God has made. Some picture ideas could include a sun, clouds, grass, water, trees, or animals. I'm excited to see what we create!** Encourage everyone to work together, sharing markers and space.

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



### Supplies

Markers

Pencils

Mural paper

Masking tape

## Circle Time

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**Let's all stand in a circle and put one hand in the middle so our hands stack on top of each other.** Place your hand in first to demonstrate. After everyone has a hand in the circle, shout together, **God loves everyone! God knows our names! Now we'll each shout our own names out loud and lift up our hands, starting with the person whose hand is on top.** Kids take turns saying their names in the order their hands are stacked from top to bottom. After all names are said, tell everyone, **Raise both of your hands high and shout, "Praise God!"**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up the leaflet and point to the picture of the leafing tree on the gold background. **Last Sunday, we celebrated the Day of Pentecost—the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit came in a rush of wind and little flames of fire. We are now in a new season of the church year called the Season after Pentecost. With this new season we have a new picture, a tree that is growing and leafing, just like you are growing!**

**Today is the first Sunday after Pentecost, but it is also a special day in the church year called Trinity Sunday. The color we see on our leaflet for special days is gold. On this special day we remember that God is the Trinity--one God but three parts: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.**

**Here, I have a little seed for you to hold. Look at your seed while I tell you how it can help us understand the Trinity.** Give each kid an apple seed. **If you planted this seed, what kind of plant would it grow into?** Affirm responses. **This is an apple seed, so if you planted it, it would grow into an apple tree.**

**An apple can help us understand the Trinity. God is like an apple. God is made**

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Mural from Arrival Time

Apple seeds (one per kid)

**up of three parts. The first part, God the Father, is like the skin of the apple. The skin is strong and protects the fruit, just like God the Father is strong and watches over us.**

**Who is God the Son? (*Jesus*) The second part, God the Son, is like the part of the apple that you eat, the juicy white part. This part of the fruit is food. It helps us grow big and strong. God sent Jesus to earth to help us to grow big and strong in our love for God.**

**Now look at your little seed again. What happens when you plant your seed? (*It grows into an apple tree and makes a lot more apples.*) God the Holy Spirit is like your little seeds. God the Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe in God's love. As we read the Bible, pray, and help others, the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in God's love, just like a great big apple tree.**

Remove the mural from the top of the table. Invite two volunteers to hold up each end of the mural so everyone can admire it. **God certainly made a beautiful world! Let's take turns telling about our parts of the mural. One at a time go up to the mural, point out what you drew, and tell us why you chose this part of God's creation to add to the mural.**

## Prayer Time

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**I'm going to pretend to be a gardener and you're going to pretend to be my seeds. I'm going to plant each one of you in my big garden.** Gently take kids by the hand and "plant" them in different areas of your classroom. **First, you have to look like seeds. Scrunch down low to the ground, like this.** Demonstrate how to scrunch up in a ball. **Let's all try scrunching up.** Give everyone time to do this. **Now unscrunch.** Everyone stands up and stretches. **Scrunch up like a little seed again and we'll begin our prayer. Listen carefully to the prayer. When I say, "Bless these little seeds and help them grow," slowly and gently unscrunch and grow up big and tall like your favorite flower, tree, or plant.**

During the prayer, use a spray bottle to mist the seeds in the garden. Then, at the end, kids can stretch up high like growing plants.

**Dear God,  
Thank you for all the little seeds  
That you warm with the sun  
And gently mist with the rain.**  
(Mist the kids with water.)  
**Bless these little seeds, and help them grow  
Tall and healthy and strong!**  
(Kids stretch up high like growing plants.)  
**Amen.**

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Spray bottle of water

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## Creation Storytelling

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**Let's imagine what it must have sounded like when God was making the world. Raise your hand if you think it was quiet.** Wait for a show of hands. **Raise your hand if you think it was noisy.** Pause again. **Let's find out when we read the story in our Spark Story Bibles. It's from the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and it's the first story in the whole Bible!**

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Creation on pages 2-7. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read, or ask for a volunteer to read out loud.

**Let's pretend that we are there, listening, while God creates everything! We'll use sound effects to help us remember some of the things that God made.** Give each kid a sheet of paper. **Copy what I do with my paper. Ready? God made . . .**

- **Wind!** Fan the paper up and down to make a "whoosh" sound like wind.
- **Light!** Crinkle the paper to make a "crackle" sound like lightning.
- **Night and day!** Rip the paper slowly to make a "spllllittt" sound.
- **Rain!** Tap a finger against the paper to make a "drip, drip, drip" sound.
- **Fish!** Wiggle the paper back and forth to make a "wiggle" sound like fish.
- **Animals!** Bounce the paper up and down to make a "hop" sound like a rabbit.

**After God created all of these things, God saw that they were . . .** Pause for kids to answer. (*GOOD!*)

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

1. **How many days did it take for God to create the world?** (*six*)
2. **What did God do when all the work was done?** (*God rested on the seventh day.*)
3. **Of all the animals that God made, which one is your favorite? Why?** Affirm all responses.

## God Creates!

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If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

**Let's look at the first page of the leaflet. We can see lots of parts of God's creation—water, fish, birds, bugs—but something is missing. Here are some clues: The part that is missing from God's creation is sitting right at the table with us. These creatures often walk on two feet, have hair on their heads, and use words to communicate. What are they?** (*people*) **Right! God made people like you and me.** Hand out stickers to kids. **Use the sticker to finish the picture.**

**So, people, let's use our voices and hands to tell the story of creation! God gave people the ability to be creative, too. Let's create our own actions to go along with the sounds in our story review.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
Paper

Spark Resources  
Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

Supplies  
None

**After I read each line of the story and we do the actions together, you'll all call out: "And God saw that it was good!"** Practice this response. Follow the leaflet story, and invite kids to create actions and sounds to go along with each thing that God created. Pause after each line to have kids say the response.

**Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible. Today's Bible story, Creation, is from the book of Genesis. The word Genesis means "beginning." The book of Genesis tells about the beginning of the world!**

**Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (*Genesis, beginning, world*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible Memory Verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

**God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.  
Genesis 1:31**

## It Was Good!

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Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets.

**God made more things than we can ever imagine! From trees to stars to water to YOU—God created everything.**

**I'm sure that you've made some things like the ones you see on this page. How many of you have made a sand castle? Put a check mark or an X inside the box. Where were you when you made it?** (*by the ocean, by a lake, in a sandbox*)

**Have any of you made a sandwich? What kind of sandwich did you make?** Affirm responses and talk about your favorite sandwich to make.

Continue to read and talk about each item on the checklist. **What's something you made that isn't on the list? Draw a picture of that in the last large box.** While kids are working, talk about an unusual or funny thing that you have made—whether it was a costume or a snowman or a recipe. **Tell us about what you drew. Did someone help you make your creation? What did you do when you were finished making it?**

**God said, "It is time to rest!" when God finished creating the world. God and all of creation rested. When you finish making something, how do you feel?** Pause to give kids time to write their responses. Assist with spelling as needed.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Markers

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

## Digging in the Dirt

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**Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. God worked very hard to create the world. But then, when the seventh day came, God did something else. To find out more we're going to have to do a bit of digging. Let's count the letters that are underneath the soil until we get to the seventh one.** Count with kids out loud. **What letter is that?** Pause for responses. **Right! It's an R. Circle that letter, then write it inside the first flower. Now continue, counting until you reach the next seventh letter.** Help kids continue counting and circling every seventh letter, as needed. When everyone is done, read the completed word aloud together. (*Solution: RESTED*) **Whew! That was a lot of counting. Now it's time to for us to rest!**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils

## Gardening

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**Turn to the back page of your leaflets. God made plants of many colors, sizes, and shapes. Many of their fruits are good to eat, too! Look at the photos on your leaflets. Did you know that all of these things grow from a seed?** Let kids respond. **Now for the tricky part! Let's try to figure out which seeds produce which food!**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils

**Has anyone ever eaten an apple right down to the core? Which picture looks most like the seeds in an apple core?** Wait for responses. Continue asking similar types of questions: **Who has ever opened up a green bean? What did the seeds in that bean look like? Do any of you make toasted pumpkin seeds when you carve pumpkins? What do pumpkins seeds look like?** Keep working with the class until all the different seeds and fruits have been matched up.

**Has anyone ever planted seeds before? What kind?** Wait for responses. **Isn't it amazing how something as small as a seed can produce plants, trees, and even delicious fruits like apples? God made a truly wonderful world!**

## Freeze Frames!

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**In our Bible story today, we heard that God made the parts of creation on different days. Let's play a game called Freeze Frames! and see how quickly we can act out the order of creation.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bible

**This is how it will work: I'll call out a number and read aloud from the Spark Story Bible what God created. Then you'll work together to make up a sound and an action that shows what God made on that day. But you'll have to be quick about it, because when the timer goes off, you'll all freeze in place and yell, "IT WAS GOOD!" After that, we'll go on to the next day . . . and the next! Does everyone understand how to play? Wait for responses. Let's see how many days we can get through in seven minutes. Ready? Let's go!**

Supplies  
Timer

Set the timer for one minute, and call out, **First day!** Read aloud the first day description from the Spark Story Bible, then act out wind “wooshing.” When the timer goes off, kids freeze in place and yell, “IT WAS GOOD!” After kids have done one day, continue on with others.

Here are some suggested actions if kids can’t think of their own:

Day 1: Kids all whisper “whooooosh” as they twirl and swirl around the room.

Day 2: Kids spread out, stretch arms up high, and swirl their hands around.

Day 3: Call out: **Be raindrops. Be ocean waves. Be mountains. Be flowers.**

Day 4: Kids stand back-to-back in a circle and wave their “sunbeam” hands.

Day 5: Kids pretend to splash and swim in the sea.

Day 6: Kids move and sound like their favorite animals.

Day 7: Kids lay down on floor and snore loudly.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

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**Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about creation and how God made our big, beautiful world! You and I can help God garden. And we can encourage our friends and families to care for the earth.**

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet. Kids can fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today’s date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

**After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It’s like a coupon for time with you.**

**It’s time for our Go Out! circle.** Give kids time to stand with you in a circle. **Today we heard that God gardens—so can we! Let’s say it together: God gardens—so can we! Let’s go out with God’s love!** Say this rhyme together while doing the motions:

**Put both hands in,  
Put both hands out,  
Put hands up high,  
And shake them all about.  
Spin around once,  
Spin again and shout:  
“Go, God! Go, us! Let’s go out!”**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Scissors

## Prayer Time

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**Let's close by doing a popcorn prayer. Remember the picture that you drew on our class mural when you first arrived today? When I pause in the prayer, you can shout out what you drew on the picture—whether it was a sun, or a dog, or whatever. You don't even have to take turns! When you all shout at the same time, it will sound like popcorn popping!**

**Dear God,  
Thank you for making this good earth.  
We love you, and we love your creation.  
Thank you, especially, for . . . (Kids shout out their words.)  
Amen.**

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None