

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Genesis 1–2:24
- In This Passage: In just six days, God made everything in the world. He made a perfect place to live, and then he made his most special creation—humans. God made us in his image to rule over his creation. God created us for a reason. After he made everything, God rested.
- Bible Point: God created us for a reason.
- Summary Verse: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

Dig Deeper

- You’ll Be Teaching: *God created us for a reason.* Many kids are trying to figure out what their purpose is. They may feel they have to wait until they’re grown-ups to know why God created them. Use this lesson to help kids see that we can be in relationship with God at any age—and that’s our purpose!
- Think About: What’s special about the way God made you? How have you used those special traits to serve God?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to feel valued and important as they learn why God made them.

Quick Tip

- As you get to know your kids, look for the special traits God gave them. Encourage kids to use their strengths in class. For example, if you have kids who love to draw and create pictures, let them lead others in the craft. If you have kids who love to act, find times they can help you act out the story, instead of using an adult helper. If you have kids who excel in music, let them help lead the motions during the music video time. Most of all, let kids have fun worshipping God and finding out why he created them.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make habitats and learn about the habitat God created for people, who he made very special.

Supplies

- Bible
- random classroom supplies, such as tape, scissors, paper, modeling dough, and markers
- blue bedsheet
- fruit slices (1 per child)
- balloons (1 per child)
- permanent markers
- tape



OBJECT LESSON

Kids extract DNA from strawberries.

Supplies

- frozen strawberries (1 for every 3 kids)
- isopropyl alcohol (2 teaspoons for every 3 kids)
- dish soap (2 teaspoons for every 3 kids)
- salt ($\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon for every 3 kids)
- resealable plastic bags (1 for every 3 kids)
- large coffee filters (1 for every 3 kids)
- water (3 ounces for every 3 kids)
- 5-ounce clear cups (2 for every 3 kids)
- tweezers or toothpicks (1 for every 3 kids)
- paper plates (1 for every 3 kids)
- plastic spoons (1 for every 3 kids)
- magnifying glasses (1 for every 3 kids) (optional)

Easy Prep

- Refrigerate the isopropyl alcohol prior to the activity, and keep it cold.
- Allow frozen strawberries to thaw prior to the activity.



CRAFT

Kids make dough and sculpt something with a purpose.

Supplies

- flour ($1\frac{1}{2}$ cups for every 4 kids)
- salt (1 cup for every 4 kids)
- cornstarch (1 cup for every 4 kids)
- warm water (1 cup for every 4 kids, plus extra)
- large mixing bowl (1 for every 4 kids)
- disposable gloves or access to a sink
- disposable plates (1 per child)
- wax paper (1 foot per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Made for This” (watch or download [here](#))
- “All Creatures of Our God and King” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Will Trust You” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “God’s Creation” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids give an “offering” of their talents.

Supplies

- paper
- markers
- basket



TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

- this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let’s keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids shake hands with four friends using the *back* of their hands.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing “Happy Birthday” off-key.

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn about everything God created, including us. God created us for a reason. Let’s talk about what we would create and for what reason.**

Share

Tell kids what *you* would create if you could create anything. Explain the reason you’d create that item. For example, maybe you’d make a machine that finds all the dirty dishes and loads them into the dishwasher because you don’t like doing dishes.

Have kids form pairs and tell what *they* would create if they could create anything. Have partners explain the reason they’d create their items.

After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **We’d make some really cool things, but we’d need supplies. God made the whole world out of nothing! And he had an important reason for making people. Let’s see what the Bible says about that. The Bible isn’t an ordinary book; it’s God’s special book. The Bible is one way God talks to us. God is here right now, ready to talk to you.**

Pray, thanking God for creating us for a reason.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- random classroom supplies, such as tape, scissors, paper, modeling dough, and markers
- blue bedsheet
- fruit slices (1 per child)
- balloons (1 per child)
- permanent markers
- tape

Create a Habitat

Set out random classroom supplies, and have kids form mixed-age groups of four.

Say: **Your group is going to make a zoo habitat for an animal. Decide what animal you want to make a habitat for, and then think through everything your animal would need in a home. You'll use your creativity and anything in this classroom to design a model of the perfect habitat for your animal. For example, you might use a tape dispenser on its side to make a food dish or markers to build a fence. You'll have just three minutes to make it!**

Allow three minutes for kids to make their habitats. Then have groups tell everyone about their animals and habitats.

Ask: • **What does your animal need to have a perfect home?**

• **Why would you care about making sure your animal had what it needed?**

• **How did you use creativity to make your habitat?**

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God created us for a reason. But before God created people, he created a special home for us. We had to use supplies to create our habitats, but God started with nothing! Let's see what God created and why it helped make a good home for us.**

Talk About It

Say: **In the beginning, there was nothing. But God is creative! So God made light and darkness.** Darken the room as much as possible. With the lights off, have kids find a partner and discuss this question.

Ask: • **Why would humans need light and darkness?**

Turn the lights back on. Say: **After he made light and darkness, God made the sky.** Have kids crouch down and hold a blue bedsheet over their heads while they discuss this question.

Ask: • **What does the sky do for humans?**

Say: **After he made the sky, God made the land and sea.** Have kids run in place like they're on land and then pretend to swim in the sea.

Ask: • **Why are both of those important for humans?**

Say: **After he made the land and sea, God made plants, like fruit and trees.** Give everyone a fruit slice to eat as kids discuss this question. (Note that grapes are a choking hazard to young children unless you've cut the grapes in half.)

Ask: • **What are your favorite plants to eat?**

Say: **Remember the light and darkness and the land? Those things all help plants live and grow. And humans need plants to eat. God was setting up everything just right.**

After he made plants, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Have kids sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" as fast as they can.

Ask: • **Why are the sun, moon, and stars important to humans?**

Say: **Did you know that the moon is related to the seas? The moon actually controls when the tides in the ocean come in and go out. If the tides didn't come in and go out like they're supposed to, the land would flood and people would lose their homes! And the sun, in addition to providing us with light, is just the right distance from the earth so that humans and animals can survive. God made everything just right for a home for us.**

Then God made fish and birds. Have kids try to answer the next question while making a fish face.

Ask: • **What benefits do fish and birds bring to humans?**

Say: **Next, God made animals.** On the count of three, have all the kids make the sound of their favorite animal.

Ask: • **What's your favorite animal?**

• **What's your favorite thing about animals?**

Say: **After God made all these things, God said it was good. It was kind of like your habitats.**

Everyone did a good job! But there's something missing from your habitats, right? God had made the whole world, but he had one more job. So God made the best thing yet. God made people!

Read Genesis 1:26-27 and 1:31.

Say: **Notice that God said it was very good when he made humans. He created us for a reason! We were the best part of his creation. He made us in his image because he wanted to be friends with us.**

Breathe Life

Distribute a balloon to each child.

Say: **The Bible also talks about *how* God created people. It's pretty amazing! Listen.**

Read Genesis 2:7. Then have kids use permanent markers to draw faces on their uninflated balloons and blow them up. Older kids can make two so they have one to share with a younger child. Help kids tie off the balloons as needed.

Say: **Not only did God make the perfect place for humans to live, but he used the ground he'd made to make something even better!**

But he realized making one person wasn't enough. He realized the man needed a friend. So here's what God did.

Read Genesis 2:21-22.

Say: **God made us for a reason. He made us so unique and special! The Bible says God made us in his own image and that he breathed life into us. He didn't do that for anything else he made. God made you for a reason. He made *you* unique and special. He has a purpose for your life. You may not know what that specific purpose is yet, but whenever you worship or honor God, you're already fulfilling God's purpose for you.**

Think about special things God put into *you*. Maybe he made you good at math or soccer. Maybe he made you kind or encouraging. On your balloon, write words about the unique ways God made you. If you don't know how to write, find an older partner to write the words you say.

As kids finish writing on their balloons, hang the balloons up with tape. If your ceiling is low enough, you can put rolled pieces of tape on the top of the balloons and stick the balloons to the ceiling so they look like floating helium balloons. If your ceiling is too high, put rolled pieces of tape on the side of the balloons and attach them to a wall.

Say: **Our room was good before you came today. But now it's very good! It's full of people God made for a reason! Just as your balloons are full of something that came from you—your breath—you are filled with something that came from God. You're made in his image, made alive by his breath! He made people special, and he made us for a reason.**



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Strawberry DNA

Supplies

- frozen strawberries (1 for every 3 kids)
- isopropyl alcohol (2 teaspoons for every 3 kids)
- dish soap (2 teaspoons for every 3 kids)
- salt ($\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon for every 3 kids)
- resealable plastic bags (1 for every 3 kids)
- large coffee filters (1 for every 3 kids)
- water (3 ounces for every 3 kids)
- 5-ounce clear cups (2 for every 3 kids)
- tweezers or toothpicks (1 for every 3 kids)
- paper plates (1 for every 3 kids)
- plastic spoons (1 for every 3 kids)
- magnifying glasses (1 for every 3 kids) (optional)

Easy Prep

- Refrigerate the isopropyl alcohol prior to the activity, and keep it cold.
- Allow frozen strawberries to thaw prior to the activity.

Tips

- This works best when you use at least 90% alcohol.
- Try tipping the glass when you pour the alcohol in so as not to break the DNA.

Make the Extraction Mixture

Form mixed-age groups of three. Give each group a strawberry, a resealable plastic bag, two 5-ounce clear cups, a coffee filter, tweezers or a toothpick, and a paper plate.

Say: **DNA contains a special code. In people, our DNA decides if we have blond or brown hair, and green or blue eyes. It controls many other tiny details about us. Plants have DNA, too. Today we'll remove a string of DNA from a strawberry and take a closer look at the detail of God's creation.**

Pour 3 ounces of water into one of each group's cups. Have older kids add 2 teaspoons of dish soap and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt to the water and mix thoroughly with a spoon until the salt dissolves. Remind kids to look at the mixture through the side of the cup rather than the top as they stir so liquid doesn't splash in their eyes.

Say: **Now we've made the extraction mixture. It'll help pull out the strawberry's DNA.**

Smash a Strawberry in the Mixture

Have an older child in each group place the strawberry in the resealable bag and pour the extraction mixture into the bag with the strawberry. After removing as much air as possible, kids should seal the bag and then take turns smashing the strawberry inside the bag with their fingers, making sure there are no large pieces. This is a great time for preschoolers to get involved.

Strain the Mixture Into a Container

Have the second oldest group member hold a coffee filter over the other 5-ounce cup while the oldest carefully pours the strawberry liquid into the coffee filter. Kids can squeeze the mixture through the coffee filter to get as much liquid as possible into the cup, straining out the chunks.

Add Alcohol and Separate DNA

Distribute 2 teaspoons of the refrigerated alcohol to each group, and have one group member hold the cup at eye level while an older child adds the alcohol. Kids should see the liquid separating. The DNA is the white layer that shows up at the top of the mixture.

Have kids use tweezers or a toothpick to carefully pick up the DNA and place it on a paper plate to examine with a magnifying glass if available. When pulled out, the DNA will be a mucus membrane about an inch or two long, about the width of a piece of yarn.

Talk About It

Say: **Who would have thought that a simple strawberry would have so much detail and design?**

Ask: • **What did this experiment show you about God's creation?**

Say: **God is a God of detail. He created each part of this strawberry for a reason. The DNA determines that this strawberry is red, that its stem is green, and if it's big or little. God figured out every part before it grew to become a tasty snack.**

Ask: • **In what ways has God uniquely designed you?** Share an example about you, such as hair color and freckles. Have kids talk with their groups about some of their unique characteristics.

Say: **God created us for a reason. We got to see God's detailed design for a strawberry. If he made a simple fruit so special, just imagine how much detail and design he put into creating you! God created us for a reason, with special things about each of us coded into our DNA.**



Supplies

- flour (1½ cups for every 4 kids)
- salt (1 cup for every 4 kids)
- cornstarch (1 cup for every 4 kids)
- warm water (1 cup for every 4 kids, plus extra)
- large mixing bowl (1 for every 4 kids)
- disposable gloves or access to a sink
- disposable plates (1 per child)
- wax paper (1 foot per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Dough

Have kids form mixed-age groups of four. Give each group one mixing bowl. Also have kids put on gloves if you have them.

Have one child in each group add 1½ cups flour, one add 1 cup of cornstarch, and a third add 1 cup of salt to the bowl. Have kids work together to mix these dry ingredients with their hands. Finally, have the fourth child add 1 cup of water a little bit at a time as the others stir and knead the dough with their hands. (As kids stir, walk around with a cup of warm water in case groups need a little bit more.)

Make a Sculpture

Give each child a plate with a sheet of wax paper on it. Have kids each take one quarter of their group's dough.

Say: **When God created the world, he didn't have ingredients like we did to make our dough.**

When God created people, he created us for a reason. Now that you have your dough, make something that has a purpose and a reason. For example, you might make a bowl, a paper-clip tray, or something decorative that will make you smile when you see it.

Allow time for kids to sculpt. As kids work, have them talk about what they're making and what the purpose is.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like trying to think of something you could make that has a purpose?**

• **How was sculpting with your clay like the way God made people? How was it different?**

Say: **You might not have known what you were going to make until you started playing with the**

dough. But God knew what he was doing when he made people. God created us for a reason. He knows just why he made *you*!

Encourage kids to take their crafts home and show their friends and families the purpose of what they made, explaining that God created us for a reason. The clay will take a couple of days to completely dry, and then kids can paint it with acrylic or tempera paint if they want.



MUSIC VIDEO

Made for This

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Made for This” (watch or download [here](#))
- “All Creatures of Our God and King” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Will Trust You” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



Supplies

- "God's Creation" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch "God's Creation"

Say: **We've been learning that God made us for a reason. We can praise God in a special way.**

But the Bible talks about how *everything* God made can praise him. Let's watch a video about that.

Watch "God's Creation."

Ask: • **How could the skies or stars praise God?**

• **How could elephants and whales praise God?**

Read Luke 19:40. Say: **If we don't praise God, nature can.**

• **What's special about the way humans can praise God?**

Say: **It's kind of a mystery how animals and nature could bring praise to God. They can't use words to say kind things about him. Even though everything God created can praise him, nothing can love or praise him quite like we can. God made us for a reason—to love him, praise him, and be in a relationship with him.**



Supplies

- paper
- markers
- basket

Write Your Skills

Distribute paper and markers.

Say: **God created us for a reason. He created you with special talents and interests that you can use to bring him glory. Write or draw one of your talents or interests on your paper. Then fold it up.**

Allow a minute or two.

Pose and Pray

Say: **Now strike a pose that represents what you wrote or drew. If you wrote “soccer,” you might pose like you’re kicking a ball. If you wrote “singing,” you might pretend to hold a microphone.**

As kids pose, pray: **God, thank you for creating everyone here for a reason. Thank you for creating us with different talents and interests we can use to worship you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Give It to God

Say: **As a promise to use our talents and interests to worship God this week, put your paper in this offering basket.** Allow time for kids to put in their papers as an offering.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to find ways to use their skills and interests to worship God this week. Also invite them to come back next week.



TAKE-HOME

Dig In @ Home

[0 min]

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.

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