

3-5s

Small Group

August — Week 4

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Build a Giant Bird Nest
2. Creation Memory Match
3. Let's Go Fishing

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- "What God Made" and "All Good"
- Bible Story
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Out of this World Memory Verse
2. It's a Match
3. Beak Painting
4. Under the Water
5. Make a Mask
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- Parent Cue App

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Sea Animals and Birds Genesis 1:20-23

On day five, God made the sea animals and birds.

Key Question

Who made everything?

Bottom Line

God made everything.

Memory Verse

**"God saw everything he had made. And it was very good."
Genesis 1:31 NIV**

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

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SOCIAL 2/3

Creation Memory Match

What You Need

- "Creation Memory Match" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Creation Memory Match" on cardstock and cut, two sets per Small Group.
2. Shuffle the cards and place them face down on the table.

During the Activity

1. Ask children to take turns turning two cards over at a time to try to make a match.
2. Continue playing until all cards have been matched, ensuring each child gets a turn.
3. Encourage everyone to help each other remember where matches are.
4. Celebrate each match with excitement.
5. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

1. Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey, friends! Come sit at the table with me."

During the Activity

"Today, we're going to play a fun matching game with these cards! We'll take turns flipping over two cards to find a match. Let's see if we can find them together! [Child's name], it's your turn! Flip over two cards and let's see if they match. **(PAUSE FOR EACH CHILD TO TAKE A TURN.)** Great job! If they match, you get to keep them! If not, let's remember where they are and try again later. Let's keep playing until we find all the matches! **(CONTINUE UNTIL ALL MATCHES ARE FOUND, CELEBRATING EACH SUCCESS.)** You all did an amazing job finding matches!"

After the Activity

"Today in our Bible Story, we'll hear how God made sea animals and birds! **(HOLD UP A SEA ANIMAL AND A BIRD CARD.)** I can't wait to hear our story!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by encouraging the children to pretend to be their favorite creature that was in the matching game today.

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GROUPS 1/6

Out of this World Memory Verse



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Preschool stomp rocket



Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist as needed.

Model and encourage children to press the launcher with their hand or fist. Pick up the rocket and reset. If using this version, adjust the wording in the What You Say section accordingly.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity

1. Set the stomp rocket in the center of your activity area.
2. Demonstrate how to step on the launcher to make the rocket fly.
3. Encourage children to take turns stepping on the launcher to shoot the rocket into the air as they say the Memory Verse together.

After the Activity

1. Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, join me over here. Let's say our Memory Verse as we do the motions together. Ready? Okay! 'God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) saw everything he had made. (BINOCULAR EYES.) And it was very good,' (TWO THUMBS-UP) Genesis 1:31. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) You've got it!"

During the Activity

"Look at this awesome rocket. It's called a 'stomp rocket' because you have to stomp on this part (POINT) to launch it. Watch this! (STEP ON THE LAUNCHER TO SEND THE ROCKET SOARING.) Wow! (RESET.) Let's say our verse together. 'God saw everything he had made. And it was very good.' Genesis 1:31. [Child's name], come stomp the rocket. (PAUSE.) Super! Go collect the rocket, and we'll say our verse again. (RESET AND CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) That was so much fun launching the rocket today!"

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that God made everything! God made the light and separated it from the darkness. God made the sky and water, land, plants, the seas, the sun, moon, and stars, and God made the sea animals and birds. God is so creative, but God wasn't done yet because [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! God looked at all He had made, and God saw that it was good! Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything!"

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GROUPS 2/6

It's a Match

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "It's a Match," and "It's a Match Stickers" Activity Pages
- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- Permanent marker



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "It's a Match" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Copy "It's a Match Stickers" on label paper, one sheet of stickers per child.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to put the matching sticker over the picture on their paper. Assist as needed.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.

After the Activity

1. Review the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey, everyone! Come sit with me! We're going to have some sticker fun today!"

During the Activity

"Look at the pictures on your paper. **(PAUSE.)** Do you see the birds and the sea animals? You have stickers with those same animals on them. I want you to cover the picture on your paper with the matching sticker as I review today's Bible Story. On Day 5, God made everything that swims in the sea!

"God didn't just make one kind of sea animal. God made jellyfish and clown fish and octopus and dolphins and giant whales! God even made the puffer fish and the axolotl! God also made birds! God made hummingbirds and eagles and bluebirds and owls and geese and cockatoos! When God looked at what He had made, God saw that it was good! Everyone, hold up your pictures. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! You did a wonderful job matching your pictures!"

After the Activity

"On Day 5, God made sea animals and birds. But God wasn't finished yet . . . because **[BOTTOM LINE]** God made everything! Who made everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God made everything!"

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity
Page from Week One in Bible
- A journal
- A fun-shaped pen

Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Assist as needed.

For a version with less movement, take all of the ball pit balls out of the box, position the box lid over the box, then model and encourage children to push the ball pit balls through the hole and into the box. If using this version, adjust the wording in the What You Say section accordingly.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
2. Place one card in your Bible at Genesis 1:31. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*
3. Encourage children to pretend to fly like a bird as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
4. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions.
2. Then, encourage children to help you make a list in the journal of their favorite sea animal or favorite bird.

After the Activity

1. Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

MADE TO
↓
Reflect

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity
Page from Week One in Bible
- A journal
- A fun-shaped pen

Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend to be birds (FLAP ARMS LIKE WINGS) while we walk to our Small Group spot! Who is ready to fly with me? (PAUSE.) Yay! Get your wings ready to fly! (PRETEND TO FLY LIKE A BIRD AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) It's time to land, little birds, so we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, we learned that God made sea animals and birds on Day 5. Wow! Think about all the different birds there are! There are pelicans and eagles and toucans and pigeons and bluebirds—SO many birds! And what about sea animals!? There are whales and sea lions and stingrays and jellyfish—SO many sea animals! And God made all of them, because [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! So tell me: Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! You got it!

"We've been learning a Bible verse about all the things God made. It says: 'God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) saw everything he had made. (BINOCULAR EYES.) And it was very good,' (TWO THUMBS-UP) Genesis 1:31. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! 'God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) saw everything he had made. (BINOCULAR EYES.) And it was very good,' (TWO THUMBS-UP) Genesis 1:31. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)

"You sound so good it makes me want to say cock-a-doodle-doo, like a rooster! Cock-a-doodle-doo! Enough of that bird talk, it's time to sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) Today we're going to make a list of our favorite birds and sea animals. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me your favorite bird or sea animal . . . or both, and I will write it all in our journal. (REMEMBER TO PRINT AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)

After the Activity

"These are some really cool birds and sea animals! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and thank God for making all of them. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.) Dear God, no one can create like You can! You made so many super-cool and wonderful things, so we wanted to tell You thank You for some of our favorites, like the (READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."