

## In the Beginning

Genesis 1:26–2:4

# God Creates People

Bible Point

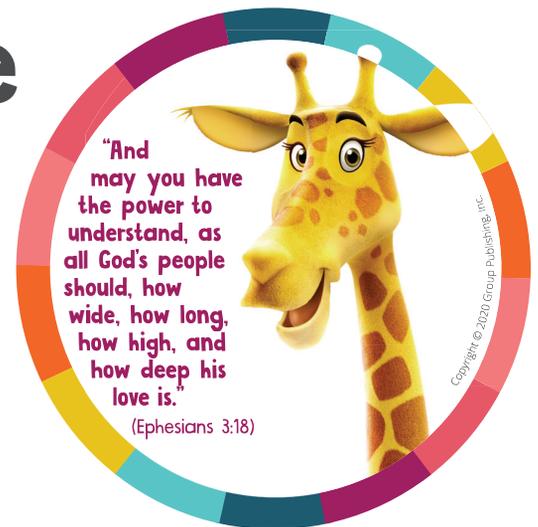
**God always loves us...and gives us a special purpose.**

### Purpose

Perhaps you've heard the saying, "Save the best for last." That's exactly what God did when he created people. We're special because we're made in God's image. He created us to be like him, take care of his world, and show what he's like.

We don't always live out that purpose, though. If only we always showed God's love, his care, and his grace. We often get so focused on ourselves that we forget about our ultimate purpose on earth. But God always loves us, and he sent his Son, Jesus, to show what perfect love, grace, and forgiveness look like.

Today, you'll help kids discover what it means to be made in God's image. You'll inspire them to live out their God-given purpose, and you'll remind them that Jesus is with them and will help them.



### Prayer

Dear God, thanks for creating me in your image. Jesus, please help me as I show the kids in my class what God is like through this lesson. I love you. In your name, amen.

### Prep

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Friendship Finale	Apply-It Options
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lego People</i> : Legos <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Paper Portraits</i> : art supplies such as construction paper, stickers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Simply Video</i> DVD* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Savanna Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Ephesians 3:18)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "God Creates People" Bible Story poster* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Savanna Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take-It-Home Flyers* (Unit 1, Week 2) (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:1-3) <input type="checkbox"/> small individually wrapped bags of Skittles (optional) (1 per child)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Explore More</i> : Bibles <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i> : no supplies

\* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



# Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart the Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



## Lego People

### Supplies

- Legos

Form people out of Legos.

**?** Think of people who live in another part of our world. What makes you different? What might you have in common?

**God always loves us**, and God loves our differences! Even though we don't look the same and we all come from different places, all people are made in God's image.

## Paper Portraits

### Supplies

- construction paper, stickers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks

Draw a picture of someone's face: a friend, a leader, or someone in your family. It can be realistic or silly!

**?** Tell about a picture or portrait you've seen of someone. Who was it? What did the picture show about the person?

The Bible says God made people in his image. He made us to worship him and show the world what he's like. That's why we're special and why **God always loves us**.

# Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



countdown video

Help kids transition, clean up the activities, and sit with Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a small group of kids with one Crew Guide.

## Supplies

- Bible
- media player
- *Simply Video* DVD
  - “To God Be the Glory” music video
  - “Made for This” music video
  - Savanna Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 2)
  - “One Thing Remains” music video
- Savanna Bible Memory Buddy poster



# Sing & Play

Hey, friends! It's time to praise God and have some fun. Let's start with a song!



“To God Be the Glory” music video

Think of someone you really love.

- Briefly describe someone in your life, and tell why you love that person so much.
- Have kids turn to a partner and tell that person who they really love.

**Get this: God feels that way about you—and me, too! We're his special creation, and God always loves us. That's our Bible Point today. Every time you hear someone say, “God always loves us,” you'll respond like this. Do what I do!**

- Open hands on either side of your face and say, “Wow, God!”
- Repeat several times.

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with “Wow, God!”

**God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) Today, we're discovering that God made us for a special purpose. Let's sing about that!



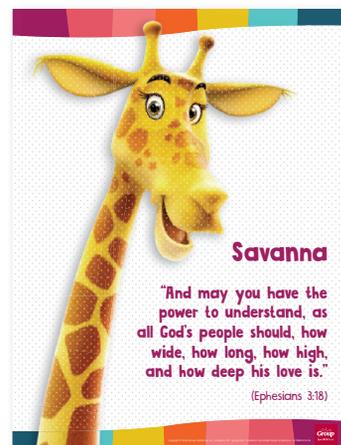
“Made for This” music video

## Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

Say hello to Savanna the giraffe. She's our Bible Memory Buddy! Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster. **How much do you know about giraffes? Let's find out with a This-or-That Challenge!** You'll hear two fun facts about giraffes. It's up to you to decide which one is true—this fact or that!

### ? Are giraffe spots all different, or are they all the same?

- Have kids raise their *right* arm like a tall giraffe neck to vote for *this* (different) or raise their *left* arm like a tall giraffe neck to vote for *that* (the same).
- Make a drumroll sound by patting your thighs or the floor.
- Dramatically give the answer: **They're all different!**
- Watch the Bible Memory Buddy video to find out more about Savanna.



Savanna Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 2)



Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! It's one big book that's filled with a bunch of little books. Our Bible Memory Verse comes from Ephesians 3:18. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat it after me.**

**"And may you have the power** (*make muscles with arms*)  
**to understand,** (*point to head*)  
**as all God's people should,** (*sweep hands in front of you*)  
**how wide,** (*spread arms wide*)  
**how long,** (*move arm in front like tracing a long line*)  
**how high,** (*stretch up with hand above head*)  
**and how deep** (*crouch down*)  
**(God's) love is."** (*hug yourself*)  
(Ephesians 3:18)

**God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **No matter what we do—or don't do—God's love will never go away. Let's celebrate God's love with a song.**



"One Thing Remains" music video

## Supplies

- Bible
- small individually wrapped bags of Skittles 🚫 (optional) (1 per child)
- “God Creates People” Bible Story poster

🚫 **Allergy alert!** Check for food allergies or limitations before serving.

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

# Bible Discovery

## Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time getting to know each other in smaller groups called Connect Crews.

- Divide kids into Connect Crews, with one adult helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
- Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
- Have kids cheer and clap for their Crew Guides.
- Have kids take turns saying their names and answering the following question. Crew Guides go first.

🚩 **If you could come up with a new name for a giraffe, what would you call it? Why?**

## The Heart of the Matter

Today we'll hear about the first person God created. His name was Adam. It was Adam's job to name the animals and take care of them. But first I need your help to put things in order.

In your Connect Crews, you'll imagine that you have three things in front of you. I'll tell you what they are, then you'll decide with your Connect Crew how you'd order them.

**The first topic is meal planning. Put these things in the order you'd typically eat them: spaghetti, chocolate cake, and salad.**

- Give Connect Crews 10 seconds to determine their order.
- Hold up one, two, and three fingers as all Connect Crews shout out their answers together.

🚩 **Why would you save the third thing for last?** Invite a few responses.

Kids might not all order items the same way. That's okay! This simple activity will help you learn more about each other.

**The second topic is your birthday party. Put these gifts in the order you'd open them: a big wrapped box, a card in an envelope, and a gift bag.**

- Give Connect Crews 10 seconds to determine their order.
- Hold up one, two, and three fingers as all Connect Crews shout out their answers together.

🚩 **Why would you save the third thing for last?** Invite a few responses.

Here's the last topic—candy! You've opened a bag of Skittles. Put these colors of candies in the order you'd eat them: red, yellow, and orange.

- Give Connect Crews 10 seconds to determine their order.
- Hold up one, two, and three fingers as all Connect Crews shout out their answers together.
- ❓ **Why would you save the third color for last?** Invite a few responses.



If you'd like, give each child a small individually wrapped bag of Skittles to enjoy. What a fun and surprising way to delight your young friends!

Each of you had an opinion about what order to put things in. God had an opinion, too! God created the world, and he saved the best for last: people! God loves you, and he made you and *all* people in an extra-special way and for a unique purpose. We're all his favorite!

## Experience the Bible Story

Let's explore a story from the Bible. But instead of just listening to a story, you'll actually help me tell it and play an important part!

I'll need two friends to help me tell this story. In Genesis 2, we find out the names of the first two people God made—Adam and Eve. Choose two willing kids to be Adam and Eve. Motion to kids on one side of the room. **Everyone on this side, you'll be plants.** Motion to the other side. **Everyone on that side, you'll be animals. So think of your favorite plant—or animal—that you'll pretend to be. Choose whatever you'd like—maybe a palm tree or an aardvark.** Pause for kids to choose a plant or animal.

God had just created everything in the world. Well, all the non-people things. Light, sky, land, seas, plants, sun, moon, stars, fish, birds, and animals. Whew! That's a lot to accomplish in a week!

Have everyone make tired faces as if they've just worked for a long time.

But God wasn't tired yet. He'd saved the best for last! Listen to what he made next.



Read aloud Genesis 1:26.

Caring for animals takes some work. If you're on the animal side of the room, I want you to go wild for the next 10 seconds. You can move, make noise, and basically do whatever your animal would do—but be sure to keep your paws to yourself. Adam and Eve, you'll hold your hands up above your heads and slowly bring them down like a volume controller. Animals, watch Adam and Eve. You'll stop horsing around when their hands are on the floor. Plants, I need your help to count down from 10. Ready?

Count down from 10 with kids who are "plants" as Adam and Eve slowly lower their hands, eventually signaling "animals" to be quiet again.

Nice work, humans. God created you to care for his creation. That's a special job! God put people in charge of his creation and told them to take care of it.

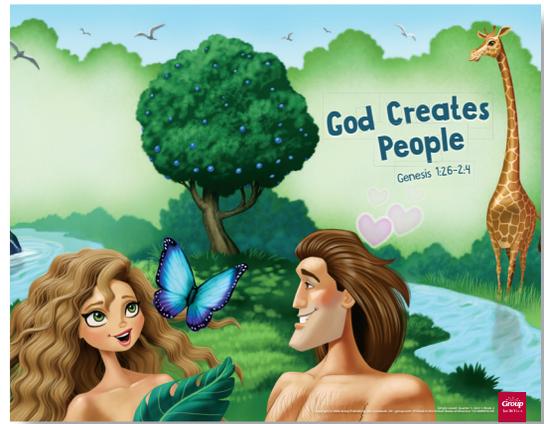
Let's see why else God created people.



Read aloud Genesis 1:27.

Show the Bible Story poster. **God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **He saved the best for last: people! God made people in his image. So one reason God made us is to show the world what he's like. That's our purpose!**

**Adam and Eve, God made you in his image to show his love through a smile. Give us a big grin.**



**And Adam and Eve, God made you in his image to show that's he's a relational God who really cares about people. Give a few friends a high-five.**

**And God made you in his image to be creative—to come up with cool stuff that makes our world a better place. Our creativity can bring glory, or praise, to God. Why don't you each go ahead and create a fun dance move for us to do with you!**

**God created men and women in his image—to show what he's like and to glorify and praise him. God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **And he made us for a purpose. He told Adam and Eve to start a family and take care of the earth.**

**After saving the best for last and giving instructions, God looked over everything he had made and said that it was good. Then he did one last thing.**



Read aloud Genesis 2:1-3.

**God created a special day for his special creation to rest and honor him. He saved the best day, a rest day, for last! Thanks, Adam and Eve; why don't you go back among the plants and animals, and everyone will take a little nap. Enjoy a time of rest. Ahh!** Pretend to nap for 10 seconds.

**God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **We're made in his image so we can show the world who God is. That's special! But it's not always easy, so we need God's help.**

- End with a prayer. Have kids mirror what you do, and pause briefly after each action.
- Place hands on both sides of your face. **God, even when people make me mad, please help my face show your forgiveness and grace.**
- Extend your arms. **God, when I want to clench my fists and fight back, please help my hands be open and ready to show your love and care.**
- Walk in place. **And when my feet want to stay away from someone who needs help, please help me be ready to show your kindness and strength.**
- Extend your arms above your head. **Thanks for making us, for always loving us, and for giving us a purpose. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one—or both—of these reinforcement activities to support today's Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.

# Friendship Finale

Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.

**God created people for a special purpose, and God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*)

- Have kids take turns shouting out emotions kids commonly feel, such as scared and happy, and places kids frequent, such as school and playgrounds. After each emotion or place named, lead everyone is shouting the Bible Point and “Wow, God!”

**Our Bible Memory Buddy Savanna helps us remember God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **We’re his special creation. You’ll each receive a Savanna sticker to help you remember God’s love throughout your week. Crew Guides will give each child a sticker in a special way like this.**

- Ask a willing child to help you demonstrate the following actions.
- Crew Guides ask each child to hold out a hand to receive a sticker and then sit back down.
- As they give each child a Bible Memory Buddy sticker, Crew Guides say, “[Child’s name], you’re God’s special creation, and **God always loves you.**”
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has received a sticker.

Saying each child’s name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God’s love through you!

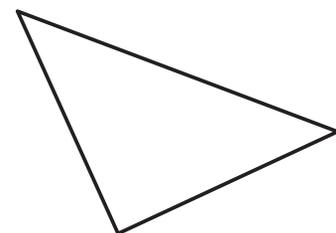
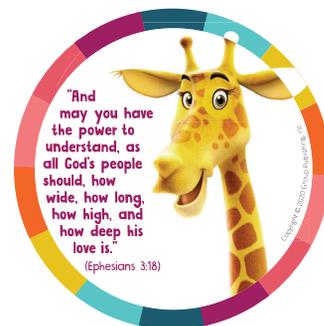
**One of the reasons God created people was to show the world what he’s like. But that’s not always easy to do. Sin gets in the way, and that’s why we need Jesus. Jesus showed the world God’s never-ending love.**

**I’d like to read you something about my friend Jesus. As you listen, give yourself a little space so no one is right beside you. Pause as kids move. Now imagine your friend Jesus is sitting there beside you. Go ahead and place your hand on the spot next to you as if you’re inviting him to sit next to you. Pause. Now keep your hand there and close your eyes as I read about Jesus.**

- Read the first section of the Unit 1, Week 2 Take-It-Home Flyer.
- **Now I’ll give you one of these flyers to help you talk about Jesus’ love in your Connect Crews and at home, too.**
- Distribute Take-It-Home Flyers to Crew Guides, and have them share about their own friendship with Jesus as they answer the “Talk Starter” question and then invite kids to share.
- Kids share prayer requests—things they’d like to tell Jesus—in their Connect Crews.
- Connect Crews pray together.
- Crew Guides distribute Take-Home Flyers and follow the directions to help kids fold the papers to “fly” home.

## Supplies

- Savanna Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)
- Take-It-Home Flyers (Unit 1, Week 2) (1 per child)



# Apply-It Options

Choose one—or both—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

## Explore More

**Supplies:** Bibles

**Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells how God created people. Later a king and poet named David praised God for making people in such a special way.**

 Distribute Bibles, and help kids find and read Psalm 139:13-16 together.

Read these fun facts about human bodies and have kids do each experience.

- **Our noses can smell a trillion different scents.** Take time to find and identify at least two smells in your room.
- **Your mouth makes enough saliva each day to fill half a soda bottle!** Lick your lips.
- **Your ears are shaped in a special way to collect sound waves.** Have kids say **"God always loves you"** to a partner and then take a step away from each other. Have them continue this until they can't hear or are across the room.

 **Since we're made in God's image, what do our "wonderfully complex" bodies tell us about God?**

**God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **He made us in a marvelous way to show how special he is!**



## Game

Play "Would You Rather" as you move around the room.

- Have kids listen to the question.
  - Kids will choose which way they'd rather move, then move in laps around the room in that way.
  - When you say "Stop!" kids freeze and listen to another question.
  - Continue as time allows, repeating or making up additional questions as needed.
- ❓ **Would you rather have wings like a bird or hooves like a deer?** (Flap arms like wings, or prance like deer.)
  - ❓ **Would you rather have 16 legs like a caterpillar or eight legs like a spider?** (Link arms with seven friends or three friends—or crawl on all fours with fewer friends.)
  - ❓ **Would you rather have no bones in your body or horns on your head?** (Flop as you walk, or hop on one leg.)
  - ❓ **Would you rather hop like a frog or walk like a crab?** (Crouch and hop, or walk on hands and feet.)
  - ❓ **Would you rather have knees that don't bend or heels that don't touch the ground?** (Walk without bending knees, or tiptoe.)

**God always loves us.** (*Wow, God!*) **There are lots of ways God could have made us, but he decided to make people just the way we are!**

 **Tell about a special way God made you.**

