

LESSON 8: GOD IS OUR CREATOR

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Psalm 139:1-18

12/01/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Psalm 139:1-18
- In This Passage: David writes a psalm, or song, about how God created us and knows us intimately. David says God made us wonderfully complex! He sees everything we do, he knows our thoughts, and he's with us wherever we go. He wove each of us together with a special purpose. God is our creator, so we live out our purpose.
- Bible Point: God is our creator...
- Application: ...so we live out our purpose.
- Summary Verse: "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is our creator*. Some kids struggle to know what their purpose is. Use this lesson to help kids see how God has already used them to do important things and how he can continue to use their unique talents and personality traits for an exciting purpose.
- Think About: What's God's purpose for you right now? How has he created you specifically for that role?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would reveal his purpose for each child and give kids the confidence to live the way he created them.

Quick Tip

- It's vitally important that you maintain an atmosphere that discourages put-downs, gossip, and mean-spirited humor. As kids discuss the unique ways God made them, create an environment that celebrates those differences rather than treating certain traits as weird. Encourage kids to look for positive things to say in response to others.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make blueprints and create what they've designed.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- pencils
- building materials such as Legos, chenille wires, or clay
- skeins or balls of yarn (1 for every 5 kids)



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids each get a blessing about how God made them.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids make Rube Goldberg machines.

Supplies

- classroom tables
- 16-ounce plastic cups (1 for every 4 kids)
- masking tape
- ping-pong balls (at least 1 for every 4 kids)
- a variety of objects that'll make a chain reaction (see Easy Prep)
- music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Raid your cupboards or storage closet to find objects that can be used together to make a chain reaction. Ideas include books, CDs, water bottles, toy cars, cardboard tubes, marbles, dominoes, wooden blocks, cardboard blocks, rulers, small cups, car ramps, pool noodles, cardboard, card stock, markers, and erasers.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Fruit Basket based on things they're good at.

Supplies

- chairs (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Form a circle with the chairs. Adjust the number as needed when all the kids arrive so there's only 1 chair per child.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids have a thumb wrestling tournament.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids create journals to record the ways God uses them.

Supplies

- “Your Book Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- construction paper
- markers
- hole punches
- scissors
- yarn
- stickers
- plain white copy paper
- pens
- googly eyes
- washable ink pads
- duct tape (various colors)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**Marked supplies are also used in 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 give an elbow-five to five friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids do jumping jacks as many times as the birthday child is old. With each jumping jack, they'll say "happy birthday!"
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God is our creator, so we live out our purpose. God made *you* wonderful and exactly the way he wanted you to be.**

Share

- Tell kids *your* favorite thing about yourself.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share *their* favorite things about themselves.
- 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 to Psalm 139, and say: **Wow! God made a lot of really awesome people...right here in this room! God made you just the way you are because he has a special purpose for you. God is our creator, so we live out our purpose. Let's see what the Bible has to say about how God created us. The Bible isn't an ordinary book; it's God's book for us, full of stories that show how God created different people for special purposes. As we explore his Word today, we'll discover how carefully he created *you*. Let's start by talking to God.**

Pray, praising God for creating us for a purpose.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- paper
- pencils
- building materials such as Legos, chenille wires, or clay
- skeins or balls of yarn (1 for every 5 kids)

Tip

- Skeins of yarn are easier to buy, but balls of yarn will be easier for kids to toss. Skeins may become tangled more easily. If you have time, wrap yarn into small balls.

Guess Thoughts

Say: **Today we're learning that God is our creator. So let's play a game where we get to know some of the people God made!**

Have kids each find a partner they don't know very well. Have pairs sit facing each other. Give each child three pieces of paper and a pencil.

Say: **Let's see if you can guess something about your partner. On your paper, write down your favorite subject in school. Write it really big, but don't let your partner see what you write.** Allow time for kids to write. Then have kids guess what their partners wrote. After each child guesses, partners will reveal their answers to see if the guesses match what they wrote.

Repeat with these categories: favorite animal, birth month.

Ask: • **How many things did you correctly guess about your partner?**

• **Why was it hard to know the right answers?**

Say: **Since your partner was someone you don't know well, you probably just made a guess for each answer. But since God is our creator, he doesn't have to make any guesses about what we're like. Listen to this.**

Read Psalm 139:1-4.

Ask: • **How does it feel to know that God knows your thoughts and sees everything you do?**

Say: **God is our creator. He knows our thoughts and what we do because he made us! And he made each of us with a special purpose in mind.**

Make Blueprints

Show kids the building materials. Say: **In a minute, you're going to be able to build whatever you want out of these materials. But first, flip over one of your papers from the guessing game and draw a blueprint. A blueprint is a sketch of what you want your final product to look like.**

After kids complete their blueprints, have them build what they sketched.

Ask: • **How did your blueprint guide you as you made your creation?**

Say: **God is our creator. He made each of us with a blueprint! I don't mean that he actually sketched you out before he made you...but he made you knowing exactly what he wanted you to be like, inside and out. He made you with a plan. Just as you knew what your creation would look like before you made it, God knew just who you would be! Listen to how carefully he made us.**

Read Psalm 139:13-16.

Ask: • **Do you ever feel like there's a part of you that's a mistake? Talk about that. Share your own example first.**

Say: **God made us perfectly. Sometimes we go off-plan and make bad choices. But the things God made about us were made that way for a reason. Your nose isn't too big. You're not too tall or too short. You're not too sensitive or weird. God is our creator, and he made us each with a purpose! Even the things you might not like about yourself can be a part of God's purpose for you.**

Knit a Web

Have kids form groups of five. Give each group a skein of yarn.

Say: **We're learning that God is our creator, so we live out our purpose. You might not feel like you know what your purpose is. That's okay! You probably have *lots* of purposes. For example, maybe you made peace when your friends were fighting one time. That was your purpose in that one event! All you need to do is love God and listen to him, and he'll show you your purpose each day.**

Let's think about how God has already used us to do important things for him!

Have the child in each group holding the skein of yarn name one thing he or she does well. Then the child will hold one end of the yarn and toss the skein to someone else. Kids will continue tossing the yarn but holding on to their piece until everyone has shared. Next, have each child name a person he or she has shown love to and repeat tossing the yarn. Then have kids go around a third time, naming something they've done to serve or help someone. Have kids continue to hold their yarn web throughout the activity.

Say: **You see? You've already done so many things that God made *you* specifically to do.**

Ask: • **Describe the yarn you're holding.**

Say: **I'd say that the webs of yarn look like a mess. Yarn reminds me of one of the verses I read earlier. Let me read it again.**

Read Psalm 139:13.

Say: **When you look at your life, you might see something like the mess of yarn you're holding. But God sees someone he made for a purpose, someone he knit together just the way he wanted. God is our creator, so we live out our purpose.**



Hand of Blessing

Give Kids a Blessing

Say: **In today's Bible story, David wrote, "You place your hand of blessing on my head." I'm going to bless each of you now by placing my hand on your head.**

- Have kids sit silently as you go around to each child.
- Place your hand on a child's head and pray: **God, thank you for making [child's name] so wonderfully complex! Thank you for making [him/her]...** Fill in the prayer with something specific about each child, such as:
 - energetic
 - good at leading
 - kind
 - encouraging
 - helpful
 - creative
 - talented
 - smart
 - insightful
 - musical
 - fun
 - funny
 - athletic
 - thoughtful
- You can also use generic words like wonderful, amazing, or cool for kids you don't know well.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you are our creator. Thank you that you made each of us so wonderfully complex, with special talents and traits that give us each an important purpose! Help us live out our purposes! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



OBJECT LESSON

Made for a Purpose

[10 min]

Supplies

- classroom tables
- 16-ounce plastic cups (1 for every 4 kids)
- masking tape
- ping-pong balls (at least 1 for every 4 kids)
- a variety of objects that'll make a chain reaction (see Easy Prep)
- music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Raid your cupboards or storage closet to find objects that can be used together to make a chain reaction. Ideas include books, CDs, water bottles, toy cars, cardboard tubes, marbles, dominoes, wooden blocks, cardboard blocks, rulers, small cups, car ramps, pool noodles, cardboard, card stock, markers, and erasers.

Tips

- Search "Rube Goldberg examples" online to get ideas. If you have the capability, you could show kids a sample video to help inspire their own creations.
- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the activity. You can find the album [here](#).

Build Chain Reactions

Say: **Have you heard of Rube Goldberg? He was a cartoonist and inventor who drew pictures of machines made with fun, everyday objects that made chain reactions. But they weren't just any ordinary chain reactions—each step had a specific purpose. A Rube Goldberg machine actually does something at the end! Hold up a ping-pong ball and a 16-ounce cup. Let's create our own Rube Goldberg machines that will make a ping-pong ball land in a cup. For example, you might set up a ramp by taping two pool noodles together and putting a stack of Bibles under one end. When you roll a ball down the ramp, it will knock over a few CDs that are standing up like dominoes. The last CD to fall will push a toy car, which will bump the ping-pong ball into the cup. Get it?**

- Form groups of four, and assign table space to each group.
- Give each group a 16-ounce cup and a ping-pong ball.
- Have groups use masking tape to attach their cups to the edge of the table to make the end of the machines.
- Give parameters: each group needs to use at least five different objects, and their machines have to stretch across the entire table.
- If you'd like, play fun music as kids work. Encourage groups as they work together to make their machines. Give ideas and tips as needed.
- Let kids test their machines and make tweaks until they're successful at getting the ball in the cup.



Talk About It

Ask: • **What was the most challenging part of making a Rube Goldberg machine?**

• **How did you feel when the ball actually rolled into the cup?**

Say: **As we created our machines, we had to think about how each unique part would accomplish the ultimate goal. And when our machines worked, we felt a sense of pride and accomplishment. Just think—God is our creator, and he made each little thing about us for a reason. Imagine the love and pride he feels when we use our talents to share his love and creativity with others!**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Purpose Shuffle

[10 min]

Supplies

- chairs (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Form a circle with the chairs. Adjust the number as needed when all the kids arrive so there's only 1 chair per child.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Swap Chairs

Say: **Today's Bible story was all about how God made each of us and knows us inside and out.**

Let's play a fun game to see all the cool things God put in each of us. We'll see what things are unique and what things we have in common!

- Have everyone take a seat in the circle while you stand in the middle.
- You'll start the game by calling out a characteristic or quality you have that's not necessarily visible, such as "I'm good at building things" or "I'm a reader—I love to read!"
- Anyone who could say "Me, too!" to what you call out will stand and run to swap seats with each other while you try to take a seat.
- The person left without a chair will be the next person in the middle who calls out something about himself or herself.
- Help kids choose things that aren't physical attributes so everyone gets to know things about each other beyond what they can see.
- Play as long as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music in the background during the game.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What are some things you learned about your friends that you couldn't know just by looking at them?**

• **What do you wish more people knew about you?** Share an example of your own, such as wishing more people knew that even though you can be quiet, God gave you a great sense of humor or that just because you're good at sports, that's not all you're interested in.

Say: **God knows those things about you and me even if others don't. God is our creator, and he knows us better than anyone—even better than we know ourselves. God made each of us unique, so even though we have some things in common, we're all different! God made us the way we are for a reason so that we can live out the purpose God has given us.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

All Thumbs

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Have a Thumb Wrestling Tournament

Say: **We read in the Bible about how God knows us better than anyone because God made us. God put us together the way we are for a reason, from the hair on our heads to our toes; God even knows the exact design of each of our thumbprints, and they're all different! Speaking of thumbs, let's play a fun game with the amazing thumbs God gave us.**

- Form pairs, and have pairs link their hands by making a "thumbs-up" sign and hooking their fingers together while keeping their thumbs up and free.
- On your cue, kids will thumb wrestle. They'll each try to pin their partner's thumb down with their own for a count of three while also trying to avoid having their thumbs pinned.
- Pairs' hands must stay connected during the thumb wrestling match.
- The winner is the person who wins the most out of three matches.
- When a pair has a winner, that pair can swap partners with another pair for a new challenge.
- Play as many matches as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Besides thumb wrestling matches, what are other things you couldn't do if you didn't have thumbs?**

Say: **Our thumbs give us the ability to do a lot of things we couldn't do without them. Our thumbs have a purpose! God gave us many other things with purpose—not only physical things we can see, such as our thumbs, but things we can't see, like our personalities.**

Ask: • **What's a special ability God gave you?** Share an example of your own, such as a friendly heart that helps you show God's love to others.

Say: **God is our creator, and he designed each of us with qualities and strengths that have a purpose. Your purpose won't ever be exactly like someone else's. Because of our creator, we're the same in a lot of ways—like having thumbs—but we're also different so we can all live out our unique purpose.**



Supplies

- “Your Book Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- construction paper
- markers
- hole punches
- scissors
- yarn
- stickers
- plain white copy paper
- pens
- googly eyes
- washable ink pads
- duct tape (various colors)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Journals

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share. Have kids follow the directions on the “Your Book Instructions” handout to make their own journals.

- Fold a piece of construction paper in half like a book cover.
- Fold a stack of five pieces of copy paper in half like a book.
- Put the folded copy paper in the folded construction paper to make a journal.
- Punch a hole near the top of the spine and another hole near the bottom of the spine.
- Tie a piece of yarn through the holes to bind your journal.
- Decorate the cover with markers, stickers, fingerprints, googly eyes, and shapes cut out of duct tape. Somewhere on the cover, write these words from Psalm 139:16: “Every day of my life was recorded in your book.”

Record in Your Book

Read Psalm 139:16. Say: **God has a book about *your* life. He knows just why he made you! You might be struggling to know what your purpose is, but if you think about it, I'm sure you can think of things you've done that have helped people. That's part of living out your purpose!**

- Have kids record in their journals a few times they've used their skills or traits to help someone.
- Have kids form pairs and talk about what they wrote.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did writing in your journal help you think differently about your purpose?**

• **What things do you hope will happen to you in the future that you could write about in your journal, continuing to fill your book?**

Say: **God is our creator. He made you just the way you are, and he wrote a whole book about your life! Most of your journal is blank to you, but God already has it filled in. He knows what your purpose is for today, tomorrow, when you're 25, and when you're 90!**

Have kids take their journals home and continue to record things they do that show how God created them for a purpose.