

LESSON 8: GOD IS OUR CREATOR

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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 act out the Bible story and play with modeling dough.

Supplies

- Bible
- modeling dough (1 handful per child)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids mimic friends' movements.

Supplies

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



CRAFT

Kids make books about their lives.

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

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of The Hokey Pokey.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray about how they can use different parts of their bodies.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids create watercolors and make pictures to give away.

Supplies

- washable markers (even ones that are almost dried out work, too!) (1 per child)

- small, clear cups (3 cups for every 5 or 6 kids)
- water
- paper towels
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- white card stock (1 piece per child)

**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.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

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'll find out that God is our creator. That means he made us, and he's proud of how he made each of us. We're each special and important to God. Let's start today by sharing special things about ourselves.

Share

- Share *your* favorite thing about yourself. You might share a physical characteristic or something you do well.
- In small groups, have kids share *their* favorite thing about themselves. They might share that they have a great laugh, an ability to dance, or they might name a physical characteristic.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: Thanks for sharing your favorite things about yourselves. Each of you is so special, and God made you for a reason! God is our creator, and he's also our friend. The more we get to know him, the more we find out how special he thinks we are! God loves it when we know how special we are, and he loves it when we use that to love his friends well.

Pray, thanking God for creating each child for a special reason.



Supplies

- Bible
- modeling dough (1 handful per child)

Act It Out

Gather the children, and have them sit. Say: **Today we'll find out that God is our creator. He made us, and the Bible says he made us wonderfully!** Show the Bible. **Let's look in the Bible to find out more.**

Read Psalm 139:1. Show kids how to put their hands to their hearts. Say: **God knows what's in your heart. He knows if you're happy or if you're sad. He knows if you feel lonely or excited. God knows everything about you because God is our creator!**

Read Psalm 139:2-3. Say: **God knows you're sitting right now.** Have the kids stand up, and then say: **God knows you're standing.** Lead kids to point to their heads. **God knows what you're thinking in your head when you're at home and when you're at church.** Lead kids across the room, and have them sit. **God even knows what you're thinking when you travel far away from home. God knows everything about you because God is our creator!**

Tell *your* favorite color.

Say: **Think about *your* favorite color in your head.** Pause, and then invite children to guess which color certain children are thinking about, reminding those children not to tell before the other kids guess.

Invite all the kids to share their colors, and then say: **Sometimes we can guess what others are thinking, and other times we have no idea! But God always knows what you're thinking. He knew what color you were thinking about before you told anyone. That's because God is our creator.**

God's always with you, and he always wants what's best for you. Read Psalm 139:7-10. Have kids stand. **God's behind you and in front of you.** Have kids turn around in a circle. **That means God's with you wherever you go. We can't get away from him, but we wouldn't want to because God loves us very much and he helps us be strong and brave.**

Turn out the lights, and then read Psalm 139:11. Say: **God's with us in the dark, too. He's with us when we're asleep.** Have kids lie down and pretend to sleep.

Turn on the lights, and have kids "wake up." **God's with us when we're awake.**

Have kids stand. Read Psalm 139:13-14. Say: **God made all your body parts—your head...** Lead kids to touch their heads. **And shoulders...** Lead kids to touch their shoulders. **Knees...** Lead kids to touch their knees. **And toes.** Lead kids to touch their toes.

Lead kids in a quick game, calling out names of body parts and having kids touch those body parts as quickly as possible. Invite older kids to take turns leading the game.

Have kids sit. Say: **God made each of your body parts, and they're all wonderful. God made you exactly how he wanted you. God's our creator. God put you in your mom's belly, and he already knew what you would be like. He knew what you'd be good at, and he knew how special you would be!**

Form small groups. Along with adult and teen helpers, share something special about one child in each group. You might share something about the child's personality or a skill you've seen the child using, such as coloring or cutting. Invite that child to share something special about another child in the group. Continue until kids have each heard something special about themselves. You can help kids with ideas and guide kids to pick certain children, if needed. For example, "Morgan, how about you say something special about Silas." Whisper ideas in the child's ear if he or she doesn't know what to say.

Say: **Each of you is so special and talented—and God made you that way. God even knew you'd be that way when you were a baby in your mom's belly because God made you!**

Play With Modeling Dough

Say: **God is our creator. He made us special and gave us special talents so we could do good things with them. God made us on purpose. Let's do something to help us think more about that.**

Give each child a handful of modeling dough. Say: **Think about a cup. A cup was made to hold drinks. It has a purpose; we use it to hold water, milk, or another drink.** Lead kids to make a cup with their dough by making a ball and then pressing a finger into the ball to make a little dip that could hold water.

Say: **What if I needed to pick up soup so I could put it in my mouth and eat it...what would I need to do that?** Pause. I'd need a spoon. Lead kids to make a spoon with their modeling dough. It's okay if it doesn't really look like a spoon. **A spoon has a purpose—so we can eat soup and other soft things like ice cream. People make spoons for a reason.**

What if I needed to push a nail into some wood...what would I need to do that? Pause. I'd need a hammer. Lead kids to make a hammer with their modeling dough. They can roll one long piece and a shorter, thicker piece to place across the top of the long piece. It's okay if it doesn't really look like a hammer. **A hammer has a purpose—so we can push nails into wood. People make hammers for a reason.**

What if we need to get somewhere, but it's far away...what would we need to do that? Pause. **We might need a car, bus, train, or airplane.** Lead kids to each make one of these objects with their modeling dough. It's okay if the objects don't resemble any of the objects mentioned. **Cars, buses, trains, and airplanes have a purpose—they let us get to places that are far away. People make these for a reason.**

Collect the modeling dough, and set it aside.

Talk About It

Say: **What if I'm really sad and lonely—what do I need?** Pause. **When I'm sad and lonely, I need a friend. You can be my friend!** Lead kids in a group hug. **God made you for a purpose. He made you to be a friend.**

God made you to be a friend, to love others, to learn and grow, and for many other reasons.

God made... Mention many of the things kids shared about themselves or others that make them special. **God gave you those special things so you could use them to love, help, and care for others. God is our creator, and he made us special for a reason.**

Share one purpose that God may have had for the special thing you shared earlier. For example, if you shared that you're friendly, you could say that God made you friendly so you can make others feel welcomed and loved.

Help kids think of ways God can use some of the special characteristics or skills about them. You don't need to give a purpose for every single child, but try to give about five practical examples. You might say God gave a child a nice loud laugh to bring joy to others, or God gave a child hands not just to tie shoes but also to help others.

Say: **Now that you know how special God made you, see how you can use what God gave you to help and love others!**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Mirror Me

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](#).

Mimic Movements

Say: **Our Bible story today told us all about how much God knows us because God made us.**

Even while we were tiny babies growing in our moms' bellies, God was there with us making our hands, our feet, our faces—everything! Let's play a game using the amazing bodies God gave us.

- Form pairs, and invite one partner from each pair to be the first Motion Maker.
- The Motion Maker will do fun or silly motions or make faces for his or her partner to copy. (Demonstrate how to do this before having kids do it in their pairs, and have adult and teen helpers spread out among pairs to help.)
- After a minute, have partners swap roles.
- After partners have both had turns being the Motion Maker, mix up the pairs so everyone has a new partner, and play again.
- Keep switching partners and playing for as long as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What parts of your body did you use when you were the Motion Maker?** Kids may call out things such as hands, feet, mouth, eyes, face, fingers, and toes.

Say: **God made all the parts of you. God made the things we can see about ourselves and the things we can't see, like the things we think and feel.**

Share a few things you like to do with the body God gave you, such as running, playing a sport you enjoy, or using your eyes and brain to read good books.

Ask: • **What are some things you like to do with the body God gave you?**

Say: **God is our creator, and God gave us our bodies to do amazing things—things we like to do, things that can help others, and things that show we love God. God made everything about us for a reason.**



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

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, and googly eyes. Somewhere on the cover, write these words from Psalm 139:16: “Every day of my life was recorded in your book.” (Adult or teen helpers can help kids write, as needed.)

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 use drawings to 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 drew.

Talk About It

Ask:

- **How did drawing 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 draw or 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.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

What It's All About

Play and Sing The Hokey Pokey

Say: We learned from our Bible story today that God is our creator—God made us. God decided we'd need eyes, hands, toes, a nose, and everything else about us. Let's play a fun game where we'll use different parts of the bodies God gave us!

- Help everyone stand in a circle, and lead a game of The Hokey Pokey.
- Here are some actions you could do:
 - head
 - hands
 - elbows
 - bellies
 - knees
 - legs
 - feet
 - fingers
 - toes

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was your favorite part to lean into the circle in our game?** Kids might say they liked putting just their toes in the circle, or they liked leaning their heads into the circle.

Say: **God made us the same in a lot of ways, but God also made us different. Some of you have pointy noses, and others have little noses. Some of you have a lot of hair, and others have just a little. God is our creator, and when he made us the same and different, he did it on purpose. God made each of us for a special reason. That's what it's all about!**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Thank God for Making Me

Touch Head

Say: **Today we learned that God is our creator, and he made us for a special reason! Each of you has some special things about you that help you love and care for others. You might love and care for others with your smile, with a hug, or by being helpful. Let's pray about how we can love God and love others.**

Lead kids to touch their heads. Say: **God made your minds to think and learn new things!** Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God for making them to think and learn new things. End by leading kids to say (two words at a time), "Help me/learn more/about you."

Say: **As you learn more about God, you'll find more ways to love him and show his love to others.**

Clap Hands

Lead kids to clap their hands. Say: **God made your hands to help others.** Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God for giving kids hands to help others. End by leading kids to say (two words at a time), "Show me/how I/can help/someone today."

Say: **God made us for a reason—to help one another!**

Stomp Feet

Lead kids to stomp their feet. Say: **God made your feet to go where God wants you to go.** Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God for giving kids feet to follow him and go where God asks them to go. End by leading kids to say (two words at a time), "Help me/follow you/and obey/your directions."

Say: **God knows what's best for me and for you! When we do what God says, we do it for an important reason!**

Make a Heart Shape

Lead kids to make heart shapes with their hands. Say: **God made you to love others.** Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God for making them to love and care for others. End by leading kids to say (two or three words at a time), "Help me be/a good friend/and show love/to everyone."



Close in prayer. Then say: **Thanks for coming to church today! I hope we'll have each of you very special children back in our class next week!**



OBJECT LESSON

Create & Paint

[10 min]

Supplies

- washable markers (even ones that are almost dried out work, too!) (1 per child)
- small, clear cups (3 cups for every 5 or 6 kids)
- water
- paper towels
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- white card stock (1 piece per child)

Create Watercolor Paint

Say: **God is our creator!** We're special because God made us. Let's make special paint so we can create something, too!

- Form groups of five or six kids, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group.
- Give each group three clear cups. Pour a little water into each cup.
- Have each child choose a marker, take the lid off, and place it tip-down into a cup of water. Guide kids to think through what colors they want to make. For example, two green markers in one cup will make a nice dark green color. A pink and a red marker will make a pinkish-red color. Two shades of blue will make a new shade of blue.
- Have kids watch the water turn different colors. Encourage kids to take turns gently stirring the water with the markers.
- After about two minutes, have kids remove the markers and place them on paper towels to dry.

Paint With Watercolors

Give each child a piece of card stock and a paintbrush.

Say: You've created some pretty paint colors! Now let's use them to create beautiful pictures to give to people.

Tell the kids who you plan to make a picture for and why you chose that person.

Ask: • Who will you make a picture for? Why?

- Continue the conversation while kids use watercolors to paint.
- After several minutes, make another new color by combining the paint in two cups. Have kids help you decide which colors to combine to make the new color.
- When finished, have kids put their paintings somewhere to dry. Collect paintbrushes and paints, and have kids put the caps back on the markers.

Talk About It

Say: We made paint so we could create beautiful and colorful pictures for people we love. **God is our creator,** and he made us for a special reason—to share his beautiful love with others!