

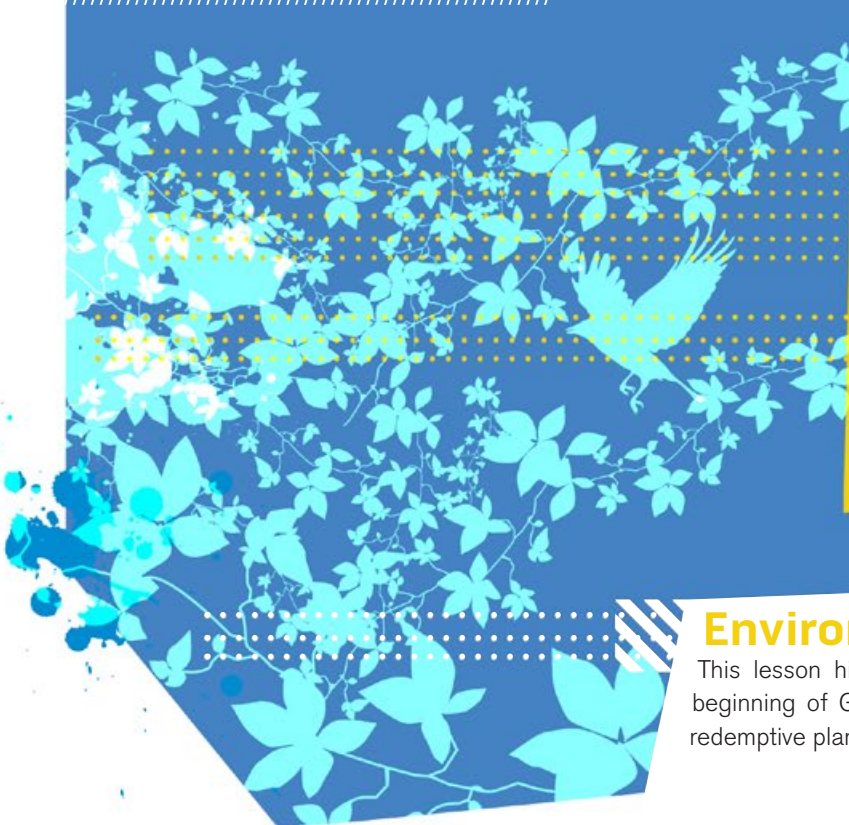
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**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1—3  
(Creation/Fall of Man)

**REMEMBER VERSE**  
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
Psalm 90:2

# God Is Eternal



**Schedule**  
Anticipate  
5–10 minutes  
Celebrate & Respond  
Large Group  
35–55 minutes  
Respond & Bless  
Small Group  
20–25 minutes



## Environment: STORYTELLING

This lesson highlights the environment of STORYTELLING in the beginning of God's creation, where we see the beginning of God's redemptive plan for mankind.



## Inspire

A few years ago I visited the Grand Canyon. While I enjoyed the view, a cloud billowed into the canyon and filled it with ribbons of mist. The buzzing of conversations and the scuffling of footsteps stopped as thunder rolled through the canyon like a low growl. "The heavens declare the glory of God," Psalm 19:1 says, and even though I didn't hear an audible voice that day, God's majesty spoke clearly.

That day offered just a glimpse of God's beauty and how much He deserves our praise. I wanted nothing but to worship Him. Maybe you've felt this way before—while looking at a field of grass rippling in the breeze, or waves bombarding a craggy cove, or the colors of the sky changing into fluorescent hues at sunset.

Standing quietly outside, looking at creation, I marveled that the same God who made everything I saw was also present with me—a cosmic, awe-inspiring, awesome God. He is eternal.

### NOTES:



Tori Funkhouser  
TruStory Team



## Equip

God is eternal. He has always been and will always be. His creation of and interaction with humans can be found in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which sets up the backdrop for the rest of The Big God Story. Genesis explains our need for the Redeemer—Jesus Christ—who will one day defeat Satan and redeem us back to Himself.

The first chapter of Genesis gives an account of creation from the beginning of the universe to the creation of man in God's image. It refers to God as Elohim, the infinitely powerful One who created the universe and our earth out of nothing. Chapter 2 focuses more on the creation of man and woman and speaks of God as Yahweh Elohim—"I Am who I Am," who formed Adam from the dust, like a potter forms a pot from clay, and breathed into his nostrils, giving him life.

Genesis 3 describes the fall of mankind and gives us a picture of God as a pursuer. At the outset of sin, God began to draw Adam and Eve—and subsequently fallen humanity—back to Himself. When Adam and Eve hid from Him, God looked for them. He also protected them by making clothes for them.

In the Genesis account we see the relationship God desires to have with us—one in which we're in perfect harmony with the eternal One.

### Environment of STORYTELLING

The power of The Big God Story impacts our lives by giving us an accurate and awe-inspiring perspective into how God has been moving throughout history. It further compels us to see how God is using every person's life and is creating a unique story that deserves to be told for God's glory.

The 10 Environments guide us in creating a climate that puts God on display. Encourage your families to discover more about creating the environment of STORYTELLING in their homes by checking out *HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource* and *Spiritual Parenting* by Michelle Anthony.



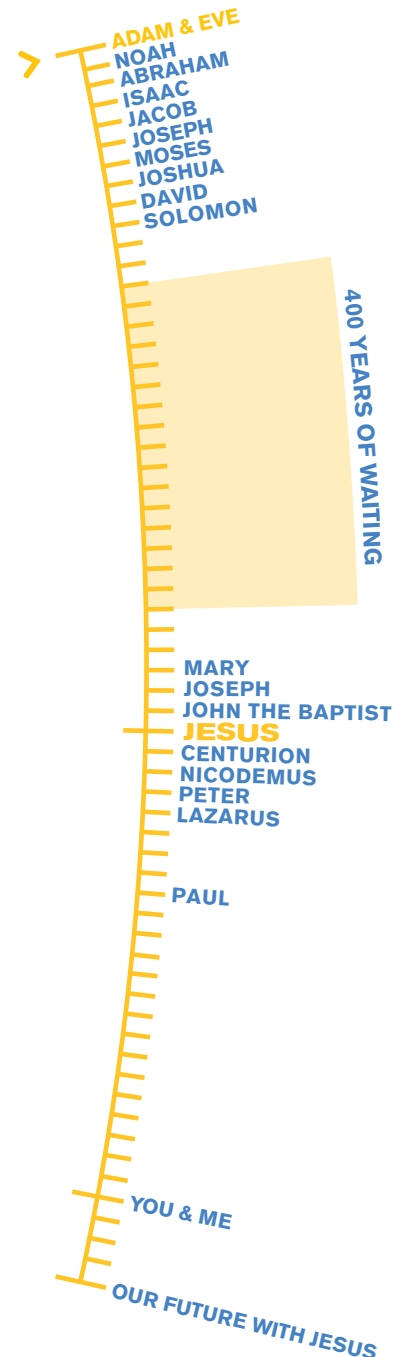
## Support

As you prepare for this lesson, spend time reading the Scripture passage on your own, and ask the Holy Spirit to transform you with the same words you'll be bringing to the children. Let your teaching be infused with the passion and conviction that comes from an overflow of your own life.

Pray the Holy Spirit powerfully impacts your time with the kids, bringing them into closer relationship with Him. Pray that your kids and parents will be transformed by their encounter with God, that they will know Him better, and that they will respond to Him with faith and obedience. If possible, find a time to pray with the parents for their role as spiritual leaders.

Ask God to use His story to reveal His great love for all of you and His desire to be in perfect relationship with you.










## TIMELINE





## Navigating This Lesson

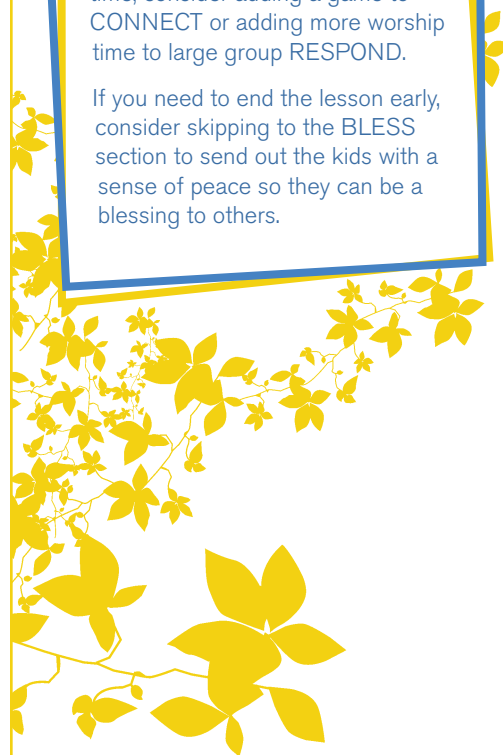
Below you'll find descriptions of terms you may encounter throughout the lessons.

-  **Leader Tip:** Suggestions for programming and classroom management.
-  **Programming Note:** Suggestions for modifying or adjusting programming to best fit your service schedule.
-  **Partner Church Comments:** Insightful comments, suggestions, and variations offered for activities and programming provided by our national network of children's and family ministry leaders.
-  **Optional:** Suggestions of ways you can adapt the activities and games to best fit your own church and group of kids.
-  **Host:** The Host offers the same spirit of hospitality, generosity, and inclusiveness to the kids that the host of a party would offer to the guests at her home or gathering.
-  **Small Group Leader:** The Small Group Leader shepherds the kids through questions about the portion of The Big God Story and biblical truths, engages them in community-building activities, helps them create a remembrance of their experience, and blesses them before they leave. Ideally, Small Group Leaders work week after week with the same group of kids, giving them the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with each child.
-  **Worship Leader:** The Worship Leader facilitates individual and corporate worship by listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit and inviting others into the worship experience.
-  **Storyteller:** After active involvement with the Scriptures and the lesson, the Storyteller recounts the Bible passage for the kids in an engaging way. He leads out of an overflow of his own life, telling personal stories as prompted and guiding the kids into a time of natural worship response.
-  **AV Technician:** This person facilitates the "behind-the-scenes" aspects of programming, including sound, lighting, slides, etc. The AV Technician makes sure things run smoothly and is willing to help with anything—including stepping into any of the other leader roles.

### Programming Note

Always feel free to adjust the lesson to fit your service schedule. If you run out of time, consider cutting an activity. To fill time, consider adding a game to CONNECT or adding more worship time to large group RESPOND.

If you need to end the lesson early, consider skipping to the BLESS section to send out the kids with a sense of peace so they can be a blessing to others.





# Lesson Overview



Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List at <a href="http://tru.davidccook.com">tru.davidccook.com</a> )
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**Anticipate//**  
Small Group  
Check-In

5-10  
min.

Encourages interaction among kids, leaders, and parents; engages the kids in curiosity and anticipation of the lesson; and creates an inviting atmosphere.

**OPTION 1: Under Pressure**

- rulers (3-4; wood, plastic, or metal)
- newspaper or 11" x 17" paper (3-4 sheets)

**OPTION 2: Our Place in The Big God Story**

- Bible
- butcher paper (10'-20')
- markers
- sticky notes or small squares of paper (at least 10 per child)
- tape

**Celebrate//**  
Large Group

20-35  
min.

Establishes community and tells stories both personal and biblical in a fun and engaging way.

**Traditions**

- mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gumballs, etc.)
- Remember Verse cards, slide, and animation (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))

**Connect Question**

- Connect Question slide (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))

**Connect Activity: Circle Up**

- Connect Activity slide (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))

**The Big God Story**

- Bibles (1 per child)
- Timeline slide and animation (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))
- small table and stool
- clay or play dough (1 color or variety of colors)
- images: stars, nature, animals, Adam and Eve in garden, Adam and Eve leaving garden (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))
- hand wipes

**Respond//**  
Large Group

15-20  
min.

Creates space for children to respond to the Holy Spirit in worship and community as a large group.

- worship music (suggestions: "Thank You," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours* and "Come Unto Me," TruWorship *You Are*)
- Worship Response Station: Encouragement Cards
- pencils or pens
- optional: pieces of creation (leaves, shells, rocks, twigs, flowers, etc.), poster board (1 sheet per 3-4 kids), glue, markers

NOTES :

\*To make metric conversions, search the Internet for a metric conversion chart or calculator.



NOTES:



# Lesson Overview



Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List at <a href="http://tru.davidccook.com">tru.davidccook.com</a> )
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**Respond//**  
**Small Group**

**15-20**  
**min.**

Discusses truth, reflects on the lesson, engages in relationships, and creates a project or a piece of art individually or together.

**Reflect: God Is Eternal**

- Bibles (1 per child)

**Create: From Everlasting to Everlasting**

- Bibles (1 per child)
- poster board (1 sheet)
- markers
- watercolors
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- cups of water (1 per 2-3 children)
- paper towels

**Bless//**  
**Small Group**

**5 min.**

Sends the kids out with a sense of peace and blessing so they can be a blessing to their families and others.

- Bible
- HomeFront Weekly (1 per child; [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))
- HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource (1 per family; [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com) or [HomeFrontMag.com](http://HomeFrontMag.com))

NOTES:

Large empty rectangular box for taking notes.

\*To make metric conversions, search the Internet for a metric conversion chart or calculator.


 SMALL GROUP  
SECTION

# Anticipate//

5–10 min.

Small Group Leaders



*An energizing time for parents and kids to start engaging with the material that will be presented in the lesson.*

*It is intentionally designed to spark curiosity and cultivate a sense of awe and wonder about God.*

*Encourage parents to participate in this time with their kids.*



## Programming Note

The activity option in ANTICIPATE is designed to take place during your check-in time. Your time frame may range from five to ten minutes, depending on your church's facility and service-time setup. You can choose the option above or add an idea of your own.

This section is also created to be flexible according to your facility. If it works best to direct kids and their parents to individual small group rooms for this time, set up activities in each room. And if you check kids directly into your large group space, arrange your ANTICIPATE activities accordingly.

Encourage parents to join their children in the activity. This helps with transition, introduces parents to the lesson, and supports parents as the primary nurturers of their children's faith.

## Option 1: Under Pressure

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Today your children will participate in a simple experiment involving air pressure as they discover more about the wonder of God's creation.

### SUPPLIES

- rulers (3–4; wood, plastic, or metal)
- newspaper or 11" x 17" paper (3–4 sheets)

### SET UP

Place the rulers and newspapers on a table.

### ENGAGE

(Welcome your children and invite them to join you at the table.) **Did you know we're surrounded by air that places pressure on our bodies all of the time? Can you feel the air pressure?** (Encourage kids to shrug their shoulders or lift their arms up and down to see if they can feel the pressure of the air.) **Scientists have measured this pressure and found that it's about 15 pounds of pressure for every square inch. But we never feel that pressure on our bodies. Why do you think that is?** (Allow answers; interact with kids' responses.) **Good thinking! God gave us the ability to adjust to this constant pressure naturally. Pretty amazing! Today we'll experience this air pressure using a ruler and paper.**

(Place a ruler on the table with about one-third of it hanging off of the table. Then invite a child to bring her fist down on the end of the ruler that's hanging off the table. It should fly off the table.) **What happened to the ruler?** (Allow answers. Then place





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the ruler back on the table in the same position as before, but this time, cover the ruler with newspaper up to the edge of the table.) **What do you think will happen to the newspaper if I smack my fist on the end of the ruler?** (Encourage kids to share their thoughts and speculations.)

(Now ask a child to bring down his fist sharply on the end of the ruler. The ruler will resist the child's fist! In fact, if you're using a wood ruler, the ruler may even break. Explain to the kids that the air pressure pushing down on the large surface area of the paper keeps the ruler from flipping up.) **How did the results of this experiment compare with what you thought would happen? What are some other amazing things about the world God created?** (Interact with kids and their responses.) **God is truly amazing! The same God who created the universe and everything in it also created you and me. He is Lord over all—He always was and always will be.**

If you have time, allow other kids to try this experiment using the additional rulers and newspapers.

## Option 2: Our Place in The Big God Story

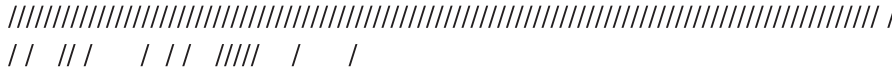
Today's lesson focuses on the very beginning of The Big God Story. With the following activity, help your children create a timeline as a visual and tactile representation of The Big God Story and their place in it. When the kids see their names on the timeline, they'll have a greater realization of how their lives connect to the story God has been writing throughout history. Save this project to display during the next REMEMBER & CELEBRATE weekend.

### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- butcher paper (10'–20')
- markers
- sticky notes or small squares of paper (at least 10 per child)
- tape

### SET UP

Tape the butcher paper along the length of one or two walls. Alternatively, tape sections of butcher paper to a few tables. On the paper, create a blank timeline by drawing one long horizontal line in the middle of the paper. Also draw multiple small, vertical "tic marks" along the horizontal line. At the beginning of the timeline, write "Creation" and "Adam and Eve," and at the end write "You and Me" and "Our Future with Jesus." Optional: Plot major Bible characters on the timeline in order of where they appear in The Big God Story in the Bible. Some examples, in order: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph,



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Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Esther, John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter, apostle Paul. You might also plot interesting or wacky events and inventions on the timeline, such as the first flushing toilet, 1775; the telephone, 1874; the Internet, 1969.

**ENGAGE**

Encourage your children to write events from their lives on the timeline. They can either write directly on the timeline or write on sticky notes or squares of paper and stick or tape those to the timeline. Make sure each child adds her name and birthday to the timeline. Kids might also include the day their parents got married, the day they lost their first tooth, the day they decided to trust and obey Jesus, etc.

When the kids finish personalizing the timeline, point out Adam and Eve at the beginning and You and Me at the end. Explain to the kids that they're also a part of The Big God Story, and that they'll learn more about this amazing fact in the coming weeks.


 LARGE GROUP  
SECTION

# Celebrate//

20–35 min.

Host/Storyteller



***Kids get to be a part of the faith community of God's family.***

***They participate in traditions and share them with newcomers, connect through fun and interaction, and experience The Big God Story through Storytelling.***



## Hoppin' High Fives

*A Community Tradition*

Have the children hop on one foot and give as many high fives as they can to other children before putting their other foot down for balance. Each time they give someone a high five, they should say, "High five, [child's name]!"

## Welcome and Traditions

After everyone gathers as a large group, open with Traditions. During Traditions, you're helping the children work toward a common goal and giving them mementos to celebrate accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse, inviting friends to church, or bringing their Bibles.

### REMEMBER VERSE

This week's Remember Verse comes from the environment of STORYTELLING, which says "God has a big story, and I can be a part of it!" The environment changes every four weeks.

As the children arrive, open a Bible and read the verse together. You'll find Remember Verse cards, slides, and animations at [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com).

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2**

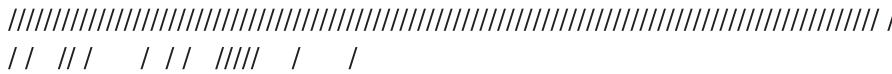
Mementos can be any object, but some examples include rocks, marbles, gumballs, and connecting blocks. Once the children receive their mementos, have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure they're building. If you have multiple services, use separate containers or building stations for each service. Once the kids fill their container or finish their structure, hold a celebration!

After Traditions, if you have time, choose one or two child volunteers to share praise reports, testimonies, or funny or intriguing events. Or sing familiar worship songs with corresponding motions.

## Connect

Connect gives children time to laugh, play, and enjoy each other's company. Engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities encourage the members of your community to get to know one another.

Invite the children to ask each other the following question or one of your own. Encourage them to ask someone they may not know. After a minute or two, ask several children to tell the group their friends' answers. (See the Connect Question slide at [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com).)



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### Question

What's the most amazing thing you've seen in creation?

### Activity: Circle Up

#### SUPPLIES

- Connect Activity slide (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))

#### ENGAGE

Gather the children into two circles, with one circle inside the other and both with an even number of kids. If you have an odd number of children, choose one of them to be the caller. If you have an even number, the Small Group Leader will call.

Direct the circles to start rotating, one clockwise and the other counterclockwise. Ask the caller to turn his back to the circles. After a short time, have the caller say "Stop!" At this point the circles must stop rotating. Each child must turn to the person closest to him in the other circle, shake hands, introduce himself, and answer the CONNECT question. Then the caller will say "Circle up," and the circles will begin to rotate again, repeating the same actions as before.

## Prayer of Release

The Prayer of Release allows children and leaders to pause, be still, and ask God to quiet their hearts and minds. Before you pray, you might ask the kids to hold out their hands, palms up, in a spirit of releasing their worries and distractions in order to better receive what the Holy Spirit might have for them today. Then encourage the kids to quiet their voices, take a seat, and pray with you.

### Using Signals

For a fun way to let your kids know a change will soon happen, use a signal. This helps create predictability and energy for the next experience.

Some signal ideas:

- Energetic music or audio clip
- Video clip from a movie (replace the audio with energetic music)



NOTES :



**Visual Aids**

Many TruStory lessons offer visual aids for The Big God Story. Please use these files in whichever format works best for your church, whether you use computer media, an overhead projector, or poster board.

# The Big God Story

During today's portion of The Big God Story, the children will learn about creation and the fall of man. Though this part of The Big God Story can be delivered verbatim, read it before the lesson so you can personally interact with the material. Share stories from your life, and speak with your own style by varying your intonation and gestures.

**Leader Tip**

Before sharing this part of The Big God Story, tell your kids they're about to hear a true story that's recorded in the Bible. Open your Bible to the passage and leave it open and visible throughout The Big God Story. Establish a consistent place to keep this Bible every week.

Invite the children to open their Bibles and follow along in Genesis 1—3 as you storytell. Encourage adult volunteers to keep an eye out for kids who might need help finding the passage, and allow enough time for each child to locate each passage. You may even want to project the reference on a screen or write it on the whiteboard.

## Ponder Point: God Is Eternal

**Bible Passage: Genesis 1—3**

**Storytelling Technique: Sculpting Images from Clay**

**SUPPLIES**

- Bibles (1 per child)
- Timeline slide and animation (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))
- small table and stool
- clay or play dough (1 color or variety of colors)
- images: stars, nature, animals, Adam and Eve in garden, Adam and Eve leaving garden (see [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com))
- hand wipes

**PREPARE AHEAD**

You can choose to act as the sculptor while you storytell, or you can have an assistant mold and sculpt each aspect of the narrative as you storytell.

**SET UP**

Place the small table and the stool downstage right or left. Place the clay and hand wipes on the table.

# The Big God Story



NOTES:



**ENGAGE**

Imagine you're surrounded by nothing but darkness. No people, no buildings, no trees or animals. No sun or moon in the sky. No breeze in the air. Nothing at all! (Dim the lights.) **In the beginning, there was nothing ... except God! He is eternal. That means He has always existed and will always exist. And He created everything out of nothing.**

When God created the world, He spoke and things appeared. He spoke the words **"Let there be light," and there was light!** (Turn up the lights.) **God created the moon, stars, earth, and everything on the earth in the same way.** (*Show images of stars, nature, and animals.* As you storytell, have the assistant use the clay to mold an item from nature—a tree, flower, etc.—on the table.) **God created everything you see and every living thing. And with everything God created, He saw that it was good. Everything God made reflected His glory. The Bible says "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1) . Have you ever looked at a sunset and said, "Wow!"? The beauty of that sunset reflects God's glory.**

(Have the assistant mold a man from the clay on the table.) **On the day God created man, He did things a little differently. He used dirt from the ground to form the man. God then breathed into the man to give him life. What did God name the first man?** (Allow answers.) **Yes! Adam.** (Have assistant mold a woman and then place "Eve" next to "Adam.") **After God created Adam, He created a woman out of one of Adam's rib bones. Does anybody know the woman's name?** (Allow answers.) **That's right—Eve.**

The Bible says **God made man and woman in His own image. God loves us so much that He put His fingerprint on each one of us! God created us to be in perfect relationship with Him, a relationship without sin or brokenness.** (Have assistant mold a heart on the table between Adam and Eve.) **Adam and Eve experienced this perfect relationship while they lived with God in a beautiful garden called Eden—so close that the Bible says they could hear God walking around! Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony with God.** (*Show image of Adam and Eve in garden.*)

(Encourage children to open their Bibles to Genesis 2:15. Read verses 15–17 aloud as the kids follow along.) **Although God gave Adam and Eve everything in the garden, He told them they couldn't eat the fruit from one particular tree. What was that tree called?** (Allow answers.) **Yes, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.**

**At first, Adam and Eve obeyed God and stayed away from the tree. But one day the serpent saw Eve in the garden and told her God's warning wasn't true.** (Encourage children to turn to Genesis 3:1. Read verses 1–5 aloud while the kids follow along. Have assistant mold a tree and/or piece of fruit.) **What do you think happened next? Let's keep reading to find out.** (Encourage children to turn to Genesis 3:6. Read verses 6–13



# The Big God Story



## NOTES :



aloud as the kids follow along.) **Eve picked a piece of fruit from the tree and took a bite. Then she gave the fruit to Adam, and he also took a bite. At that moment, sin entered the world and separated people from God. Their choice broke their perfect relationship with God.**

**Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they had to leave the garden.** (*Show image of Adam and Eve leaving garden.*) **God told them that because of their sin, their lives would be full of hard work and pain, and they would eventually die. But God’s love for Adam and Eve never changed. He continued to take care of them, and before they left the garden, He made them clothes out of animal skins.** (Have kids turn to Genesis 3:21. Read verses 21– 24 together.)

**Even better, God promised something very important: He promised to send a Savior to save people from their sins and restore their relationship with Him.** (Have assistant mold a cross and place it in the center of the heart.) **Who was the Savior whom God promised to send?** (Allow answers.) **Right—Jesus!**

**God made the way for us to be with Him forever. Who is the way?** (Allow answers.) **Jesus is the way. He paid the price for our sin by dying on the cross. The God of all creation—who was, and is, and always will be—loves you so much that He made the way for you to be with Him forever. Because of Jesus, you too can be a part of The Big God Story.** (Share a story of when you realized that God was the Creator of all things and made the way for you to know Him and be with Him forever.)


 LARGE GROUP  
SECTION

# Respond//

15–20 min.

Host/Worship Leader



***This time allows kids to worship through silence, prayer, singing, giving, sharing, thanksgiving, and other ways.***

***Make plans for your worship time, but prepare yourself and your team to hold them loosely if the Holy Spirit leads the group in a different direction.***



## Partner Church Comments

“LG Respond was great too—the kids got into it so much that we decided afterward to add two more worship stations: Write & Draw.”  
*Elmbrook Church*

## SUPPLIES

- worship music (suggestions: “Thank You,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours* and “Come Unto Me,” TruWorship *You Are*; available at [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com) for Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users; or iTunes)
- Worship Response Station: Encouragement Cards
- pencils or pens
- optional: pieces of creation (leaves, shells, rocks, twigs, flowers, etc.), poster board (1 sheet per 3–4 kids), glue, markers

## SET UP

Set up the Worship Response Station and cue the music. Optional: Set out the pieces of creation, poster board, glue, and markers.

## ENGAGE

**The God who created all things, who spent time in the garden with Adam and Eve, who sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to save us from our sins—this amazing God is here with us right now! He is eternal. Our Remember Verse declares that “from everlasting to everlasting you are God” (Psalm 90:2).**

Start playing soft, worshipful music and invite the children to respond to what the Holy Spirit is saying to them. Encourage them to visit the Worship Response Station and write Encouragement Cards. Optional: Suggest they create a collage by gluing down pieces of creation onto a sheet of poster board. They can use the markers to write down things they know to be true about God.

After the kids have had time to respond in one of these ways, lead them in one or two worship songs.

## IT'S OKAY IF ...

Help children understand that God speaks to us in many ways—mostly through His Word, but also through prayer and other ways. Encourage the kids to ask God for the ability to hear His voice, but also give them the freedom to know that it's okay if they don't always experience Him in the ways other people do.



NOTES:



**Worship Response Stations**

Worship Response Stations give children the opportunity to worship God both corporately and individually. Choose from the examples below or create your own Worship Response Stations, and make them fixed features in your large group space. Find photos and more detailed ideas for constructing these stations in the “How It Works” document at [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com). (If you’re just getting started with these stations, the Prayer Wall and Prayer Journal may be the easiest to build and introduce to your kids and families.)

**World Prayer Map**

Kids and their families place star stickers on a world map, marking places (countries, cities, etc.) they sense God calling them to pray for. They can spend time praying for the people, leaders, governments, etc., in those places and also commit to praying for them at home.

**Prayer Wall**

Children and their families write prayers on sticky notes or small squares of colored paper and secure them to a corkboard, magnet board, whiteboard, or other memo board. Periodically you’ll need to remove the prayers and place them in a book or journal, which can be passed around to others for intercessory prayer.

**Prayer Journals**

Children and their families express their thoughts and prayers by writing in a journal or notebook. You can make the notebooks available at the Prayer Wall or create a separate box or stand labeled Prayer Journals.

**Giving Boxes**

Children and their families give money offerings as an act of sacrificial worship. Giving Boxes introduce kids to the concept of tithing.

**Encouragement Cards**

Children and their families write notes of encouragement, love, or affirmation to their friends, family members, and others.

**Note: Remember to display the Worship Response Stations on REMEMBER & CELEBRATE weekends.**


  
**SMALL GROUP**
  
 SECTION

# Respond//

15–20 min.

Small Group Leaders



*A time to engage in relationship, reflect on the lesson with spiritual conversation, and/or create a meaningful project or piece of art.*



## Resource Tip

“Science Experiments” activities are available for this lesson. Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users may access this resource at [tru.davidccook.com](http://tru.davidccook.com).

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## Reflect: God Is Eternal

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

### Questions for Younger Kids

- What existed before God created the world? (Genesis 1:1–2)
- After God finished creating, what did He call “very good”? (Genesis 1:31)
- Who gave the breath of life? (Genesis 2:7)
- What did God say would happen if Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? (Genesis 2:16–17)
- What were some of the consequences of eating from the tree? (Genesis 3:19)  
How did this change our relationship with God?
- God promised to send a Savior. Who is the Savior?

### Questions for Older Kids

- Who existed before God created the world? (Genesis 1:1–2)
- After God finished creating, what did He call “very good”? (Genesis 1:31)
- Who gives the breath of life? (Genesis 2:7)
- Why did God tell Adam not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? (Genesis 2:16–17)
- What did the serpent tell Eve about God? (Genesis 3:1–5)
- How is this different from what God said?
- What do we know to be true about God from this part of The Big God Story?
- What were some of the consequences of eating from the tree? (Genesis 3:19)  
How does this affect us today?
- God promised to send a Savior. Who is the Savior?



NOTES:



## Create: From Everlasting to Everlasting

God is eternal. Before the foundations of the earth, and through all of human history, He has existed and will always exist. Today the children will have the opportunity to respond to the Holy Spirit in a creative way by writing a psalm to the Lord and then illustrating or painting the psalm.

### SUPPLIES

- Bibles (1 per child)
- poster board (1 sheet)
- markers
- watercolors
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- cups of water (1 per 2–3 children)
- paper towels

### SET UP

Place the poster board in the center of a table. At the top of the poster board, write “From everlasting to everlasting You are God.”

### ENGAGE

Invite the children to open their Bibles and take turns reading the following verses: Psalm 90:2, Psalm 103:17, Isaiah 40:28–31, Revelation 4:8b, and Revelation 4:11. After each verse, ask: **What does this verse say about God?** Allow children to answer, and interact with their responses.

Now encourage your kids to work together to write a psalm to the Lord on the poster board. Have them use the phrase you wrote earlier as a starting point. If your kids have trouble getting started, invite them to share words or phrases from the verses they just heard. Then help them build a psalm around those words. Once the children finish their psalm, encourage them to illustrate the psalm by drawing or painting over or around the words.

Be sure to save this CREATE piece for the upcoming REMEMBER & CELEBRATE lesson (1.6).


 SMALL GROUP  
SECTION

# Bless //

5 min.

Small Group Leaders



***A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement or guidance.***

***Blessings can be offered in order to ask God's Spirit to overflow from the child's life to bless others or prayed over a child for the purpose of declaring God's protection, joy, or wisdom.***

## Programming Note

Depending on the structure of your end-of-service pick-up time, you might give this formal blessing at the end of small group, or you might move it to the end of large group RESPOND. If parents typically arrive to pick up their children at about the same time, involve them in the blessing. However, if parents tend to pick up their kids at staggered intervals, you might have each Small Group Leader bless her group before transitioning into the small group room.

## Leader Tip

Every lesson ends with a blessing. This is a time for parents and leaders to speak truth over children's lives. The idea of the blessing is to transition the child from being blessed to being a blessing to others.

The blessing can be done in many ways, but the more intentional you are about it, the more powerful it will be. Depending on whether parents are able to join this time, you may want them to put their hands on their child's head or kneel and look him in the eye as they bless him. Leaders, be sure to model how you envision the blessing working in your church so your volunteers and parents become comfortable with it.

As kids are blessed, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share with others the joy and love they've received from God.

Encourage the children to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and receive what God has for them. Invite them to remain in this posture as you bless them. Encourage parents to come early in order to read the blessing over their child.

Open a Bible and read Psalm 89:1:

**I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**

**Children, God made you, and He knows you. You are always in His sight. Because of His great love for you, He sent His Son to earth to be your Savior so you might be with Him forever. May you trust and obey Him all the days of your life. May you choose to live a life that shares His story with the world.**





NOTES:



# home|front

**HomeFront Weekly:** Be sure to send home the HomeFront Weekly for next week's lesson! This preteaching tool for parents encourages families to spend time in God's Word together before children arrive at church.



**HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource:**

This magazine gives families ideas for creating fun, spiritually forming times in their homes—setting aside a sacred space for family in the midst of their active, everyday lives! As the new issues become available each month, you may choose to print them for families or encourage them to visit [HomeFrontMag.com](http://HomeFrontMag.com) to subscribe to have the magazine sent directly to their inbox. HomeFront is also available as an app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.