

**Lesson 1****PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN**

# God and His Creation

**Background Notes for Teachers:** See pp.1-5 in the *Renovaré Life with God Bible*, “The People of God in Individual Communion.”

**Center Down**

Shoes off, quiet book time with soft music (children may choose a book from the Reading Center).

**Prayer Time**

Ask children to return books to Reading Center. Gather the children in a group around you and say, “When we pray, we talk with God. We can tell God what we’re thinking about, we can ask God for what we need, and we can even listen for an answer. Let’s pray together right now.”

Start the prayer by saying, Hello God. We’re so glad that you are here with us. As you already know, we are here together and we would like to talk with you. Model the prayer first. With honesty, talk with God about something that’s on your mind. Invite each child to share something with God, maybe something they are worried about, maybe just something they’d like to tell God. Then say, [Child’s name] wants to talk with you. Give the child a chance to talk aloud with God. Model listening to each child’s prayer, and help the other children to listen as well. Every child doesn’t have to share, only those who would like to. After everyone who wants to pray has prayed, say, We have talked and now we can listen to see what God has to say to us. Then spend 30 seconds in silence listening. Then: Thank you, God, for talking with us. Please keep talking with us. Amen.



## Connect

Invite children to walk around the room and notice the new things that are up on the walls. Encourage them to ask questions. Show the children the timeline. Ask them to find the beginning and the end. Read aloud some of the names on the timeline. Ask the children if they have heard of any of them. Show the children where we are today on the timeline. Show the children where creation is on the timeline.

## Focus Verse

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31, NIV).

## Listen

Give the children their own Beginner’s Bible. Show them that there is a section called the Old Testament, and a section called the New Testament. Tell them that this is a book about people getting to know God.

## Learn

Have the children open their Beginner’s Bible to p.7, “The Beginning.” Ask the children: Look at the pictures. What do you think this story will be about?

Read pp.8-9 aloud. Ask the children: What did God call the light? What did God do on the second day?

Read pp.10-11 aloud. What did God make on the third day? Why did God make a sun and a moon?

Read pp.12-13 aloud. Why do you think God made birds to fly instead of swim? What was the most wonderful creature of all?

Tell the children that the word Adam means human. God made humans, and he thinks we’re wonderful. What did God do on the seventh day?

## Snack

Ask a different child each week to help serve snack. Then enjoy eating together and sharing in conversation, developing relationships with the children. During this time discuss the available response centers and what to do in them and who wants to go where. If appropriate, share how a center may tie into the Bible story, but remember that the focus at this age is play, so don’t make it into a lesson.

## Do

Children are now invited to respond to the story through response centers.

Essential Response Centers: These are fundamental regardless of how many children there are. It is important that you play with the children during this time. In this way, you are able to guide them relationally in appropriate activities and behavior. Move from one center to another as you are needed.

1. Reading Center: Have available a large variety of age-appropriate picture books. Have a few small pillows to sit comfortably and “read.”
2. Animal Center: Have available an assortment of stuffed animals. Children love to pretend they are animals who just happened to have been recently created.
3. Collage Center: Have available pre-cut magazine pictures of God’s creation: plants, animals, people, and flowers, anything natural, as well as sheets of construction paper and glue sticks. Allow the children to make a collage of God’s creation.

Optional Response Centers: To be provided if there are more than 12 children in the class, total class time is longer than an hour, and more variety of play is desired.

4. Building Center: Provide blocks, Legos, Lincoln Logs, or whatever you have available for children to build whatever they like, as they create.
5. Art Center: Have available crayons or markers and blank paper to draw anything the child chooses.
6. Puzzle Center: Provide age-appropriate jigsaw puzzles for children to do quietly.

## Sing/Conclusion

Preschool children will sing the beloved children’s songs of old. Play the preschool CD to learn the songs, and then sing the songs acappella, since children love to hear their own voices. Don’t be concerned with how you sound, it will be a joyful noise as you and the children sing. Enjoy the songs together. Sing loud, dance, and rejoice in the Lord! This week’s song is:

### **Rejoice in the Lord Always**

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

*And again I say rejoice*

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

*And again I say rejoice*

*Rejoice, rejoice*

*And again I say rejoice  
Rejoice, rejoice  
And again I say rejoice*

**Lesson 1**  
**FIRST AND SECOND GRADES**

# God and His Creation

**Background Notes for Teachers:** See pp.1-5 in the *Renovaré Life with God Bible*, “The People of God in Individual Communion.”

## Center Down

Shoes off, quiet book time with soft music

## Prayer Time

Prayer requests clockwise, prayer counterclockwise, allowing children to pass

## Connect

Invite children to walk around the room and notice the new things that are up on the walls. Encourage them to ask questions. Show the children the timeline. Ask them to find the beginning and the end. Read aloud some of the names on the timeline. Ask the children if they have heard of any of them. Show the children where we are today on the timeline. Show the children where creation is on the timeline.

## Focus Verse

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening and morning — the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31 NIV).

## Listen

Give the children their own *Beginner’s Bible*. Show them that there is a section called the New Testament, and a section called the Old Testament. Tell them that this is a book about people getting to know God.

## Learn

Have the children open their Bibles to p.7, “The Beginning.” Ask the children: Look at the pictures. What do you think this story will be about?

Read pp.8-9 aloud. Ask the children: What did God call the light? What did God do on the second day?

Read pp.10-11 aloud. What did God make on the third day? Why did God make a sun, and a moon?

Read pp.12-13 aloud. Why do you think God made birds to fly instead of swim? What was the most wonderful creature of all?

Tell the children that the word Adam means human. God made humans, and he thinks we’re wonderful. What did God do on the seventh day?

## Do

Create a Bookmark

Materials: cardstock (cut into bookmark-size strips), markers, crayon, pencils

1. Have a bookmark completed to show to the children.
2. Write the focus verse on each bookmark.
3. Ask the children to name all the things that God created. The list will be long. Allow them to name everything that they can think of.
4. Now, have the children draw and color some of the things that God created.
5. Show the children where creation is on the timeline, and then post your bookmark above the space on the timeline where creation is listed.

## Extension



**Celebration:** Knowing that every good gift is from God and a reason to party

### Celebration Poster

Materials: blank poster board, markers, crayons, pencils

Write the word “celebration” on the board. Tell the children that a celebration is a party.

Ask the children: Did you know that one way to get to know God is by having a party?

Remind the children that on the last day of creation, God rested. Sometimes people have parties to help them rest. Resting means we’re not working.

Do you think that God might have had a party on that last day? Who do you think he might have invited to the party?

Write “Celebration is knowing that every good gift is from God and a reason to party” on a piece of poster board. Have the children draw around the words and decorate the poster with scenes of that first party. Locate a spot on the wall where all the posters of the Spiritual Disciplines will be gathered. Put this first poster up.

Now, have a party, complete with snacks, music, and dancing.

## Sing/Conclusion

Have the words of “Do Life with Me” and “Let’s Celebrate” written on poster board. Although the children usually can’t read at this age, they do like to follow along when we point to the words. And we might have some children who can and are learning to read. This is great reinforcement. You can also sing these songs to highlight the discipline of celebration. Enjoy the songs together. Sing loud and rejoice in the Lord!





**Lesson 1**  
**THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE**

# God and His Creation

**Background Notes for Teachers:** See pp.1-5 in the *Renovaré Life with God Bible*, “The People of God in Individual Communion.”

## Center Down

Shoes off, quiet book time with soft music

## Prayer Time

Prayer requests clockwise, prayer counterclockwise, allowing children to pass

## Connect

Invite children to walk around the room and notice the new things that are up on the walls. Encourage them to ask questions. Show the children the timeline. Ask them to find the beginning and the end. Read aloud some of the people on the timeline. Ask the children if they have heard of any of them. Show the children where we are today on the timeline. Show the children where creation is on the timeline.

## Focus Verse

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening and morning — the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31 NIV).

## Listen

Materials: Candle, matches

Give each child an *International Children’s Bible*. Tell the children that this is a collection of stories about people meeting and getting to know God. Help the children find the books of the Old Testament. Tell them that these stories are about God and his people before Jesus was born

on Earth. Help the children find the books of the New Testament. Tell them that these stories tell about Jesus, God's Son, and about people knowing God through Jesus.

Turn off the lights, light the candle in the middle of the room. Have the children get comfortable and ask the children what they think the universe was like before God created it. Ask the children to listen for the word light as you read.

Read Genesis 1-2:3 aloud to them.

After reading, turn the lights on and blow the candle out. Ask the children to share anything that was interesting to them. Ask them to share their thoughts.

## Learn

Assign the following Scriptures to teams of children. Help them look up the verse, and read aloud. Help the children think reflectively by asking questions about the Scriptures after they are read.

Genesis 1:26: "Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image and likeness'" (ICB).

Ask the children: Who do you think "us" is? If the word our means more than one, who is there with God, helping to create the world?

Revelation 22:13: "Jesus said, 'I am the Beginning and the Ending'" (paraphrase).

If Jesus is the beginning and the ending, when is the beginning?

Luke 24:27: "Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning him" (NIV).

Is God talking about Jesus in Genesis? Why do you think that?

John 14:46: "Jesus said, 'I am the light that has come into the world. No one who believes in me will stay in the dark hiding anymore'" (paraphrase).

Does this remind you of anything? How did God give us a picture of light and dark? What did God do on the seventh day? What does rest mean? How do humans rest?

**Do**



**Celebration:** Knowing that every good gift is from God and a reason to party

Celebration Poster

Materials: blank poster board, markers, crayons, pencils

Tell the children: Your life is a story. Your story began when you were born. Like the people in the Bible, your story also has God in it. God has known everything about you since before you were born. Now, you just need to get to know him. We get to know people by being with them. It's the same with God. We get to know him by being with him. There are many ways to get to be with God. Some of the ways that help us be with God are called Spiritual Disciplines. But don't let the word discipline scare you! Discipline only means it is something we choose to do. We have to want to do it. We want to be with God, so we pray. Prayer is a Spiritual Discipline. Another one we can practice is celebration.

Write the word "celebration" on the board. Tell the children that a celebration is a party.

Ask the children: Did you know that one way to get to know God is by having a party?

Remind the children that on the last day of creation, God rested. Sometimes people have parties to help them rest. Resting means we're not working.

Do you think that God might have had a party on that last day? Who do you think he might have invited to the party?

Write "Celebration is knowing that every good gift is from God and a reason to party" on a piece of poster board. Have the children draw around the words and decorate the poster with scenes of that first party. Locate a spot on the wall where all the posters of the Spiritual Disciplines will be gathered. Put this first poster up.

Now, have a party, complete with snacks, music, and dancing.

## **Extension**

Invite the children to think of the week coming up. Ask: Is there any reason you can think to throw a party? How about a party just for your family, a “Thank God it’s Friday” party, maybe an indoor beach party in February?

Create a list of reasons to have a party. Help the children make plans to throw a party at home. Help them think of snacks and decorations that they can make, as well as party music.

## **Sing/Conclusion**

Have the words of “Do Life with Me” and “Let’s Celebrate” written on poster board. You can sing these songs to highlight the discipline of celebration. Enjoy the songs together; sing loud and rejoice in the Lord! With the first introduction of the song, invite the children to create movements. A fun idea: Video the children singing and doing their movements and show it to the church. Invite the children to teach the song and the movements one Sunday to the greater congregation.

**Lesson 1**  
**FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE**

# God and His Creation

**Background Notes for Teachers:** See pp.1-5 in the *Renovaré Life with God Bible*, “The People of God in Individual Communion.”

## Center Down

Shoes off, quiet book time with soft music

## Prayer Time

Prayer requests clockwise, prayer counterclockwise, allowing children to pass

## Connect

Invite children to walk around the room and notice the new things that are up on the walls. Encourage them to ask questions. Show the children the timeline. Ask them to find the beginning and the end. Read aloud some of the people on the timeline. Ask the children if they have heard of any of them. Show the children where we are today on the timeline. Show the children where creation is on the timeline.

## Focus Verse

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening and morning — the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31 NIV).

## Listen

Give each child a *New International Version Bible* and a blank journal. Remind the children that the Bible is a collection of stories about people meeting and living a life with God. Help the children find the books of the Old Testament. Tell them that these stories tell about God and his people before Jesus was born on Earth. Help the children find the stories of the New Testament. Tell them that these books tell about Jesus, God’s Son, and about people living with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Have the children read Genesis 1-2:3 silently to themselves. Encourage the children as they read to listen for the Holy Spirit speaking to them. Reference the section in the introduction on “Hearing God” to help children discern the voice of God. Ask them to let the scriptures remind them of things that they are thankful for. While they are reading, write a list of the things that they are thankful for in their journal.

Give the children a chance to share what they heard the Holy Spirit say, and to share the things that they are thankful for.

## Learn

Assign the following scriptures to teams of children. Help them look up the verse and read aloud. Help the children to think reflectively about them after they are read by asking questions.

Genesis 1:26: “Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image and likeness’” (ICB).

Ask the children: Who do you think us is? If the word our means more than one, who is there with God, helping to create the world?

Revelation 22:13: “Jesus said, ‘I am the Beginning and the Ending’” (paraphrase).

If Jesus is the beginning and the ending, when was the beginning?

Luke 24:27: “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning him” (NIV).

Is God talking about Jesus in Genesis?

John 14:46: “Jesus said, ‘I am the light that has come into the world. No one who believes in me will stay in the dark hiding anymore’” (paraphrase).

Does this remind you of anything? How did God give us a picture of light and dark? What did God do on the seventh day? What does rest mean? How do humans rest?

## Do



**Celebration:** Knowing that every good gift is from God and a reason to party

### Celebration Poster

Materials: blank poster board, markers, crayons, pencils

Tell the children: Your life is a story. Your story began when you were born. Like the people in the Bible, your story also has God. God has known about you even before you were born. Now, he wants you to get to know him and live your life right now with him. There are many ways to get to know God. Some of the ways that help us to know and live with God are called Spiritual Disciplines. But don't let the word discipline scare you! Discipline only means it is something we choose to do. We have to want to do it. We want to talk with God, so we pray. Prayer is a Spiritual Discipline. Another one we can practice is celebration.

Write the word celebration on the board. Tell the children that a celebration is a party.

Ask the children: Did you know that one way to get to know God is by having a party?

Remind the children that on the last day of creation, God rested. Sometimes humans have parties to help them rest. Resting means we're not working.

Do you think that God might have had a party on that last day? Who do you think he might have invited to the party?

Write "Celebration is knowing that every good gift is from God and a reason to party" on a piece of poster board. Invite the children to brainstorm a list of anything that is "good" or "beautiful" or "true." Write or draw these things on the poster board. Locate a spot on the wall where all the posters of the Spiritual Disciplines will be gathered. Put this first poster up.

Now, have a party, complete with snacks and music.

## Extension

Tell the children: These journals are yours. You can write whatever you want in them. But this week you have an assignment. First write the focus verse at the top of a blank page. Each night this week before you go to bed, write the date, and a short list of at least five things that happened during the day that you are thankful for. They can be huge things or tiny things.

Thankfulness is the fuel of celebration. When we think about all that God has given us, we can't help but celebrate. How does being thankful make you want to celebrate? (Taking a journal home could mean that not everyone brings it back. So you might keep a few blank journals for those who don't bring their journal back ... or you might do the Extension Activity in class, although the idea is that the children will make journaling a discipline in itself, outside of class. You could wait a few weeks until the writing and drawings have multiplied and then a greater sense of ownership will exist for the child, and he may keep up with it better.)

## **Sing/Conclusion**

Have the words of "Do Life with Me" and "Let's Celebrate" written on poster board. You can sing these songs to highlight the discipline of celebration. Enjoy the songs together, sing loud, and rejoice in the Lord! With the first introduction of the song, invite the children to create movements. A fun idea: Video the children singing and doing their movements and show it to the church. Invite the children to teach the song and the movements one Sunday to the greater congregation.