



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Read Psalm 8. I remember lying flat on my back in a field in Wisconsin. I had never seen stars like that before. I was on a camping trip with some college friends, far away from the electric light that sometimes obscures the night sky. We had played football earlier in the evening, but when darkness fell, we took time to be still and look up. The sky was so big, and I felt so small. Small, but not insignificant. What amazed me then and amazes me still is that the God who made all those wonders also took time to make me. He even knows my name.

I think everyone longs to be known. When I'm in a crowd, I feel such relief when I see a familiar face. A smile. A wave. One of those looks that says, "Come, sit over here." There's great comfort in being known—in realizing you matter to someone. Now read Genesis 2:7, 15, and 22.

Do you know that you matter to God? Not just in your past or on your best days, but right now as you prepare for this lesson. Maybe you feel insignificant at times, but the truth is God made you on purpose and is pleased to include you in His plans to bring about His kingdom on earth. God knows you, which means you are always known, always seen, and never just another face in the crowd.

—**Michael Rade**

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LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

GOD CREATES HUMANS

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

God is the Creator and Lord of all things. The first people were Adam and Eve, who were appointed by God to tend His creation but eventually sinned against Him. Psalm 8 is attributed to David, the shepherd who God appointed as king over Israel.

WHAT?

God gave humans the authority to rule over and care for His creation. Psalm 8 marvels at this God-given task, along with the reality that the majestic God of heaven thinks about and cares for humans. We are known by God.

WHERE?

In Genesis 2, God places Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The location of Eden remains a mystery, but the context suggests somewhere in Mesopotamia, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow. Psalm 8 was likely written in Jerusalem.

WHEN?

According to Genesis 1, humanity was created on the sixth day of creation. King David ruled many years later, after God had formed a people from Abraham's family and later established them as the nation of Israel. David was the second king of Israel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God created people to know Him and care for His creation. Though humanity sinned and creation went awry, Jesus makes all things new again. He invites us to know Him and participate as children of God in His new creation work.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Creations

SUPPLIES: play dough

Set out the play dough on a table.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here. Come see what we have today! We have play dough, and you can play with it!

Encourage the kids to use the play dough to make something—a person or an animal or a flower. As they're playing, ask them if they like to play outside and what they like to look at outside.

God created everything—trees and water and flowers and animals and people! Today we'll learn that God knows us, and because He knows us, we are known!



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, You know us and love us. Help us learn from Your Word today. And we pray that Your Holy Spirit helps us live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

Ask: Why is the Bible special? ***Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.***

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 13-17

God Creates Humans

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.

—Exodus 15:11c