



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: box of legos, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Creates Humans Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at these stations to help you prepare for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Create a Human

Set up: Place the legos on a table. If you have time, create a person by using the blocks as an example for the kids.

Play: Invite kids to use the blocks to make a person. Ask about their creation. Is their person really big or really small? Tell the kids that they'll learn today about when God made people.

Play Station: God Creates Humans Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of one of their favorite people.



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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

Adam and Eve

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What did God make the man from?** *(the dust of the earth)*
2. **What were the names of the first two people?** *(Adam and Eve)*
3. **What do you think it would have been like to see God create everything?** *(Invite the kids to use their imaginations to picture creation!)*
4. **What are some of the most amazing things about God?**
5. **How can you know that God cares about you?**
6. **What does it mean to you that God knows you?**

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Exodus 15:11c



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Like It or Not?

Because God knows us, we are known! Let's get to know each other even better by playing a fun game together.

Divide the room into side 1 and side 2. Tell kids that you're going to make statements about different activities. If they agree with the statement, they should go to side 1. If they disagree, they should go to side 2. Explain that you will let them know how to move each time.

Use the following statements or come up with your own. After each statement, give the kids a different action to perform. Here are some ideas: hop like a bunny, run in slow motion, move like a robot, tiptoe like a ballet dancer, walk backwards, jump like a frog.

- I like to draw.
- I enjoy playing soccer.
- I like eating vegetables.
- I love to eat cookies.
- I like coming to church.
- I enjoy playing games.
- I love to sing.
- I enjoy playing with friends.
- I like to help cook.
- I enjoy dancing.
- I like to be outside.
- I enjoy going to the pool.

Make It Inclusive! Some kids may not be mobile and able to do many of the activities listed. Be sensitive to their abilities and make sure to name activities that everyone can relate to. Also, be sure to choose movements that all kids can participate in.