

TEEN/ADULT

Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	Destination: Creation	Destination: Old Testament Locations	Destination: Visitation	Destination: Preparation	Destination: Celebration
Time Tracker	Jesus* Before and at Creation	Jesus* in the Old Testament	Jesus in the New Testament	Jesus Now	Jesus in the Future
Simulation Station Lesson Focus	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> with us.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> a promise keeper, from Old Testament times to forever.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> ready to love and forgive all those who want to become his children.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> caring for his children—even now from heaven.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> in charge, including when he reigns as King of kings in the new heaven and new earth.
Bible Passages	Genesis 1 John 1:1–3	Genesis 18 Exodus 3	Selected Verses	Acts 1 John 14:2–3	Revelation 21–22
High Voltage Verses	All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16–17	Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16	In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? John 14:2	At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10–11
Animal Pals	Flutter the Sparrow	Lottie the Lamb	Sergeant the St. Bernard	Bucky the Beaver	King the Lion
Daily C	Creation	Christophany	Cross	Clouds	Crown
Apologetics Focus	Jesus as a member of the Trinity	Prophecies made and fulfilled about Jesus	Jesus is fully man and fully God	Evidences of the resurrection of Jesus	Jesus on the New Earth
Inventors' Science and Crafts	Experiments: A Work of Art & Rocks that Fizz Main Craft: Eternity Circlet	Experiments: Moments in Time & Time to Shine Main Craft: Burning Bush Light	Experiments: Balancing Act & Don't Lose Your Marbles! Main Craft: Criss-Cross	Experiments: The Hand is Quicker than the Eye & Blast Off! Main Craft: Time Warp Time Capsule	Experiments: This Is Nuts! & Twister Time Main Craft: Build-a-Bot Pencil Holder
Quantum Leap Games	Garden of Eden Games	Ancient Hebrew Games	Ancient Roman Games	Nowadays Games	Futuristic Games
Bits and Bytes Snacks	Beginning of Time Treats Trinity Trio	Sarah's Cakes Burning Branches	Christmas Cookies Resurrection Brownies	Mansion of Many Rooms Cotton Candy Clouds	King's Crowns Petri Critters
Cool Contests	Educated Guess Guessing Game	Backwards Day Team Cheers	Christmas in ____ (month of your VBS)	Dress-Up Day Design-the-Time Challenge	Mission Money Mania Names of Jesus Challenge

* Jesus was given the name "Jesus" at his birth.



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Teen/Adult Teacher Guide

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Handy Helps

Let's Get Charged Up!

Wouldn't it be amazing to travel back in time and witness epic events in history? Imagine the thrill of meeting great heroes of the faith like Abraham, Moses, or Gideon. Or the fun of experiencing life in ancient cultures like Rome. Or the fascination of watching famous inventors make discoveries that change the world.

Now imagine traveling through time and meeting *the* most important man ever—a man who was not just a man but who was also God. One who turned the world upside-down. One who existed outside of time.

We'll do just that as we embark on *Time Lab* from Answers VBS. We'll use words beginning with "C" to help us remember that Jesus, our forever faithful, loving, caring, promise-keeping Lord, has been with us always!

Day 1 Creation—Did you know the Son of God has always existed? We'll talk about his existence before time and his activity at creation.

Day 2 Christophany—Big, cool word the kids will love learning that teaches the Son of God didn't start as a babe in a manger but has been around forever, actively involved throughout history, including Old Testament times.

Day 3 Cross—Here's when Jesus comes to earth and is given the name "Jesus." And here's where he lives, dies, and comes back to life. It's the most epic historical account ever! Because of him, we can live forever, too!

Day 4 Clouds—After Jesus rose again, where did he go? He's actively working on our behalf as he sits at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for us, protecting his church, and preparing a place for his children! Wow!

Day 5 Crown—We'll end our tour through time at the new heaven and new earth, where Jesus and his children will live together in the most amazing place forever. Whatever your best day *ever* has been, this will blow it away!

Excitement will be running high from the first minute our time travelers arrive at *Time Lab*. They'll start their day at the **Atomic Assembly**, a supercharged opening complete with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

Simulation Station, the teaching time. Here, time travelers discover Jesus throughout all the pages of the Bible and realize he's a joy and thrill to find.

Bits and Bytes Snacks, the snack spot. Time travelers will enjoy having a "byte" of yummy brain food to eat!

Quantum Leap Games, the recreation location. Time travelers realize every nanosecond counts as they race against time and encounter fun physical challenges and games from ancient (and not-so-ancient) time periods.

Inventors' Science and Crafts, the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array of activities to choose from: electrifying science experiments to explore, creative crafts to invent, high-energy songs to sing, fun memory verse games to play, and mission time to investigate (for those who want to spend more time than is given during the Assembly).

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the **Atomic Assembly** for the closing that includes more singing, a Creature Feature, contest results, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the kids' day. The drama features an inventor tinkering in his lab as he works on his most important invention—his time machine. Will he get it to work? Will it go back in time? Forward in time? Laughs abound and adventures await in this wacky and entertaining drama.

Time sure will fly while we're having fun. So head this way and get ready to launch into hyperdrive as we take off for *Time Lab*! Let's go!

Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past decade! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal! They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be soft-hearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator. Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS loaded with substance with off-the-charts, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers,

it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich content. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun!

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and to understand how they can receive eternal life through

repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it! May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

Your Role

Your role as the Exploration Leader is outlined in the following pages. This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives.

Best fit for this job—Someone who enjoys teaching teens and adults and does the following:

- Plans and prepares the daily lessons for VBS
- Enthusiastically engages in delivery of the lessons during VBS week
- Prays over all aspects of this job

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Time Lab* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/tlfaq.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here's a list of some of the most common terms to know.

- **Time Travelers:** The kids at VBS. Time travelers are put in teams named after elements in the periodic table (e.g., Team Beryllium, Team Cobalt, Team Copper, Team Silver, Team Gold).
- **Time Keepers:** Team leaders who guide the time travelers from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.
- **Scientists (Dr. Slimestein or Dr. Slime, Professor Timely or Professor Time, etc.):** Teachers at the Simulation Station lesson time.
- **Simulation Station:** Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.
- **Atomic Assembly:** Spot where everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.
- **Inventors' Science and Crafts:** Rotation site where kids make crafts, perform science experiments, sing songs, learn memory verses, and explore missions around the world.
- **Bits and Bytes Snacks:** Indoor or outdoor site where yummy snacks are served.
- **Quantum Leap Games:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for game time.
- **High Voltage Verses:** Daily memory verses.
- **Animal Pals:** Friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.
- **Creature Feature:** Daily time during the opening or closing assembly when we marvel together at God's design of various thematic animals.
- **Toddlers:** Ages 2–4 years.
- **Pre-Primaries:** Ages 4–6 years, or age 4 through children who have completed kindergarten.
- **Primaries:** Ages 6–9 years, or children who have completed grades 1–3.
- **Juniors:** Ages 9–12 years, or children who have completed grades 4–6.

For multi-age K–6th teams, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

Tips for Teachers

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).
2. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening his Word and sharing it daily with the students. Walk worthy!
3. Read through all your lesson plans in advance. Begin to pray and plan now, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
4. In this guide:
 - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
 - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
5. It's helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
6. Attend the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
7. Dress as if you are a scientist in a laboratory. Wear pants, a Time Lab T-shirt, and hat (see catalog). Accessorize with a lab coat and goggles.
8. Call the students by name. Name tags help with this.
9. Make sure to keep eye contact as you share the lessons, helping each student sense your warmth and caring.
10. Students will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as he wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
11. Use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
12. Show love. All students, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and a handshake.
13. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the students under your care.
14. Notice the good. Students want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
15. Students generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses.
16. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Treasure Point Lesson Time

Students will be learning a lot from God's Word when they're at Treasure Point Lesson Time. This session is written as a 90-minute period, divided into these sections.

- **Introduce It!** (5 minutes): Each day, the students will be greeted with something interesting that captures their attention and begins the teaching of the day's lesson.
- **Teach It!** (30-35 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time by a teacher.

- **Apply It!** (5 minutes): This is the practical application time.
- **Remember It!** (5 minutes): This is the memory verse review time.
- **Fill It!** (45 or more minutes): Choose from the following to fill your time—video and discussion (60 minutes), snack (5 minutes), game (5 minutes), experiment (5 minutes).

DVD: One disc is included with your leader guide. This DVD can be used in your DVD player or on a computer.

Memory Verse Songs

We have created songs for each of the memory verses. Singing Scripture is an excellent way for students to easily learn their Bible verses. We suggest using the songs (either video or audio) during the Remember It! time in each lesson. The Leader Pack (DVD, DVD-ROM, Music CD) comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately (contemporary: 11-6-069; traditional: 11-6-063). This includes song motion videos,

song lyric videos, and an audio CD. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (answersbookstore.com). And student CDs in packs of 10 are also available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (11-6-070; 11-6-064). The option you choose will determine which type of media device you use to play it.

DAY 1 DESTINATION:

Creation

TIME TRACKER

Jesus Before and at Creation
(Eternity Past to c. 4000 BC)

BIBLE PASSAGES

Genesis 1; John 1:1-3

HIGH VOLTAGE VERSE

"All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

TODAY'S C

Creation

APOLOGETICS FOCUS

Jesus as a member of the Trinity

LESSON FOCUS

Jesus *always has been, always will be* with us.



Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Spotlight Verses
- Teach It!
Part 1: Creation
Part 2: Small Group Time
- Apply It!
Genesis 1:1 Activity
- Remember It!
- Fill It!

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 1 and John 1:1-3 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on the Son of God, the Trinity, and creation, visit answersvbs.com/tlfaq.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

SUPPLIES

- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Black-light flashlight
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Black marker
- ☐ White paper
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Posters with images of clocks
- ☐ Posters of Bible heroes
- ☐ 2 medium-sized cardboard boxes
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ DVD
- ☐ DVD player/set up

Devotion 1

Destination: Creation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

Imagine meeting a man who claimed to be God. What would you think? Crazy nut?

Now imagine this man claimed to be the fulfillment of statements written hundreds of years before. Sure, sure, weirdo.

Now imagine the little boy down the street who had died was running around again. The man who claimed to be God had raised him from the dead. It was no trick—you had seen the boy after he died, and he was now playing with your kids.

The more you hear him teach, the more you realize this *man* is claiming to be the I Am—the eternally existent one. The man standing before you made the trees in the beginning? He made the dinosaurs and . . . you?

Makes you think, doesn't it? Could this man really be who he claimed to be?

This is Jesus.

Even though today we would (and should) scoff at someone staking a claim to deity, Jesus Christ was the real deal. He was the Creator incarnate, the God-Man, the one who came to save his people from their sins, fulfilling the promises God had made since the beginning of time. In fact, he is the creator of time itself and exists outside of time from all eternity. He didn't begin as a babe in a manger—he has existed from all eternity, calling the worlds into being, fashioning the planets and stars, speaking life into a lump of dust, and planning his entrance into time and his subsequent death from the very beginning.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through

him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:16–20

As you study your Bible, focus your attention on Genesis 1 and John 1. Of all the people who have ever lived, ever led a religion, ever claimed to be a deity, only Jesus has the credentials to deserve our worship and devotion. And the only way we can know the truth about him is through his inspired Word, the Bible.

As you prepare to meet Jesus the Creator with your students today, let's meditate on this Puritan prayer about our eternal God and Savior Jesus Christ.

O Lord God, who inhabits eternity
The heavens declare thy glory,
The earth thy riches,
The universe is thy temple;
Thy presence fills immensity,
Yet thou hast of thy pleasure created life,
and communicated happiness;
Thou hast made me what I am,
and given me
what I have;
In thee I live and move and have my being;
Thy providence has set the bounds of my habitation,
and wisely administers all my affairs.
I thank thee for thy riches to me in Jesus,
for the unclouded revelation of him in thy Word,
where I behold his Person, character, grace, glory,
humiliation, sufferings, death, and resurrection;
Impress me deeply with a sense
of thine
omnipresence, that thou art about my path,
my ways, my lying down, my end.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision*
(The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005), "God the Source of
All Good."

- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Black-light flashlight
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Black marker
- ☐ White paper
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Posters with images of clocks
- ☐ Posters of Bible heroes
- ☐ 2 medium-sized cardboard boxes
- ☐ Bibles

PRE-PREP

1. Take apart a regular working flashlight. Set the pieces, along with batteries, inside a box on a table (without chairs). When students arrive, you will ask them to assemble it.
2. Hang clocks, posters of clocks, pictures of biblical heroes, and maps on the wall.
3. Write the verse and reference for Genesis 1:1 on a white piece of paper with a highlighter marker and hang it on the wall.
4. Write the verse and reference for John 1:1-3 on a white piece of paper with a highlighter and hang it on the wall.
5. Write "Open" on one of the medium-sized cardboard boxes. Place the black-light flashlight inside the box and place somewhere in the room to be found later.
6. Prepare your discussion area. Make it comfortable and inviting.
7. Stack Bibles near your discussion area.
8. Create a timeline by taping multiple pieces of white paper together and hanging it on a wall. Draw a horizontal black line through the center of each piece of paper.
9. Turn off the lights.

🕒 You can keep everyone together if you have a small group, or you can divide them as follows:

- Genesis 1:1-5 – Day 1
- Genesis 1:6-8 – Day 2
- Genesis 1:9-13 – Day 3
- Genesis 1:14-19 – Day 4
- Genesis 1:20-23 – Day 5
- Genesis 1:24-31 – Day 6
- Genesis 2:1-3 – Day 7

Introduce It! (20–25 minutes)

Students enter a dark classroom.

Hello, and welcome to our class! It is dark in here, but I saw a box on the table that is full of parts and batteries. Perhaps you can figure out what they are while I see about getting some lamps in here. Come on! We need everybody's help!

Rummage around the room, trying to find a light source. When students gather around the table and are distracted, start a countdown clock, available online at <https://www.timeanddate.com/timer/>. Before class begins, set the time for 3 minutes.

Oh, no! It seems that I bumped something! It's a . . . countdown! There are only ____ minutes left! Hurry and put that together. Time is of the essence! Every second counts!

If your students ask for help, encourage them to find a solution. If the timer sounds and they have not completed their task, have a flashlight ready and help them complete the project.

You all did a great job! I wonder what all is in this room.

Take answers. After you have taken a couple of responses, shine your flashlight around the room to reveal posters of clocks, clocks, maps, pictures of biblical heroes and a box with the word "Open" on it.

It looks like we're in some sort of museum closet. Wait! What is this box? Should we open it?

Allow students to take the box and open it. Inside, they will find a black-light flashlight.

What is it? Take responses.

It appears to be some kind of flashlight. Someone turn it on to see if it works. Let students turn on the flashlight.

Oh, it does work! It's a black light! That must mean there are secret messages around here somewhere. Let's see if we can find them.

Ask a student to shine the flashlight around to find the Bible verses you wrote and hung on the wall before class. Once they find them, ask them to read them aloud. Then, direct students to sit in a comfortable place. You want them to be seated in a manner that invites and encourages conversation and engagement.

Teach It! (15–20 minutes)

Clearly, we were meant to find these verses today. What do you think they mean? Why are they in this dark room with all these pictures of clocks and Bible heroes? Take responses.

So, there's all this talk of time. And beginning. I have a big question. When did time begin? Take responses.

Notice the first words of the verse we found, "In the beginning." A beginning suggests time. From reading Genesis and studying other passages in the Bible, we can find out when time began. It may surprise you that the beginning of everything was not millions or billions of years ago, as you may have heard, but thousands. From studying the Bible, which is supported by scientific evidence, the real timeline of the universe begins around 4000 BC, or approximately 6,000 years ago. At that point, nothing had been created. Now, let's all take a Bible. We're going to divide into small groups. Each group should read their scripture together and discuss their part of the creation account.

Keep them in small groups, encouraging them to read from their Bibles as they answer the next questions. Explain how to look up the book, then the chapter, then the verse.

Now that you have read your scripture passages with your group, I have a question. According to the Bible, who was doing the creating? Take responses.

Listen as a volunteer from Group 1 read Genesis 1:1–2. Note that, “**GOD** created the heavens and the earth” and “the **SPIRIT OF GOD** was hovering over the face of the waters.”

Now, let’s listen as a volunteer from Group 6 reads Genesis 1:26–27. Notice the “us” and “our” references. And note that God created mankind in **HIS OWN** image.

“Us” and “our” mean more than one, so who do you think “us” and “our” refer to? Take responses.

God is three persons in one God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There are not three gods, but one God in three persons. These three make up what is called the Trinity (*tri* means three, like triangle), and all three were there and involved in creation. At that point, God the Son, whom we usually refer to as Jesus, was not actually called Jesus yet. We’ll learn when he’s given the name “Jesus” later. He’s the Son of God, so that’s one name for him. Another name he goes by is “the Word.” Does anyone know where in the Bible that Jesus is referred to as “the Word”? Think back to the verse we found on the wall with the black light.

Take answers. If anyone knows, ask them where and if they would like to read the verses aloud. If not, continue below.

Now, I’m going to read John 1:1–3. Read verses. So, we have established that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were present and active in the creation of the universe.

Here is the last big question. When did the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) begin? Did all three of them begin at creation 6,000 years ago? Or did the Son of God begin later, when he was born in Bethlehem as baby Jesus. Take answers. Then direct everyone to today’s memory verse.

Let’s all turn to Colossians 1:16–17 and read our memory verse together. Do so. God and his Son and the Holy Spirit have all been around forever! They never had a beginning, which means they’re eternal or everlasting. They exist beyond our understanding of time. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11.

The Trinity has been around forever! God never had a beginning, which means he is eternal or everlasting. What’s super cool is they live outside of time! As far back as you can think, they were there. And farther back than that, they were there! And farther back than that, they were there! Doesn’t that blow your mind? Let’s try this little demo to try to picture it. Turn out the lights and grab your highlighters and black light.

First, I need one volunteer. Choose one person and ask him or her to come up to the Timeline on the wall. Instruct volunteer to take a colored highlighter and place a dot on the day his or her life began. Then, have the volunteer color in a little bit (about half an inch) to represent all the years they have lived so far. **Next, let’s color it in some more to represent all the years of your life until you’re old.** How far do you think you should go? Either let them try it and then discuss, or first discuss and then have them color it. Discuss that if a half of an inch equals 12–18 years, 2 or 3 inches equals their whole life.

This colored-in area represents you and your life. But notice how the line goes on and on in one direction? Imagine it never ends. That represents eternity. We talked about how every person has a beginning (where you put your dot), but did you know, we don’t have an end? Sure, we have an end on earth when we die, but then we go on living forever, either with God in heaven, which is filled with all of God’s goodness, or in a terrible place called hell, separated from God’s goodness.

Now, I need one more volunteer. Have the last volunteer sit down and have one new one come up. This one’s going to represent God. Where do you think we should put God’s

beginning? Take responses, and let the volunteer with the marker try to figure out where to put the mark, which will be nowhere.

God's timeline is different than our timeline. It goes on and on in both directions. There is no beginning, so you can just throw your marker away. Have the volunteer gently toss it (safely, away from people) off to the corner. Of course, there's no way to draw a timeline that never ends. It just keeps going and going and going and going and going. As we said before, pretty mind-blowing, huh?

Wrap Up (5–10 minutes)

God created time and then entered into it at one point. This week, we'll be traveling back in time and will focus on Jesus, who is God's Son, and God himself. Jesus is the most unique, fascinating, wonderful person who ever has or ever will live on earth. I'm so excited to share more about him with you this week! He created the universe, in all its glory, and all the small things.

The Bible tells us he knows about everything and cares about everything, even the smallest sparrow. Let's read Matthew 10:29–31. Do so.

Of all of his creations, Jesus cares about people most of all. Jesus created you, loves you, and cares very much about you! How does it make you feel knowing the Creator of the universe, who's been around forever, cares about you? Take responses.

Let's talk about him more during small group time now. Each group is going to answer the same question: What is something you learned about the son of God today? You'll get five minutes to discuss and write your answer with a highlighter that glows in the dark. After five minutes, I'll turn off the lights and we'll shine the black light on your responses.

Set the timer for five minutes. Then, turn off the lights. Shine your black-light flashlight to reveal their answers.

You guys had some great answers! Just like I shined the light to reveal your amazing answers to find out what you learned about God today, God continues to shine his light today to reveal himself to you. The Son of God has always been and always will be. He's never going away. The Bible tells us he will never, ever, ever leave his children.

Explain that they can become a child of God when they repent of their sins (tell God they are sorry for disobeying his commands) and believe that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, paid the penalty for their sins, and rose from the dead. Jesus did all this because he cares so much for them.

Apply It! (5 minutes)

Each day that we meet, we'll have a focus word that starts with the letter "C." Today's focus word was Creation. I'd like each of you to go home tonight and do a little writing or picture-taking. Do you have a journal? A computer? A blog? A smart phone or tablet? A piece of paper and a pencil?

Start this activity by writing Genesis 1:1. Then, write what this passage teaches you about God, about others, and about yourself. Think about all the wonderful people, places, and things that God has created in your life. Take pictures. Draw pictures. Write about it. You are each so creative in your own way. God gave you unique talents and abilities. I'd love for you to bring these to share tomorrow. Or you can keep them tucked away so that you can find them on a day when you need a little encouragement and motivation.

And then, talk to God and thank him for his Son, Jesus, and for the Bible that teaches us about Jesus. Talk to God about how it makes you feel knowing the Son of God has always been here and will never leave you. Thank Jesus for caring for you.

Remember It!

As time allows, review the memory verse by playing the song from the Memory Verse Songs DVD or CD (see page 6). Or play a game such as the following. Use your arm as a volume indicator. Hold your arm out to your side and lower it for “soft” and raise it high for “loud” with variations on the loudness throughout. Students say the verse based on the volume you indicate with your arm. Change the volume before the students say the verse or as they’re saying it. Choose one or two students to also control the volume while the others say the verse.

Fill It!

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time.

Game

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

Snack

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check Bits and Bytes Snacks Guide for more information on today’s suggested snacks.

Experiment


The experiments given in the Inventors’ Science and Crafts Guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the Inventors’ Science and Crafts Guide for more information.

Video: The Gospel Through His-story (32 minutes)

Show the video and then use the following questions to guide a discussion time.

1. How is God’s Word under attack today?
2. If someone doubts the Bible’s history, what else could that cause someone to doubt?
3. What are the 7 Cs of history?
4. According to 1 Peter 1:17–20, when was Christ ordained?
5. The first promise of a Messiah is mentioned in what verse?
6. Why is the phrase “seed of woman” significant in Genesis 3:15?
7. Where did the idea of sacrifice originate? How does that connect to Jesus?
8. Biblically speaking, how many races exist? How does this make you think about events in our world today?
9. How is God’s command for Abram to “Go” and his promise to “bless” all people a prophecy of the Messiah?
10. From which line does the Messiah come, according to Genesis 49:9-10?
11. How have you seen God working in your life?
12. Describe a time when you doubted God. How did that make you feel? What spiritual truths and verses strengthened your faith as a result of that experience?
13. What prophecy is foretold in 2 Samuel 7:12-17? How does this connect with Genesis and the New Testament?

- ☐ Video
- ☐ DVD player and set up

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14. How many years are between the Old and New Testaments? What is this period known as?
15. In the New Testament genealogies of Jesus, is there a contradiction between Matthew and Luke? Why or why not?
16. How can you be a missionary in the world today?