

## Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2020, Week 1

**Today's Bible Story:** Everywhere You Look (Creation) • *Genesis 1–2:3 (Supporting: Genesis 2:7, 21–22)*

**Today's Key Question:** Where do you see God's creativity?

**Today's Bottom Line:** There is no limit to God's creativity.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *LORD, you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are. Psalm 145:3 (NIRV)*

**Monthly Life App:** Creativity—Imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

### **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

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**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray and thank God for His creation and what it reveals to you about His character. Pray that you would have the patience needed to lead your group and help them to engage in the truth they're going to hear about today and how they can apply it in their lives.*

#### **1. Just for Fun**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group*

**What You Need:** Offering container

**What You Do:**

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Explain** that you will call out a color and within three seconds, the person on your left must name something that is that color.
- **Continue** around the circle, naming things that are the correct color until someone misses the 3-second mark and is out.
  - During each round, kids may not repeat something someone else has said.
- **Play** until only one kid is left and then repeat with another color.

## 2. Opening Activity

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Glass jars or cups, food coloring, warm water, oil, measuring spoon, disposable bowls, table covering

### What You Do:

- **Pair up students** and give partners a jar filled about 3/4 full with warm water.
- **Assist** kids in measuring three tablespoons of vegetable oil into their bowls.
- **Direct** them to carefully add several drops of each color of food coloring into the oil.
- **Take turns** watching each team pour their oil mixture into their jar of warm water.
  - The oil will stay at the top of the water for a moment, and then the colored drops will sink down into the water and mix together creating a fireworks-like design.
  - (The drops won't explode like fireworks, but they'll fall into the water quickly and disperse into different patterns and designs.)
- **Prompt** kids to observe the limitless variety of designs that were created.

### What You Say:

"If we repeated this experiment every day for the next 10 years, we'd see a different 'firework' design each time. There's an unlimited, never-ending amount of ways the colors in the oil will move through the water. **[Transition] As amazing as that is to consider, it doesn't compare to the boundless creativity of God. He is the author of creativity and we can read about it in the Bible. Let's go to Large Group and discover where creativity all began.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### 1. Take a Snapshot

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group*

**What You Need:** Note cards, pens

### What You Do:

- **Give** each person a note card and pen.
- **Assign** one of the categories below to each kid.
- **Ask** kids to write five important (yet simple) facts they feel people should know about that specific topic. Their answers should be kept secret for now.
  - trees
  - cats
  - people
  - God
  - creation
  - dirt
  - the sun

- water
- light
- broccoli
- **Form** two teams, after kids have finished writing their facts.
- **Ask** a player on one team to challenge the other team to guess all five things listed on his card, within 10 guesses.
  - The guessing team gets a point for each correct guess.
  - The other team gets a point for each item on the list that is not guessed.
  - **Switch** roles and keep score until all the cards have been guessed.
  - **Declare** a winner.

### What You Say:

"You've obviously been paying attention in science class! Nice job naming important information about the world around us. No matter how much we already know, there is so much more we can learn about creation and the God who made it all. We have an amazing God with limitless power, love, and creativity. And get this—He created us in His image! That's exciting to think about, which is what we will do this month as we focus in on creativity and discover what we can do just because we're made in God's image!"

## 2. Bible Story Extension

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment*

### What You Need: Bible

### What You Do:

- **Choose** partners.
- **Review** the days of creation by naming things God made.
  - A few suggestions are listed below.
  - Add others as needed.
- **Tell** partners to work together to indicate the day on which it was created by using the fingers of one hand combined with the hand of their partner.
  - (For example, one partner holds up two fingers and the other holds up three to indicate Day Five of creation.)
    - stars (Day Four)
    - people (Day Six)
    - fish (Day Five)
    - sea (Day Two)
    - light (Day One)
    - plants and seeds (Day Three)
    - birds (Day Five)
    - moon (Day Four)
    - trees (Day Three)
    - land animals (Day Six)
    - sky (Day Two)
    - land (Day Three)

- sun (Day Four)
  - night and day (Day One)
- **Ask:**
  - When you think about the order in which God made things, what do you notice? Why do you think God created the world in the order He did?
  - What does it mean to be created in God's image? What characteristics and qualities do we have that God also has?
  - Why do you think God chose to create us in His image?
- **Encourage** kids to share things they are thankful for in God's creation and what attribute or characteristic of God they see in it. If needed, suggest some of the following qualities:
  - loving
  - powerful
  - sense of humor
  - kind
  - creative
  - all-knowing
  - all-seeing
  - all-present
  - limitless

### 3. Discussion Questions

#### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

##### **Ask:**

- What is the most interesting thing you can think of in all of God's creation? (*Use a mobile device to pull up a picture of a "Bird Poop Moth" by way of an example of an unusual creation.* <https://bit.ly/2RGxaGG>)
- What questions do you have about the way the world began or how people were first created?
- Name some ways that all people are created in God's image.
- If we believe everyone is made in God's image, how should that impact the way we treat others?

## 4. Verse to Take with You

### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving*

#### What You Need: Bibles

#### What You Do:

- **Make sure** each kid has a Bible.
- **Invite** kids to look up and read Psalm 145:3. If anyone needs help finding the verse, remind them that Psalms is in the middle of the Bible.
- **Ask** someone to read the verse aloud as everyone follows along.
- **Lead** kids in focusing on areas of praise based on who God is and what He has done.
  - When you say, "Lord, you are great," what comes to mind? What makes God GREAT?
  - Name some reasons why God is worthy of praise.
  - Why are we not able to completely understand how great God is?
  - If we can't fully understand the greatness of God is, why should we try?
- **Challenge** the group to memorize Psalm 145:3 by saying it together using the following game:
  - Without telling them why or how you're choosing them, choose a specific group of kids to lead the others in reciting Psalm 145:3. (For example, pick kids wearing red, or all 5<sup>th</sup> graders, or all kids with brown hair, etc.)
  - Ask that group of kids to quickly come up with a creative way to say/sing/sign/motion the verse and teach it to the rest of the group.
  - After they've said the verse together, challenge the group to figure out how you choose the first group.
  - Repeat using different criteria for selecting those who will lead the others in saying the verse. (Or let the someone from the first group choose the next group and see if the kids can guess the criteria for the new group.)
- **Encourage** kids to keep their Bibles marked at Psalm 145:3 and use it as a prayer of praise to God every day over the next week.

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application*

**What You Need:** Bible

#### **What You Do:**

- **Read** Psalm 145:3, pausing after each phrase to let kids echo in response, “There’s no limit to Your creativity.”
- For example, if using NIV you might follow this pattern:
  - “Lord, you are great.” There’s no limit to Your creativity.
  - “You are really worthy of praise.” There’s no limit to Your creativity.
  - “No one can completely understand how great you are.” There’s no limit to Your creativity.
- **Allow** a brief moment in between phrases for kids to offer prayers of praise (either silently or out loud) thanking God for who He is and what He has done.
  - As they pray, encourage them to think about the unlimited power, love, wisdom, and creativity of our amazing Creator.

“Dear God, You are the greatest creator of all. You made everything we see around us and even the things we cannot see with our eyes. You deserve our best praise and we offer it to You now. Thank You for being a God of love, power, grace, and creativity. In Jesus’ name, amen.”