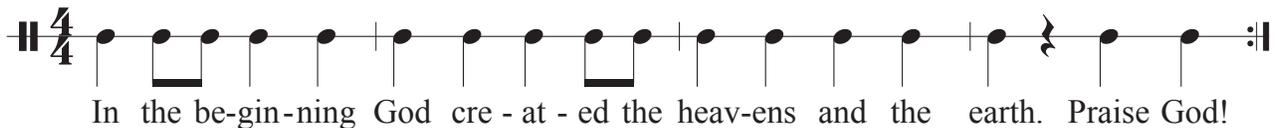


# Creative

To be created in the image of a Creator is to be creative.  
Each of us has the ability to create something beautiful, something meaningful.  
And real creativity isn't about having the most.  
It's about doing the most with what you have.



Bible Beat: **Genesis 1:1**



Songs: **"In the Image"** and **"Created to Create"**



Treasure of Nature: **Feather**



Art Experience: **Cartooning**



Game: **One Word at a Time**

### Materials You'll Need:

- Feather
- 4x11" Poster board or cardstock strips
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Song pages for "In the Image" and "Created to Create"



# Treasure of Nature: Feather

*Hand each person a feather.*

**Say:**

Hold your feather. Feel how light it is.

Tickle the palm of your hand with it.

Now shape your hands into a little nest and gently hold the feather.

Sometimes we can get scared, worried, or stressed about things in our lives.

Will I be okay in a new class or a new school?

Will anyone come to my party?

Will we always have enough to eat or drink?

How long will we have to stay safe at home?

These worries are natural. But God doesn't want us to spend so much time worrying that we miss out on the wonder of life.

Just as God knows every curve in your thumbprint, God knows every feather of every bird. God cares for every bird, and God cares for *you* very much.

Listen to these words from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 25-27 -

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Now let's sit in silence. Look at the feather in your hands and know that God will take care of you.

*After a few moments of silence, pray (the children can echo):*

**Loving God,  
Help us to not worry so much.  
We know your love will take care of us.  
Amen.**



# Cartooning

**Materials:** Strips of white poster board (or cardstock or paper), pencils, colored pencils. Each strip should be at least 4 inches high and 11 inches long.

## **Background:**

A comic strip is, in a sense, a storyboard.

Storyboarding was made popular by Walt Disney as a way to graphically outline a story.

## **What to Do:**

Give each person a strip of white poster board and a pencil.

Have each person divide their strip into four equal panels.

Invite them to use each panel to depict one of the events in a favorite Bible story.

For the Creation Story, each person can choose one day of Creation to depict.

Give everyone access to an assortment of colored pencils to add color to their panels. Older children may enjoy adding speech balloons and thought balloons for a more authentic cartoon feel.

This activity can be modified to more or fewer panels, depending on the Bible story.

And remember, this activity is great for any Bible story as it offers our young artists a visually artistic way to demonstrate their knowledge of the Bible story.



# One Word at a Time

## Improv Game

**Players:** 2 or more

## **How to Play:**

Sit in a circle. Invite one person to start a story by saying the first word.

The next person says the next word of the story, and so on.

Go around the circle several times until a story has been told.

If there are only two people, simply go back and forth (**Story Tennis!**).

Person 1: In

Person 2: the

Person 3: beginning

Person 4: God

Person 1: created...

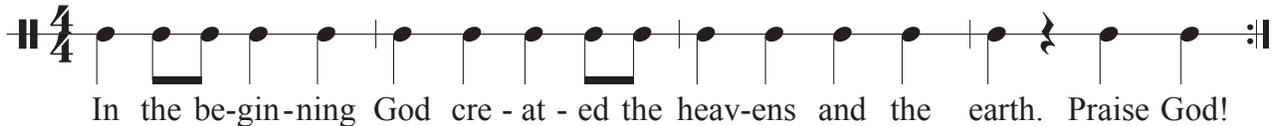
You can play this with just about any Bible story. And it's a fun way to assess how well the children have internalized the story.



# Family Worship

## Opening Song: "Created to Create"

### Say and Play the Bible Beat: Genesis 1:1



## Bible Story: Four Faithful (Creative) Friends

Based on Mark 2:1-12

For today's Bible story, we are going to flash forward from the very beginning of the Bible all the way to the second book in the New Testament – Mark. Here we find some very faithful and creative friends. This story has a lot of ups and downs. Listen carefully as I read. Every time you hear the word "up," stand up. And every time you hear the word "down," sit back down. Got it? Here we go!

**Up** on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee was the town of Capernaum. Jesus went there with his disciples. Arriving at a home, Jesus sat **down** and began teaching.

So many people had gathered there - that the house and yard were filled **up** with people. Meanwhile, four friends seemed rather **down**. On a mat, they carried their friend who was paralyzed. They really wanted their friend to see Jesus, but they couldn't squeeze past all those people. They needed to come **up** with a creative solution.

They looked **down** at their friend, then **up** at the roof of the house. They knew just what to do. They reached **down** and picked **up** their friend, carrying him onto the roof. Then they dug a hole in the roof and lowered their friend **down**.

All the people in the house looked **up** and were surprised to see a man being lowered **down**. But Jesus was delighted at the faith of those friends. He told the man on the mat that his sins were forgiven. This made some of the legal experts there raise **up** an eyebrow. "Who did this Jesus think he was, forgiving someone else's sins?!"

Jesus asked them if it was easier to tell a paralyzed person they were forgiven, or to tell them they could walk. Again, Jesus looked **down** at the man and said, "Get **up**, take your mat, and go home." And that's exactly what happened. Everyone there looked **down** with amazement as the man on the mat got **up**, took his mat, and walked out. Thanks to Jesus, and four faithful, creative friends, nothing could keep the man **down**.

“In the beginning, God created.” That’s how the story of our faith starts. The very first thing we learn about the nature of God is that God is *creative*! Soon after, we learn that we are created *in the image* of God. To be created in the image of a Creator is to be creative. But many people believe they are not creative because they don’t compose symphonies, write best-selling books, or make movies. Yet there are SO many ways to be creative. The four friends in our Bible story show us that. They are faced with a problem and come up with a creative solution for getting their friend in front of Jesus. Our creativity doesn’t have to change the world, but it could change the world for one person.

## **Prayer Experience: Hands**

Let’s all look at our hands. Think about the holy hands that made your hands. God’s hands are a force for good in the world. And you are created in God’s image. That means *your* hands are a force for good in the world. Let’s sit for a few quiet moments as each of us imagines one way we can use our hands today, right where we are, to create more beauty, love, and kindness in God’s amazing world.

*Allow a few moments for silent reflection.*

Continue looking at your hands, as you echo me in prayer:

**Creator God,  
Thank you for creating me.  
Please bless these hands  
to be a creative force for good  
in your amazing world.  
Amen.**

## **Joys and Concerns**

*Offer everyone a chance to share something they want to celebrate (i.e. a birthday, a loose tooth, a yummy meal), and something that’s causing anxiety (i.e. I miss my friends, “Will Nana get sick?”)  
Encourage everyone to be present and listen to one another.*

*After a concern is voiced, people can respond by singing the last phrase from the hymn “How Can I Keep from Singing?” –*

**How can I keep from singing?**

*After joy is voiced, people can respond by singing the first four notes of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus –  
**Hallelujah!***

## **Closing Song: In the Image**