



Creating the World: Days 3 & 4

Lesson Aim: To see God's purposefulness in the way He filled the heavens and the earth and to explore our response to His creation.

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God Is: The God Who Creates

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

The Bible Story: Genesis 1:9-19

What He Has Done: God made the land, the sea, the plants, and the stars.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.
 I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14

Unit 5: The God Who Creates			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
22	Creating the World: Days 1 & 2, Genesis 1:1-8	God created the heavens and the earth.	To learn how God created light, day, night, and sky.
23	Creating the World: Days 3 & 4, Genesis 1:9-19	God made the land, the sea, the plants, and the stars.	To see God's purposefulness in the way He filled the heavens and the earth and to explore our response to His creation.
24	Creating the World: Days 5 & 6, Genesis 1:20, 24-31	God made the creatures of the air, sea, and land.	To appreciate God's unlimited creativity and attention to detail in the creation of all living things.
25	Adam and Eve in the Garden, Genesis 2:15-24	God made Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden.	To see God created us for specific relationships with Himself and others.
26	The Day of Rest, Genesis 2:1-3	God rested. He blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.	To know why God wants us to rest on the Sabbath.

COUNSELOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 104:5-9, 19-23. Please join us in praying, "Lord, thank You for filling the heavens and the earth. Help us appreciate and care for this wonderful creation! Amen."

WHAT IS CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the God of Wonders Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc. Camp Venture is most often introduced as Sunday School curriculum during school vacation months but can easily be adapted as a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 25	Game: Water Wonders Relay	Water spray bottle and bucket for each team, floor tape, timer, music, CD player
THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Praise You" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "For by Him" "In the Beginning" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "This Is My Father's World" "For the Beauty of the Earth" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 90:1-2	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 23 Bible Barn script or storybook
THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME	Up to 5	The Bible Story: Genesis 1:9-19	Bibles
	Up to 10	Pen Pal Letter	Camp Cooler (ice chest), Bible, Pen Pal Letter, a pot of dirt, an orange that is cut into pieces or any fruit with seeds
	Up to 5	Share a Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Creation Keepsake—seed, glow-in-the-dark bouncing ball, Daily Ways and basket or W ³ s for the older campers, Letters from Camp (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, butcher paper or poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Praise You," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Name That Nut	Fruits, nuts, edible seeds, fruit juice
	Up to 15	Game: Pin the Fruit on the Tree	Poster of tree with one fruit painted on it, paper cutouts of fruit, tape, blindfold, markers
	Up to 10	Game: Star Design	None
	Up to 15	Craft: Planting Seeds	Clay pots or plastic cups (preferably 8 oz or larger), markers, glue, craft decorations, potting soil, fruit or vegetable seeds (bean seeds work well), water, straws or craft sticks, note cards
	Up to 15	Discussion: Creation Care	Will be determined by the activity you choose
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Bible Memory Verse Bop	Inflated (non-helium) balloon, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Bible Memory Verse Wave	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. Pray. Today's Bible story teaches us about how God made the land, the sea, the plants, and the stars.

Optional: For added fun through Units 5 and 6, adapt all camp games to a team point system. For suggestions, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

GAME: WATER WONDERS RELAY RACE

Purpose: To celebrate how God made the land and the seas.

Supplies: Water spray bottle and bucket for each team, timer, energized music, CD player

Prepare: Clearly mark each bucket with one of the team names.

Today, we are learning that on the third day, God gathered the waters and named the waters, "seas." He called the dry ground, "land." In this relay, we will see which team can gather the most water in their bucket before the time is up!

Directions:

1. Divide campers into 2-4 teams.
2. Place all team buckets in center of play area.
3. Line up teams on opposite sides of the play area.
4. Start timer. Play energized music as the teams fill their buckets.
5. First player from each team squirts twice aiming for team bucket.
6. Players take a turn and pass the water spray bottle to the next team member until time is up.
7. When time is up, the team with most water in their bucket wins.

Counselor Clue: All games may be adapted to a competitive or a non-competitive version. Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers.



The God who creates

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Counselor Clue: To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.



Today, we gather around the campfire to praise God for all He created on the third and fourth days. On the first day, God created light. On the second day, He created the sky. On the third day, He made the land and the seas. He filled the land with plants and fruit-bearing trees. On the fourth day, He filled the sky with lights by placing the sun, the moon, and the stars in space. Even before the earth was formed, God was there. Read Psalm 90:1-2.



As we collect today's offering, think about the things God made: tall mountains, deep valleys, powerful rivers and seas, beautiful flowers, delicious fruit, bright stars, and the warm sun! Sing: "This Is My Father's World" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Praise You."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God our Creator, land, seas, vegetation, growth, stars, or planets.



Perform Bible Barn script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 5, Lesson 23. Include reciting the Camper's Code:

Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.
I will love my neighbor as myself.
I will be a light wherever I go.

Today's Camp Critter, the catfish, is jumping for joy that God made the land and the sea.



The Bible Story

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Counselor Clue: Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent, or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

Prepare: Print the Pen Pal letter on the next page onto a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope. In an ice chest (Camp Cooler), place a Bible, the Pen Pal Letter, a pot of dirt, and an orange that is cut into pieces or any fruit with seeds

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my counselor, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Welcome to Tent Time! Last time, we read that on the first day, God created light and day and night. On the second day, He made the sky and clouds. How did God cause these things to be created? (He said it and it happened.) Today, we will discover how God began filling the heavens and the earth with many good things. If you brought your Bible, share it so we can all follow along as we read Genesis 1:9-19.



Open the Camp Cooler and remove the Bible. Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor opens the Bible to Genesis 1:9-19.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Camper prays aloud. Be seated.

What did God create to fill the land? (Plants and trees.) What came from the plants and trees? (Fruits and seeds.) What are fruit and seeds used for? (Provide food for people and animals, for creating more plants.) Why is it important that God filled the earth with trees and plants? (They provide food, shade, and oxygen to breathe. They make the land look beautiful and remind us of God's presence.)

What did God create to fill the sky? (Lights: the sun, moon, and stars.) What does the Bible say is the reason He made them? (To separate day from night; to help us mark days, seasons, and years.) Why are seasons important to plants? (For the life cycle of plants, so they will grow and produce seeds for more plants.)

Let's see how our secret Pen Pal will help us remember the third and fourth days of creation.



Pen Pal

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Let's see if our secret Pen Pal can help us picture what it was like in the beginning. Remove the Pen Pal Letter from the Camp Cooler. Read the letter aloud. As they are mentioned, remove the other objects from the Camp Cooler.

Hey Pals,

Isn't it amazing to think about the way God filled the heavens and the earth for us? Let's see for ourselves some of the things God created for us on the third and fourth days. Have one camper hold up the pot of dirt from the Camp Cooler.

On the third day, God made the dry ground and the seed-bearing trees. The dirt in this pot stands for that dry ground. Now have another camper give everyone a piece of fruit from the Camp Cooler. This stands for the fruit trees God made. Eat your fruit now. If you find any seeds, put them into the pot of dirt.

God made a way for the ground and the fruit-bearing trees to work together to grow more fruit-bearing trees! On the third day, God separated the land from the seas. God turns some of that water into rain, which waters the ground for the trees and seeds to grow. What did God make on the fourth day that helps trees grow?

Just as a plant needs light to grow, our hearts need the light of Jesus to grow close to God and each other. Just as a plant with light bears fruit, a heart with Jesus bears the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit are heart choices, which prove the Holy Spirit is working in us and through us. For a list of the fruit of the Spirit, read Galatians 5:22-23 now.

Creation Care: The nine fruit of the Spirit point others to Jesus and help us care for the people He has created. Self-control helps us not only to care for others but also to care for the wonderful trees God has created. With self-control, we can use the paper made from trees wisely without wasting it. To show kindness to future generations, we can be sure new trees are planted to replace the ones we use for paper and building materials. Another way to show kindness to people and creatures is to do our part to keep the seas and the land litter free.

Keep cool!
Your Pen Pal

THE WAY *continued...*



SHARE A PRAYER

We can also thank God for creation through prayer. We can pray for each other and all who live in this world He has given us. Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

Thank You, God, for creating the heavens and the earth. Thank You for creating every camper here today. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. Pause for a moment of silence. We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CREATION KEEPSAKES: Today, your Treasure Treats are two Creation Keepsakes. Let this seed remind you that God created the land and trees on the third day. Let this glow-in-the-dark bouncing ball remind you of the moon, sun, and stars that God created on the fourth day. At home, make and decorate a box or other container to make a Creation Keeper. Use it to store your Creation Keepsakes each week as symbols of what God created.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 23 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.**

W³ CHALLENGE (For Older Campers): Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. ***Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible.** Distribute W³ Journal Entry #23 instead of the Daily Way. **Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!** (*Although older children usually keep their W³s at home, you may choose to have them bring back their W³s during camp to win points for their teams.)

LETTERS FROM CAMP: Write a Letter from Camp to someone to let them know what you did today. Write or draw your favorite thing about today and something special you just learned from the Bible. Sign it and give it to a family member.

CREATION MURAL: Let's work on our Creation Mural (blank butcher paper or posterboard). As we learn about each part of God's creation, we will draw about it on our mural. Today, we learned about the third and fourth days of creation. Let's draw the number 3 and draw the sea, plants, and fruit trees. Then, write the number 4 and draw the sun, moon, and stars.

Counselor Tip: This mural is designed to be used in Lessons 22-26. Divide a long piece of banner paper into 7 sections or use 7 large pieces of paper. Display it in your classroom.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Praise You," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: NAME THAT NUT

Purpose: To appreciate God's creativity by comparing various fruits and seeds.

Snack Suggestion: Different types of fruits, nuts, edible seeds, fruit juice

Prepare: Cut different types of fruit into bite size pieces. Serve with nuts and seeds.

Counselor Tips: Due to potentially serious allergic reactions, avoid serving peanuts. If varieties are limited, serve one fruit and show photos of other fruits.

Creation Care Tip: If possible, replace paper supplies with reusable or recyclable supplies. Recycle by saving plastic cups to use as pots for the craft in this lesson.

God made many types of fruits, nuts, and seeds in different sizes, colors, tastes, and textures. Let's try different ones and compare some of God's creations.

Directions:

1. Serve drinks.
2. Ask a camper to pray and thank God for the fruits, nuts, and seeds He created.
3. Have the campers close their eyes and see if they can identify the various fruits by their scents.
4. Serve the snack.
5. Have the campers compare the different features of each fruit, nut, and seed they are served.
6. Ask the Snack Discussion Questions: **If you could create a fruit, what would it look and taste like? What would you name it?**

GAME: PIN THE FRUIT ON THE TREE

Purpose: To remember God created fruit-bearing trees on the third day.

Supplies: Poster of tree with one fruit drawn on it, paper cutouts of fruit (one for each camper), tape, blindfold, markers

Directions:

1. Each camper prints his or her name on a paper cutout of a fruit.
2. Blindfold the first camper.
3. Gently spin the camper in a circle a few times. Point the camper toward the tree poster.
4. After the blindfolded camper has placed the fruit where they think the tree is, use tape to attach the fruit at that spot.
5. Repeat for each camper.
6. The camper with the fruit closest to the poster's fruit is the winner.

Variation: Play the **PIN THE STARS IN THE SKY** version of this same game as a reminder that God placed stars in the sky on the fourth day. You will need a black poster with one star drawn on it, paper star cutouts, tape, and a blindfold.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: STAR DESIGN

Purpose: Campers create star groupings to introduce the idea of God's placement of the stars.

Supplies: None

Today, we are learning how God created the plants, trees, sun, moon, and stars to fill the heavens and the earth. He created everything needed for all living things to survive. At night, we can see the stars. What is the big star we see in the sky during the day? (The sun.) How do stars help us? (For centuries, stars have been used for telling time and seasons and in guiding travelers. They light up the sky. The sun provides heat, energy, and helps plants grow.) Have you ever looked into the night sky and imagined the stars form shapes, just like we imagine clouds form certain shapes?

Let's play a game where you will get to be the stars and work together to create your own star shapes. As we play, think about how God carefully created everything, even deciding exactly where each star would be placed in space.

Directions:

1. Campers are to wander about the play area in no particular pattern.
2. **Listen for me to clap. Count how many claps you hear and get into groups of that number. For example, if I clap 3 times, I want you to get into groups of 3. Then, you will hear me call a shape, such as a circle. Once you have your group, I want you to create that shape using everyone in your group.**
3. At your signal, clap 4 times and shout out the first shape: square. Help campers create groups of 4 campers. If you have an uneven number, have the remaining campers join one of the groups.
4. Campers work in their groups to create a square shape. If they aren't sure how to do it, suggest they might lay on the floor in the shape of a square or spread their arms out to touch fingertips while standing.
5. After all the groups have formed a square, repeat the game. This time call out a different group size number and shape. Each time you play, you may wish to make more challenging shapes (such as animals or objects) or let each group decide what shape they will create.

Variation: Give a small flashlight (penlight) or glow-in-the-dark object to each camper. Turn out the lights before you begin playing the game and let the campers use their lights or glowing objects to create star groups that shine in the dark.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PLANTING SEEDS

Purpose: To remember what God made on the third and fourth days.

Supplies: Clay pots or plastic cups (preferably 8 oz or larger), markers, glue, craft decorations (ribbon, gems, stickers, shells, colorful paper, foil, etc.) potting soil, fruit or vegetable seeds (bean seeds work well), water, straws or craft sticks, sturdy paper

Prepare: Print the instructions located on the seed packet for each camper on sturdy paper.

Counselor Tip: Introduce Creation Care by using recycled plastic cups.

God created plants, trees, fruits, seeds, and the sun to work together to supply food for people and animals. Let's each plant a seed to take home and watch as it grows.

Directions:

1. Use craft decorations and markers to decorate the cup or pot.
2. Fill your decorated cup about 3/4 full with potting soil.
3. Push your seed(s) down into the soil until covered.
4. Sprinkle water over the soil until moist but not too wet.
5. Glue growing instruction care to the upper half of the craft stick.
6. Insert the stick in the soil so the instruction card is visible.

Take home your seed and watch it grow. Keep it in a sunny window. If it sprouts and grows, you may need to move it into a larger pot or plant it in a garden. Each time you see it, give thanks for the land and plants God created on the third day and the sun He made on the fourth day!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: CREATION CARE

Purpose: To understand our ability and responsibility to care for others God has created.

Supplies: Will be determined by the activity you choose

Prepare: Research information on local or international efforts to alleviate hunger. Local charities, churches, or schools may offer helpful information as well as sites such as heifer.org, secondharvest.org, kidsagainsthunger.org, or compassion.com. Print helpful pictures and information. If possible, have the campers help you gather this information.

Today, we learned God filled the heavens and the earth with everything we need to live. He continues to fill the land with fruits, vegetables, and seeds for us to eat. Some people in the world do not have the food they need to live. Let's think of ways we can help others receive the food they need.

Did You Know? Share some of the simple facts you discovered about hunger in your area and/or around the world.

What Can I Do? Challenge campers to pray that God would show them how He wants them to serve the hungry. Lead campers in discussing ways they can serve the hungry. Be sure to share the opportunities you discovered in your research. Pray for those who are suffering from hunger today.

Examples of serving projects:

- Sponsor a food drive. Campers may bring in canned food and dry goods to be donated to your local food bank or shelter or collect donations from your community.
- Arrange a day and time for your campers and their families to volunteer together for a local organization. This may involve serving meals in a soup kitchen, planting a community garden, picking vegetables from a farmer's donated field, or delivering boxes of food to families in need.
- Raise money for an organization that fights hunger.

Where Can I Go For More? Encourage campers to discuss these ideas and to look up more information with their parents. You may wish to give them a list of helpful websites or give them copies of the information you collected. Encourage the campers and their families to be involved in your class project as well as a family project.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BOP

Purpose: Campers will memorize the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 139:13-14.

Supplies: Inflated (non-helium) balloon, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Display the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster.

Counselor Tip: Campers may help each other remember the words so the balloon never falls.

Directions:

1. Campers stand in a circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Start by tossing the balloon into the air while reciting the first three words of the Bible Memory Verse: "For You created."
4. Each camper who "bops" the balloon must say the next three words of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Continue until the Bible Memory Verse is complete.
6. Play several times.

Competitive Version: Form two teams in two separate circles. The first team to complete the Bible Memory Verse without the balloon touching the ground wins.

Timed Version: Time campers as they play. Challenge campers to get a faster time each round.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE WAVE

Purpose: To help campers memorize the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Psalm 139:13-14 to each camper or group.
2. Direct each camper or group to quickly stand, say the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to the thighs and then sit down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

Team Point System for Camp Venture (Units 5-6)

Teams: To adapt all Camp Games to a team point system for Units 5 and 6 (Lessons 22-31), divide campers into 4 teams. Instruct each team to create its own name and team banner at the beginning of the Camp Games segment of Lesson 22. Campers will remain on the same team for all Camp Games throughout Units 5 and 6.

Point System: Campers may earn points for their teams by attending Camp Venture, completing their Daily Ways or W³s, bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, winning a game, and showing good sportsmanship. At Camp Venture, good sportsmanship is respectful behavior toward others. It includes cheering for their team during games, playing fairly, tallying scores honestly, and cheering for other teams when point tallies are announced. Bonus team points are awarded for cheering and encouraging other teams.

Grand Prize: On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream or pizza party or something that would be special to the campers. Have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party.

About Competition: Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1st place, 75,000 points for 2nd place, 40,000 points for 3rd place, and 30,000 points for 4th place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.