

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE

BIBLE EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Teaching Scripture

LifeWise Academy is committed to the faithful, gospel-centered teaching of scripture. Rather than presenting the Bible as simply a book of morals or laws which the students should implement, we present the Bible and the gospel in terms of personal transformation. Each lesson is tied to the broader context of the gospel, the metanarrative of God's unfolding plan of redemption - specifically that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has come to reconcile individuals by His grace and to renew the whole world by and for His glory. This is the gospel that saves and empowers true inward change. Out of this gospel, we will present and apply implicit and explicit character principles which the students can live out in their schools, families and communities.

Foundational Curriculum

The foundation for LifeWise curriculum is The Gospel Project (TGP), a Christ-centered, chronological Bible study program produced by LifeWay. Where other programs tell students Bible stories, TGP focuses on "God's plan to rescue His people from sin through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ." We draw from and build on the lessons and activities provided by TGP. Tied to each lesson is a specific character trait that, as we are changed by the gospel, becomes more evident in our lives. Over the course of several years, the curriculum guides students through the entire Bible.

The LifeWise Threefold Focus

Each LifeWise lesson presents one Bible passage and links to the gospel and the students' character with an intentional focus on three areas:

- ✦ **Head:** We focus first on simply knowing what the Bible says, what happened in the story and what we learn about God, ourselves or the world through each passage.
- ✦ **Heart:** We examine how the Bible story ties into and points to the big picture of the gospel. We consider our failures, sinfulness and need of a savior as well as Jesus's victory in accomplishing for us what we could not achieve for ourselves.
- ✦ **Hands:** We explore ways students can live out the changed character that the gospel produces. More than sending the students out to merely "try harder to be good," we show how, as the gospel transforms our hearts, Jesus changes our desires, actions and character to be more like His.



Results & Responses

LifeWise believes the faithful teaching of the Word of God is spiritually effective and fruitful. We expect the results to vary in magnitude and visibility. We plant and water, but it is the Holy Spirit who brings true inward growth and change. While many tools to mark spiritual conversions have been used, such as altar calls, recited prayers and commitment cards, we will avoid using formulaic methods and defer to families and local churches to authenticate and celebrate spiritual conversions. Our continual appeal to students will be to believe the gospel, repent from sin, trust in Christ and get connected with a local church.

YEAR ONE LESSON SYLLABUS

SEMESTER ONE

Character Trait	Lesson	Bible Passage
Gratitude	God Created the World	Genesis 1:1-25
Respect	God Created People	Genesis 1:26-2:25
Obedience	Sin Entered the World	Genesis 3:1-24
Responsibility	Cain and Abel	Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26
Patience	Noah and the Ark	Genesis 6:5-9:17
Humility	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9
Courage	God's Covenant with Abraham	Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21, 17:1-9
Sacrifice	God Tested Abraham	Genesis 22:1-19
Trustworthiness	The Promise Reaffirmed	Genesis 25-28
Generosity	The Stolen Blessing	Genesis 25:27-34, 27:1-45
Determination	Jacob's New Name	Genesis 32-33
Perseverance	Joseph Sent to Egypt	Genesis 37:1-36, 39:1-41:57
Forgiveness	Joseph's Dreams Came True	Genesis 42:1-46:34, 50:15-21
Joy	Jesus Was Born	Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-24, 2:1-21

SEMESTER TWO

Compassion	Moses Was Born and Called	Exodus 1-3
Reliable	The Plagues, Passover and Red Sea Crossing	Exodus 5-14
Contentment	The Wilderness Test	Exodus 15:22-17:7
Truthfulness	The Golden Calf	Exodus 32:1-35; 34:1-9
Honor	The Ten Commandments: Love God	Exodus 19:1-20:11; 31:18
Justice	The Ten Commandments: Love Others	Exodus 20:12-17
Enthusiasm	The Tabernacle Was Built	Exodus 35:4-40:38
Initiative	God Gave Rules For Sacrifice	Leviticus 1-27
Submission	Worship Only God	Deuteronomy 1; 3:23-4:40
Commitment	God Reminded His People of His Covenant	Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25; 8:1-11:1, 26-28
Love	Jesus's Death and Resurrection	Matthew 21:1-17, 26:36-28:10



Students receive a "Recap Card" after each lesson and can collect more than 120 as they study through the entire Bible over five years.



LESSON 2: GRATITUDE

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1-25

LIFEWISE QUALITY

GRATITUDE - To appreciate what someone has done for or given to me.

JESUS CONNECTION

Jesus is Lord over everything. Everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together. (Colossians 1:16-17)

LIVING LIFEWISE

Because God created everything, I can show gratitude for Him and all that He made.

LWQ BREAKDOWN

I can treat all of the things God created with respect and appreciation because I am thankful God made it.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

In the beginning, God created everything. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, or “out of nothing.” All of creation began with a word. When God spoke, it happened. Light, land, sky, stars, plants, and animals. God made them all, and they were good. Creation was perfect, just as God intended.

Every story in the Bible is a small piece of a much bigger story—God’s redemptive story. Sin would enter the world and affect everything, but God already knew. He already had a plan to show His grace to people through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9), to rescue and restore. In fact, the Bible says that God’s plan existed before He created the world. (Eph. 1:4-6)

The Bible is the story of how a great God redeemed rebellious people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. The story of Jesus does not begin in a manger. The Son has always existed, and He was present at creation. He is the Word through whom all things were created. (John 1:1-3)

Colossians 1:16-17 says that everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. Through creation, we see and understand God’s eternal power and divine nature. (Rom. 1:20)

As you begin teaching kids about creation, help them discover who God is. Remind the boys and girls that God created everything with a purpose, to bring Him glory. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.”

The Book of Genesis is the beginning of the greatest story ever told. It is a true story, and at the center of it all is the true hero, our Savior, Jesus Christ. This story changes everything.

SESSION STARTERS

Out of Nothing (10 min)

- ★ Form groups of four to six kids. Give each group a bag of supplies. Explain that groups will work together to create different items from the supplies. Challenge groups to build the tallest tower or the strongest bridge. Choose a winner with each assignment. Be mindful of how much time you have and use a timer to limit time for each build. Pretend to pour the contents from an empty bag.
- ★ Could you create something out of nothing just by talking? God is so powerful that He created everything just by speaking it into existence. God created everything for His glory. How do you feel when you look at something beautiful that God has created? We can praise God for all the wonderful things He has made!

Creating a Masterpiece (5 min)

- ★ Display a painting or other handmade item in a place the kids can see it. Ask them what supplies they would need to create something like this. Allow kids to brainstorm a list.
- ★ We need supplies to make just about everything (a painting, a pizza, a car, a computer) but God didn't. When he created the world and everything in it, he created it out of nothing, using only his power. What an amazing God!

KEY PASSAGE & ACTIVITY | 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

Memory Verse Toss (7 min)

- ★ Make sure the key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6, is visible for each child, either as the printed poster or written on a dry erase board. Read the verse together.
 - ★ Before class, write the words of the key passage on paper plates and hide them around the room. Create two sets (use different colored markers to differentiate between the two sets).
 - ★ Form two teams and assign each team a color. Place a jump rope on the ground and explain that each team will make a straight line starting behind the jump rope. Teams will take turns sending one player to look for plates until all are found. After the plates are found, designate one child from each team to hold the hula hoop a few feet from the jump rope. Guide each player to toss the paper plate through the hula hoop in the order of the verse, reading the word aloud as a team as each plate is tossed.
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GIANT TIMELINE & REVIEW (3 MIN)

We are at the very beginning of time as we know it. (*Point to beginning of the giant timeline*) God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit were not created but have always existed. That's pretty hard for my brain to understand, but I know it's true! The story of creation is the first story in the Bible, and it is the beginning of God's great story that He has written for us! God created everything for His glory. How do you think we can give God glory? We can give God glory by pleasing Him with our lives. The story that begins with creation continues throughout history, and even you are a part of it!

Big Picture Q&A

Q: Why did God create the world?

A: *God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*

BIBLE STORY (10 MIN)

God Created the World | Genesis 1:1–25

In the beginning, nothing existed except for God. **God** spoke and **created the heavens and the earth**. When He first created the earth, it had no shape and total darkness covered the earth. The Spirit of God was there, hovering over the waters.

God spoke. **He said, “Let there be light!”** and what God said happened. Light was created. **God saw that the light was good**, and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light *day*, and He called the darkness *night*. **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the first day of creation.**

God spoke again: “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate them.” What God said happened. He made a space between the water that was on the earth and the water above the earth. **God called the expanse sky. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the second day of creation.**

God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” What God said happened. God called the dry land *earth*, and He called the gathered water *seas*. **God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth make plants and trees with fruits and seeds.”** What God said happened. Plants and trees grew, and God saw that it was good. **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the third day of creation.**

Next, God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to provide light on the earth, to separate day from night, and to help us track time in days and years. **God saw that it was good. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fourth day of creation.**

Next, God made creatures that move and swim in the water. He made birds to flap their wings and soar across the sky. God saw that it was good. God told the animals to multiply, and they filled the seas and the sky. **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fifth day of creation.**

Then God made more animals—livestock, creatures that crawl, and wildlife to live on the earth. When God said it, it happened. **And God saw that it was good.**

Ask the Following Review Questions:

- ✦ What did God create on the first day of creation?
The heavens and the earth, and day and night (Genesis 1:1–5)
- ✦ What did God create on the second day of creation?
Sky (Genesis 1:6–8)
- ✦ What did God create on the third day of creation?
Land and seas, plants, trees (Genesis 1:9–13)
- ✦ What did God create on the fourth day of creation?
Sun, stars, moon (Genesis 1:14–19)

- ✦ What did God create on the fifth day of creation?
Creatures in the water and birds (Genesis 1:20-23)
- ✦ What did God create on the sixth day of creation?
Animals (Genesis 1:24-25)
- ✦ How did God create all things?
He spoke and they were created (Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24)
- ✦ What did God think of His creation?
It was good (Genesis 1:10,12,18,21,25)
- ✦ Why did God create the world?
God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

Story Point

God created everything for His glory.

Jesus Connection

Jesus is Lord over everything. Everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together (Colossians 1:16-17)

LIFEWISE QUALITY (3-4 MIN)

GRATITUDE - To appreciate what someone has done for or given to me.

Living LifeWise

Because God created everything, I can show gratitude for Him and all that He made.

LWQ Breakdown

I can treat all of the things God created with respect and appreciation because I am thankful God made it.

Summary/Script

Because God is the owner and creator, we can be grateful for all that He made. How do we thank God for what He made?

The opposite of a grateful heart is an unthankful heart. When we aren't thankful, we tend to treat what God made badly. We might be selfish or not careful with it. What would it look like to be unthankful? What are some ways we can show our appreciation for the beauty and awesomeness of His creation?

BIBLE STORY REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS

Creation Walk (10 min)

- ✦ Where is the Book of Genesis located in the Bible? (*the first book*) Who wrote Genesis? (*Moses*) Moses wrote the Pentateuch, or the Law, which are the first five books of the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. God chose people to write down the message He gave them.

- ★ Use the small group timeline to show kids today's Bible story. Point to the first picture. Explain that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit have always existed. (See John 1:1–4.) God did not begin at the beginning of the timeline because He has always been and always will be. God is eternal. Our timeline begins when God created everything for His glory. Write the numbers 1–6 on separate sheets of paper and tape them around the room.
- ★ As you review the Bible story, ask kids to stand by the number that indicates what day of creation you are speaking about. Ask classes with more advanced writers to take a pencil with them so that they can list on that sheet of paper some of the things that God created on that specific day:
 - Great White Shark
 - Cactus
 - T-Rex
 - Bald Eagle
 - Mount Everest
 - Strawberries
 - The Pacific Ocean
 - The Moon
 - The North Star
 - Cheetah

ACTIVITIES

What Day? (5 min)

- ★ Guide kids to help you make up motions for each of the six days. For example, for Day 1, kids might hold up both arms as if they are seeing light for the first time, or they might make a big circle with their arms because God created the earth. On Day 2, they might make waves with their arms to indicate that God separated the waters from the sky. For Day 3, kids might stand or bend like a tree. Continue making motions to illustrate what happened on each day. Review them a few times before beginning the game. Call out one of the days. Challenge kids to do the motion for the day.

Worship Pictures (10 min)

- ★ Give kids individual pieces of paper. Guide them to draw things that God created that inspire them to worship Him.

Activity Page: Creation Maze (5-10 min)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

Prayer & Requests (3-5 min)

Lead kids in prayer. Praise God for the great gift He has given through His creation. Ask God to help each child be thankful to Him when enjoying the beauty of creation.

Recap Cards (1-2 min)

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

BIBLE STORY:

GOD CREATED THE WORLD

- In the beginning, there was nothing but God.
- God made the world out of nothing.
- God saw everything He made was good.
- God planned for all of creation to bring Him glory.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What are some things that God created? (See Genesis 1–2.)
- What does it mean to bring God glory? (*We can show people how awesome God is.*)
- How can you and your family bring God glory this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- As you are riding in a vehicle, lead kids to observe God’s creation around you. Talk about how God’s creation displays His glory. Pray as a family, thanking God for His creation.
- Go further: Take a family nature walk.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 1, Session 1



CREATION MAZE

INSTRUCTIONS: Find your way through the maze to reveal the days of creation.

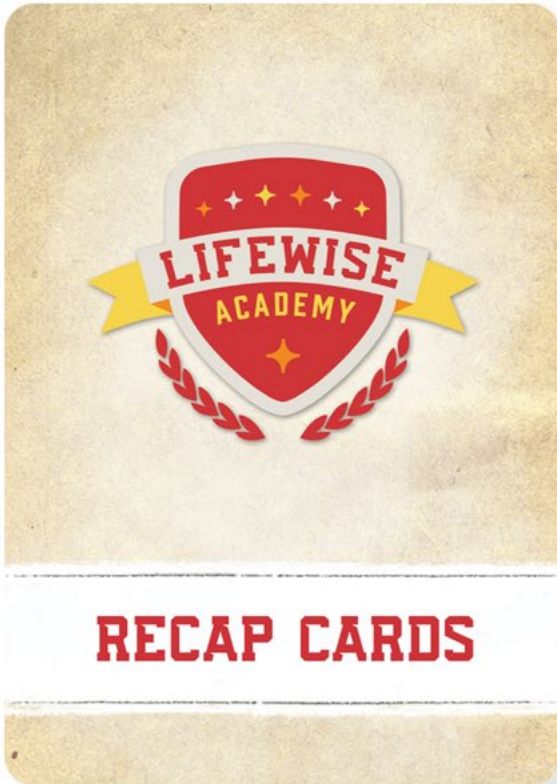


God Created the World | 2
Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY.

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RECAP CARDS



TAKING LIFEWISE HOME

Living LifeWise means applying our lessons at home, at school, and everywhere in between. Our Recap Cards highlight the FIVE big ideas from each lesson that will help you live LifeWise every day.

STORY POINT: The main idea of the Bible story – what happens or what we learn about God there.

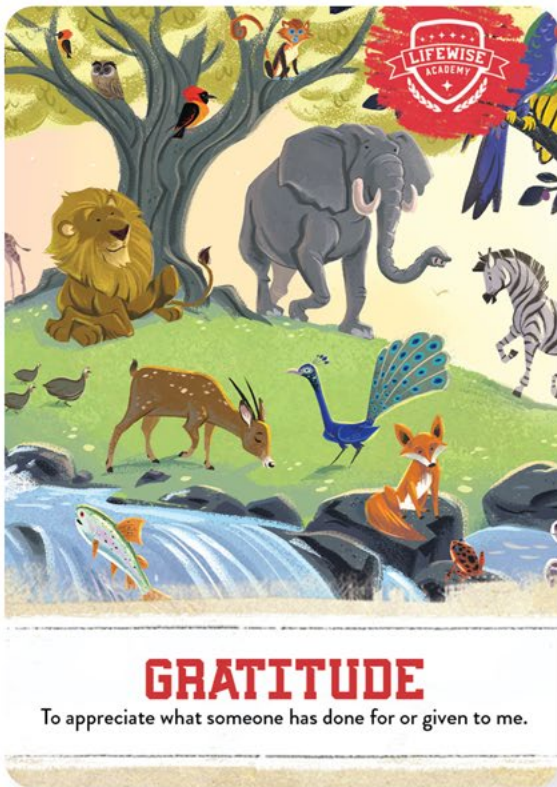
BIG PICTURE Q & A: The connection between the story and one of the big ideas (themes) of the Bible.

JESUS CONNECTION: How the story points to Jesus, the true hero and example in the Bible.

KEY PASSAGE: A Bible verse that will help you better understand the Bible story.

LIVING LIFEWISE: The connection between what we learn about God and how that truth transforms our character in practical ways.

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GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1-25

STORY POINT: God created everything for His glory.

BIG PICTURE Q & A: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

JESUS CONNECTION: Jesus is the Lord over everything. Everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together. (Colossians 1:16-17)

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

LIVING LIFEWISE: We can show **GRATITUDE** for God and all that He made.

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