



OVERVIEW

Middler	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Title	Building Faith in God's Word	Building Faith in God's Design	Building Faith in God's Grace	Building Faith in God's Warnings	Building Faith in God's Promise
References	Genesis 1:1–31; Hebrews 11:3 (Creation)	Genesis 1:26–2:25 (Purpose for Adam and Eve)	Genesis 3:1–24; 4:1–15; Hebrews 11:4 (The Fall; Cain and Abel)	Genesis 6:1–9:17; Hebrews 11:7 (The Flood)	Genesis 12:1–4; Galatians 3:8–16; Hebrews 11:8, 9; various Scriptures about Christ (Abraham; Christ Jesus)
Focus	Trusting God's Word	Understanding God's design for us	Understanding sin and its remedy	Taking God's only way to be rescued	Fulfilling God's plan for us
Memory Verses	"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).	"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14).	"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).	"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).	"To him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please, Mr. Mosasaur • Flying Dinos • Dino Egg Charades • Creation Scavenger Hunt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dino-Sized Ring Toss • Pterodactyl Races • Stomper Feet • Dino Ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chomper Hide and Seek • Dino Egg Grab • Stomper & Chomper Tag • Fossil Bowling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dino Chomp • Stick the Head on the Dino • Noah's Ark Obstacle Course • Balloon Flood • It's Raining! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross the Lava • Gallimimus Gallop • Dino Destinations • Pterodactyl Toss
Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation Trail Mix • Dinosaur Tails • Dinosaur Dirt Snack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dino PB & Js • Dinosaur Claws • Dino Fun Cookies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tree • Goodness of God Snack • Dino Gel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noah's Rainbow Snack • Animal Fun Mix • Build a Dino 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abram and Sarai Tent Snacks • Dino Eggs and Stegosaurus Spikes • Dino Cupcakes
Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dino Sticker Scenes • Egg-Citing Dinosaurs • Pom-Pom Dino Designs • Spinning Paper World • Feed the Chomper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toby the T. Rex • Dino Planter Buddies • Handprint Stomper • Mini Habitat for Huge Friends • Stegosaurus Mosaic • Clothespin Chomp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stomp & Chomp Color Scratch Crafts • Design Your Own T. Rex • Watch Out for That Snake! • Peekaboo Dino Eggs • Fossil Dough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ark Animals Craft • Color Your Own Dino Key Chains • Reveal-a-Scene Noah's Ark • Theo the Triceratops • Stompers & Chompers Stuff Stasher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Keeps His Promises Craft • Color Your Own Dino Bracelet • Cupcake Foam-osaurs • Triceratops Mask • Pterodactyl Pal • Promise Photo Frame • Good News Bracelet

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MIDDLER

TEACHER BOOK



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BUILDING FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

Gen. 1:1–31; Heb. 11:3
(Creation)

MEMORY VERSE

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

EXTRA CREDIT VERSES

Gen. 1:31; Ps. 19:1; Heb. 4:12; Heb. 11:3

TOPIC

Trusting God's Word

THEME

God created the universe by His word and expects us to obey His Word, the Bible.

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Students will believe and follow God's Word because He spoke the universe into existence.

TAKEAWAY

I can have big faith in God's Word!



- Greet students with enthusiasm. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (33333) and Stompers & Chompers passes (33334).
- Open the class time with prayer.

Lesson 1 Dinosaur Connect ►

God created dinosaurs by the power of His word.

Teacher Tip ►

Creatures could include, for example, lions, giraffes, crocodiles, kangaroos, elephants, penguins, seagulls, dogs, cats, fish, whales, and dinosaurs. You may need to include a picture by each name to assist students acting out the creatures.



Option 1: Water Suspension

Materials

- Clear, large bowl of water; food coloring; small, clear drinking glass.

Before class: Prepare a bowl of water and place the rest of the items beside it.

ACTIVITY: Place drops of food coloring into the bowl of water until the color of the water is visible. Place the small glass in the bowl until the water covers it. Allow the glass to completely fill with water. With the water still in the glass, turn it upside down. Slowly lift the glass, but leave the top submerged.

ASK: Why does the water stay in the glass? **ACTIVITY:** Carefully lift the glass above the surface. The water will fall out.

God did incredible things when He created the universe. For example, on day two of Creation, God separated the waters of the earth. He suspended some of the water above the surface of the earth, like clouds and moisture in the atmosphere. He left the rest of the water in the sea. We can't suspend the water over the surface like that, but God can!

Option 2: Rain Clouds

Materials

- Clear drinking glass; shaving cream; water; blue food coloring; dropper or straw.

Before class: Fill a glass of water three-quarters full and gather the rest of the items.

ACTIVITY: Add some shaving cream to the top of the water to represent a cloud. Mix a few drops of food coloring with a little water in a small dish. Have a student put some of the blue water in a dropper and place some drops on the cloud. Watch the cloud get heavier and then the "rain" fall (the food coloring dropping through the water under the shaving cream).

Guess how much a real cumulus cloud weighs. (About 1.1 million pounds on average!) Did you know God made the clouds as part of His creation?

Option 3: Creature Charades

Materials

- Slips of paper; 2 containers; 2 timers.

Before class: Write the names of creatures on the slips of paper, one per piece. Be sure to have as large a selection as possible. Fold the pieces of paper, mix them up, and place them in equal numbers in two containers. Select a volunteer to be a timekeeper for each team.

ACTIVITY: Organize students into two teams. On your signal, teams take turns playing charades. A volunteer in team one draws a folded piece of

paper, reads the name of the creature, and shows it only to the timekeeper. The student then acts out the creature as the other students in team one try to guess what it is. When they guess correctly, the timekeeper records the time, and team two has a turn. When all the slips of paper are gone or time runs out, the team with the lowest total time wins.

We have a hard enough time guessing a creature's name; we definitely can't create that creature. But God has unimaginable power. He made all the fish, birds, and animals—including dinosaurs. He created them by the power of His word. He made you, too, and He has given us His written Word, the Bible, to guide us.

INTRODUCTION

Materials

- Paper.

Before class: Write the following on small pieces of paper, one item per piece: "building a house"; "painting a sunset"; "writing a story"; "coding a computer program." Fold each paper so students can't read what is on it until it is time.

ACTIVITY: Give four volunteers the prepared slips of paper and ask them to pantomime the actions for the class. After all four students have performed, ask, What materials do we need for us to do each activity?

When we create, we use already created things, like wood, paint, and computers. But when God created the world, He did it in a much more powerful way!

EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (33307) or visual book PowerPoint download (33307EB); clear beach ball with 6 sections; many colorful markers; flower-scented perfume; *optional:* pictures of constellations; pictures of flowers: rose, daisy, tulip, peony, hydrangea, sunflower, marigold.

DISPLAY: Show students the clear beach ball. **SAY:** Look at this beach ball—there's nothing on it. No writing or colors. No designs. Today we're going to go back to the time before there was anything.

In the very beginning, there were no plants or animals or sky. There definitely were no TVs. No phones. Not even an earth. God was the only One Who existed. He created the earth, but at first it was empty, and darkness surrounded it.

ACTIVITY: While you divide students into six groups, have a helper mark

◀ Teacher Tip

For a helpful list of facts about Creation, dinosaurs, or the Flood, see the PDF "Creation, Dinosaurs, and More" on the director resources CD (33302).

◀ Teacher Tip

If possible, select four volunteers ahead of time who won't feel intimidated by the activity.

◀ Teacher Tip

Here's a definition of faith: "trusting that what God says is true, even if you didn't see it happen or haven't seen it yet, and acting according to His plan."

Lesson 1
Visual 1



Lesson 1
Visual 2a

Teacher Tip ►

If no students volunteer to read the verses, read them yourself.

Lesson 1
Visual 2b



Teacher Tip ►

Plants are amazing. They help purify the air by absorbing the carbon dioxide that comes from our breathing and by producing oxygen. They provide healthy food for many of the animals. They fit exactly into what is needed on this planet—as they should, because God designed them that way!

Fun Fact ►

The sun is 864,000 miles in diameter, and its temperature is about 10,000° Fahrenheit.

Teacher Tip ►

You could point out that God created the sun the day after the plants were created. If millions of years were involved in Genesis 1, that would be a major problem for plants that require photosynthesis for survival.

each section of the beach ball with a number (1–6). Tell the class that the groups will take turns drawing on the beach ball.

We are going to “fill the earth” on our beach ball. After I say what happened on each day of Creation, the next group will get the ball. Each group will draw what happened on their day.

On the very first day, when God began His work of creating, He spoke in the darkness. He said, “Let there be light!” Suddenly bright light came on. The sun wasn’t created yet, so this light was not from the sun. This light was made by God!

READ: Genesis 1:3–5. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1. **ACTIVITY:** Throw the beach ball to the first group. **SAY:** Draw light and darkness.

Then God spoke again. He told the waters to separate—and the sky was formed. That was the second day of Creation.

DISPLAY: Show the left side of visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:6–8. **ACTIVITY:** Have the first group throw the beach ball to the second group. **SAY:** Draw a blue sky separated from the dark waters.

In these verses the word *heaven* means “the sky.” But in the Bible *Heaven* can also mean “the place God lives.” At VBS we will be learning how you can become God’s child and go to Heaven someday.

On the third day of Creation, God told the water to gather so the dry land could appear. He called the dry land “earth,” and the water He called “seas.” Then God made all the plants and trees, just by telling them to appear.

READ: Genesis 1:9–13. **DISPLAY:** Show the right side of visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. **ACTIVITY:** Have the second group throw the beach ball to the third group. **SAY:** Draw trees, plants, and flowers on your section.

If you plant an apple tree, it will take about eight years before the first apples appear! But when God finished making the trees, they were already bearing fruit. Plants were bearing vegetables. And flowers made the earth beautiful.

God created a variety of flowers. When I say the name of a flower, raise your hand if you’ve seen that kind of flower: rose, daisy, tulip, peony, hydrangea, sunflower, marigold. (*Optional: show pictures of the listed flowers.*)

ACTIVITY: Students raise their hands if they have seen any of the flowers you listed. Have a helper spray the perfume (pointed away from people).

On the fourth day, God spoke again. God made the sun just by speaking. He also made the moon to rule the night.

The moon doesn’t have light coming from itself; instead, it reflects the sun’s light. God also made the moon to have phases (e.g., full moon, half moon, waxing gibbous, new moon, waning gibbous). The moon goes through all its phases in one month.



LESSON 1

ACTIVITY: Have the third group throw the beach ball to the fourth group.

SAY: Draw the sun, moon, and stars on the next section.

God also placed millions—no, *trillions*—of stars in the sky to give beauty and light. The stars even make shapes in the sky. We call these shapes constellations, like the Big Dipper, Little Dipper, Orion, Leo, Ursa Major, and many more!

READ: Genesis 1:14, 15. **DISPLAY:** Show the left side of visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3. *Optional:* Show pictures of constellations.

God created all these things by the power of His word. If everything obeyed God when He told it to be created, do you think we should listen to what He said to us? Yes! We can read what He said to us in His Word, the Bible.

On the next day, God commanded amazing fish to fill the water and other creatures, too, like octopuses and plesiosaurs. God also made creatures fly in the air, such as birds and pterodactyls. That was the fifth day of Creation.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:20–23. **DISPLAY:** Show the right side of visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3. **ACTIVITY:** Have the fourth group throw the beach ball to the fifth group. **SAY:** Draw birds in the sky and sea creatures in the deep water.

All kinds of birds we see today—like robins, hawks, eagles, chickadees, parrots, and sparrows—are here because God commanded them to be. All the fish and sea creatures are here because God just spoke, and they obeyed—like sharks, whales, jellyfish, eels that light up, and the octopus with all its funny arms!

God created the animals on the sixth day. Again He spoke, and every animal that moves on the earth and things that creep on the earth, like insects, were created.

ASK: What kinds of animals and ground creatures can you name? (E.g., cows, horses, oxen, pigs, snakes, rabbits, mice, ladybugs.)

READ: Genesis 1:24–26. **DISPLAY:** Show the left side of visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4. **ACTIVITY:** Have the fifth group throw the beach ball to the sixth group. **SAY:** Draw land animals and two stick-figure people on the last section of the ball.

Then God created a man and a woman (male and female). All the things God created were “very good,” but His most special act of creation was making people. He created mankind in His own image!

DISPLAY: Show the right side of visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

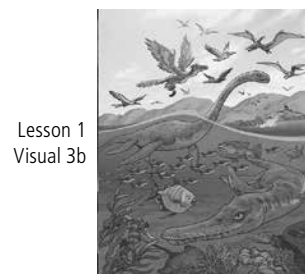
God made all kinds of wonderful things to see and do in our world! He is the all-powerful Creator. There is nothing that God can’t do. The more we learn about the amazing design of our human body, the way the earth orbits around the sun just right, the cycles of rain and sunlight that cause plants to grow—just to name a few things—all these things from creation show they were made by a wonderful, intelligent, powerful Creator.



Lesson 1
Visual 3a

Teacher Tip

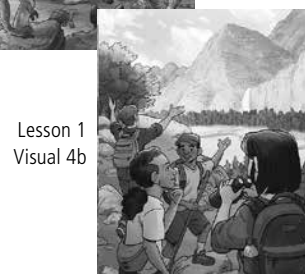
God made the creatures of the water and sky according to their kinds. For example, pterodactyls could not become pigeons.



Lesson 1
Visual 3b



Lesson 1
Visual 4a



Lesson 1
Visual 4b

Teacher Tip

Students will learn more about God’s image in the next lesson. You could explain to them that God’s image is special because God created humans to reflect some of His characteristics. He didn’t make us to go on instinct like animals or programming like robots. People can love God, love others, think, feel, and decide.

Teacher Tip ►

If desired, review the definition of faith: "trusting that what God says is true, even if you didn't see it happen or haven't seen it yet, and acting according to His plan."



Salvation Poster (33336)

But that shouldn't come as a surprise. God's written Word, the Bible, tells us that it is so. We can trust what God says and learn about His plan for us in His Word. At VBS, we will be learning how we can have faith in God and His plan. Next time we will learn about His plan for us.

Do you know what is most wonderful? Even though God is all powerful and He created such a big universe, God loves you. He knows all about you, and He wants you to love Him too!



Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (33336); *optional*: copies of a Bible reading plan for children.

ACTIVITY: Choose a student to come up to the front. Ask the student his or her name. Then ask where the student goes to school (e.g., name of school, homeschool). Tell the student that you believe him or her because there is no reason not to believe. Then have the student ask you a question about one of your favorite pastimes (e.g., sports, cooking, travel). After you answer the student, tell the class that the student and you believe each other by just your word alone.

Do you believe God's Word, the Bible? God created the universe with just the powerful words He spoke, and He has given us His powerful written Word. In the Bible He gave us exactly what He wanted us to know. We can believe God, and we can believe His Word, just like you can believe that my name is _____ (your name).

The first truth you need to learn from God's Word is how you can become part of God's family and go to be with Him in Heaven one day. You see, even though God created everything perfectly, sin entered the world. We are all sinners. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment our sin deserves.

ACTIVITY: Use the salvation poster to share the gospel. Ask the students to bow their heads. Invite anyone who would like to find out more about becoming a part of God's family to look up at you. Assign workers to responding students.

We need to have God's Word in our lives every day. Are you reading God's Word on a regular basis? I'd like to help you get started in reading it.

ACTIVITY: Help students who are already children of God know how to get started in reading God's Word in their own personal time with God. If a student has never started this habit, the Gospel of Mark can be a good place to start. You could also ask a pastor at your church for a good Bible reading plan for children.

DISCOVER!

Option 1: Big Faith

Materials

- Dino-life figures (33439), tiny diny dino toys (33434), or other small toy dinosaurs.

Before class: Hide small dinosaurs around the room.

SAY: There are dinosaur figures hidden around the room. Do you believe me? **ACTIVITY:** Choose two students to begin looking for the dinosaurs. After they find all or most of the dinosaurs, tell them it was good they trusted you.

We can always trust what God says in His Word, the Bible. He always tells us the truth.

Option 2: Pass the Ball

Materials

- Clear beach ball from Explore the Bible with the 6 days of creation drawn on it.

Let's pass the ball around! When someone catches the ball, let's all shout out what happened on the first day of creation. That person then tosses the ball to someone across the room, and we'll all shout out the next day.

ACTIVITY: Keep passing the ball across the room until students get to day six. Repeat the activity until everyone knows all the days by heart.



Dino-Life Figures (33439)



Tiny Diny Dino Toys (33434)

◀ **Backyard VBS Tip:**
This activity is also great for outdoors!

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

This verse tells us what "faith" means. Faith is believing God no matter what—even if we can't see what will happen or what's ahead. We can always believe God's Word. God created us, and His Word is always true!

DISPLAY: Show the verse poster of Hebrews 11:1 (33366) or the Power-Point of the verse from the director resources CD (33302). **ACTIVITY:** Say the verse a few times with the students. Cover or remove the poster before the memory activities.

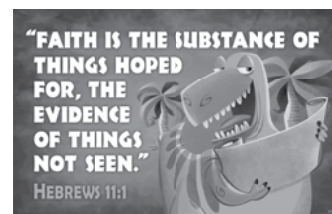
Option 1: Erase the Words

Materials

- Whiteboard; dry erase markers.

Before class: Write the verse on the board.

◀ **Teacher Tip**
Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.



Verse Poster (33366)

ACTIVITY: After saying the verse with the class at least two times, choose a student to erase one word. Say the verse again, then have another student erase a word. Repeat these steps until the whole verse is erased and memorized.

Option 2: Stand Up, Sit Down

ACTIVITY: Have students stand when they say the first word of the verse, sit down for the second word, stand for the third, and so on. Begin slowly but gradually speed up. Repeat until everyone has the verse memorized.



Option 1: Act Out Creation

Before class: If possible, choose the groups before class so they can come up with ideas for how they will act out the “day.”

ASK: Split the students into six groups. Beginning with the first day of Creation, ask the first group to act out what happened. Each group will act out what happened on its day of Creation. Keep going through all six days as each group acts out its day.

Option 2: Name That Dinosaur

Materials

- Pictures of different dinosaurs from online, the clip art on the decorating CD (33302), or both.

Before class: Gather pictures of dinosaurs from the decorating CD or online. Write each dinosaur's name on a small piece of paper. Spread the dinosaur names and pictures around the table.

ACTIVITY: Direct the students to match each dinosaur's name with its dinosaur picture.

Even though dinosaurs have become extinct, we can still trust—have faith—that God created them, because His Word says the animals were made on the sixth day of Creation.

Teacher Tip ►

You may have to give an example to get the groups started: One student can cover his or her eyes to represent darkness while the other students point up and say “light.”