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Who God Is

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Philosophy of Bible Curriculum

The materials presented in this curriculum are designed with an educationally sound commitment to evangelize and disciple students. The six major topic areas of all ICI University study courses are used as a basic framework for each of the grade level courses. As a student faces our puzzling world, he will learn that the Bible is the guide for the pieces of his life.

As a student completes the 30-lesson program for 1 year, he will have received the content necessary for reaching the objectives in 3 of the basic areas, at a comprehensive level adjusted to abilities and age level characteristics. Every two years, a student will have cycled through the six topic areas pictured in the puzzle, in an effort to place the biblical pieces in his life. He will be enabled to accept and reflect Christ, and His great plan.

This curriculum is designed to be beneficial for training a student, under a complete and systematic doctrinal design, at a specific age-oriented level of presentation. The use for this material is broad, and limited only by lack of vision for those who desperately need biblical pieces fit into their life. This curriculum is

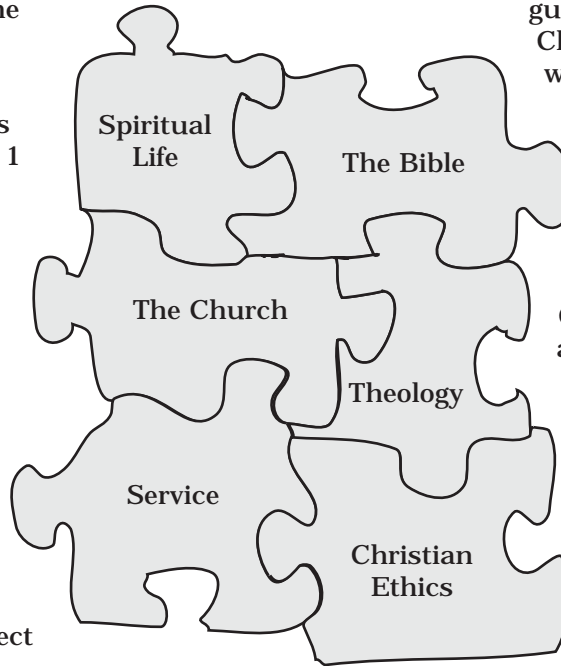
extremely useful for the school setting, yet it is not limited to that area. The growing use of ICI University study materials for adults in learning centers can also utilize these materials for the children previously unreached in the church. These courses can also be used for independent study in the home, with parental

guidance for younger children. Children's ministries in general will now have a solid curriculum for evangelizing and then discipling the fast-growing majority of our world.

Now you will take part in the exciting process of Christian Education. This is a unique opportunity to combine the solid basis of a strong biblical curriculum, with prayerful preparation, and the anointing presence of the Holy Spirit in your presentation. Each student will be encouraged to accept Christ and His word for his life, with the

responsibility then to live a life reflecting that spiritual growth. Life changing results will be the challenging goal for every lesson.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).



Age Level Characteristics

First Grade

CHARACTERISTICS

NEEDS

Physical

1. Rapid growth, full of energy
2. Motor skills incompletely developed
3. General health care
Susceptible to illnesses
4. Use of sensory skills
5. Spontaneous reactions

1. Constant change, large activity area
2. Large muscles—jumping, skipping, running
Small muscles—puzzles, coloring, cutting
3. Learn basic health habits, sanitary conditions
4. Large, colorful, durable materials
Use the 5 senses
5. Constant activity change

Mental

1. Short attention span
2. Asks many questions
Curious and imaginative
3. Limited understanding of space and time
4. Literal and concrete thinking
5. Rapidly growing vocabulary

1. Limit games, stories, activities (5-15 min.)
2. Honest, simple answers
Activities to stimulate thinking for themselves
3. Emphasis on the present, not history or past
4. Avoid symbolism
5. Encourage participation

Emotional

1. Filled with wonder
2. Immature, unaware of personal limits
3. Insecure
4. Impressionable
5. Developing sense of right and wrong

1. Life experiences
2. Structured choices
3. Routine, acceptance, love
4. Truthful teaching
5. Guidance toward Godly standards

Social

1. Self-centered
2. Demand attention
3. Imitate
4. Negative-uses “No”
5. Learns through play

1. Develop social skills-Learn to share
2. Individual attention-Supervised activities
3. Godly models of life and word
4. Positive directions
5. Provide materials for meaningful play

Spiritual—What the First Grader can learn about:

I. God

1. God loves me and others
2. God made all things
3. God is everywhere
4. God will hear prayer anytime
5. God cares for me and others
6. God wants me to be thankful
7. God wants me to be obedient

III. Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit helps me learn about God
2. The Holy Spirit is God at work

II. Jesus

1. Jesus is God’s Son who came to be the Savior
2. Jesus loves me and is my best friend
3. Jesus now lives in heaven
4. Jesus is always with me
5. Jesus will help me obey, share and love
6. Jesus wants to be our personal Savior

IV. The Bible

1. The Bible is God’s Word
2. The Bible tells about God
3. The Bible teaches me how to live
4. The Bible is true

Leading a Child to Christ

I. SALVATION EXPERIENCE

A. Belief

Teaching very young children is an exciting opportunity. They are curious, searching for new information, building friendships, and struggling with right and wrong. As a teacher, leader, or parent, we have a responsibility to evangelize and disciple these children. Bearing in mind the level of understanding of the presented concepts, we must present the salvation message and Christian life-style in terms they are able to grasp. (See page 5.) As children mature, they will need the same message, but can generally accept and apply truth at a more complex level. Knowing each child is important.

For some children the plan of salvation may be difficult to understand completely. It is important to remember that our teaching does lay a foundation for salvation. Even before children accept Christ as their Savior, they can learn about Him, love Him, and learn to do things that please Him. Their lives will be touched as they repeatedly hear some of the steps to salvation that will arise in each lesson. It is crucial that children see you explain salvation and God's plan from the Bible. As children's reading ability increases, they should read appropriate Scripture verses in the Bible themselves.

Even though some young children may be at a preevangelism stage, some may be ready to accept Christ. It is our responsibility to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit so we take time to talk individually with those children.

Following are statements we can share often, although not necessarily all at one time. If a child asks questions that indicate a readiness for salvation, then we can share all the points, looking for a personal response.

- God loves us very much. He wants us to be part of His family.
- All of us have done things that are wrong. These wrong things are called sins. Our sins keep us from being part of God's family.
- God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us. He took the punishment we deserved for our sins when He died.
- We need to tell Jesus we are sorry for the wrong things we do. We can tell Jesus we love Him and want to be in God's family.
- Jesus is happy when we are sorry, and He forgives us for the wrong things we do. When we want to become part of God's family, He is glad to have us join and learn to live a life that pleases Him.

We do not convict children of sin; the Holy Spirit does, and He guides them into all truth (John 16:7,8,13). He will help us guide children along God's path, not pushing them faster than their little spiritual legs can go. We must pray always that, whether it be today or years down the road, all children will receive the gift of salvation and will grow spiritually.

B. Confession

Once children believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins, the Bible says they are to confess Him as Savior. Each child should share with you, family, and others this wonderful news. In their own words they will tell you that Christ has become their personal Savior.

The Bible also teaches that water baptism is a public confession of the faith we have. Through biblical examples children can learn the significance of dying to their sinful life and being raised to new life in Christ. Though this form of confessing is biblical, it is not a requirement for salvation. Be sensitive to the level of each child's understanding in this area and the practices of the local church.

II. SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. Devotional Life

Those who work with children must understand that the Great Commission includes children. We are also to disciple them. The purpose for this Bible Curriculum is to bring an evangelistic message to children that is also combined with discipleship. Children at early ages can begin to have an appreciation for the Bible as God's Word, and for prayer or times of talking with God. You can begin to instill the habit of daily devotional times with children. They need to learn that their relationship with God is a 7-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day life-style. A devotional time should include both prayer and Bible reading. This will also be a key time in their life for beginning to memorize the Bible. Help each child find the passages from these lessons to begin reading and memorizing at home. Be sure they have a Bible or access to these materials for this devotional use.

B. Church Life

Another important support for growing young Christians is the church. Children need positive teaching and models, and the church is a place where children can receive continued support. They can learn early to be a part of the church through attendance, giving, and service in simple ways. Young children love being helpers, and this can begin a desire to serve the Lord.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Promise

At early ages children learn that the Holy Spirit helps us learn about God. He is the person of God that lives in us when we accept Jesus as our personal Savior. They can learn that He has been sent as part of God's promise. Some young children will understand this promise and will desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This should not be an emotional choice, or one caused by following the crowd. But again, the Spirit will direct you to see the readiness of children to seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

B. Prayer

Solid teaching should be given to the children that receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They can learn the advantages of having the Holy Spirit direct their prayers. Young children can be prayer warriors. The Holy Spirit also helps us to worship God in a special way. We can use the prayer language to worship Him for who He is and praise Him for what He does.

C. Power

Teach young children the advantages of the Holy Spirit helping them make right choices, share their testimony with others, and live a confident and victorious life for Christ. He is the director of our conscience or the voice in our head that cautions us about right and wrong. We need to listen for His direction. He can help us know when and how to share with other people God's love. He will direct us to people in need and give us the right words and actions to tell them about the Lord.

How To Use the Bible Curriculum

Basic Format

Title Box—This part of the page will provide the Unit and Lesson numbers, the Unit Theme, Scripture Text, Lesson Objective, and the Memory Verse.

Focusing Attention—You are provided simple and interesting ways to begin each lesson. These ideas will create interest for the Bible lesson that follows.

Communicating God's Word—The Bible story is presented in a form ready for the student's use.

Applying the Lesson—Every Bible lesson will be made applicable to the student's life. There will be an opportunity to respond in some way to what has been presented.

Directions for Study Guide—Answer keys or helpful directions will be provided for the Study Guide pages.

The Instructors Guide gives the Bible text and basic materials for creating a lesson. After prayerfully reading through the Bible account and the lesson materials provided, you will need to plan the lesson strategy that best fits your students, your time and setting for ministry, and your personal teaching style. The following page is a sample of how you may choose to plan your lesson presentation.

A basic lesson needs to include Bible reading, scripture memorization, the Bible story, and time for personal application and response. Choose the methods for accomplishing the objectives of the lesson and also plan how to use the Study Guide as a reinforcement for the presented lesson.

Each lesson has a general objective that will help you to plan the aim of your lesson. There are also enabling objectives at the beginning of each part of the lesson in the Instructors Guide to provide direction for that part of the lesson. Evaluate your own teaching by reviewing your presentation after class and checking the box in front of the enabling objective if you reached that goal in your lesson. Do this in pencil so it can be erased for use on another occasion.

Putting It to Use

There are many ways to use the Bible Curriculum:

- These materials have been designed for use in a school setting as a 1 hour a week religion class. The Instructors Guide will be helpful for the teacher, and the Study Guide will provide homework or extra classroom work for the student.
- Another way to use these materials is in the local church. Children's groups can use this for weekly Bible study, or they can provide a children's learning center program during adult learning center classes.
- A neighborhood Bible class or outreach ministry to children can use these materials to evangelize and disciple students beyond the church walls. This is a way to teach those who are not yet a part of the local church.
- These lessons can help with follow-up discipleship for those who have been reached through a crusade or evangelistic effort.
- Families can study the Bible together in the home. Parents can work with their children through these lessons, providing a family devotional plan.
- An individual student can study these materials as an independent Bible study course. There is a form available in the Study Guide for mailing in the Unit Exam.

Lesson Plan

Unit _____ Lesson _____ Date _____ Prayer Requests _____

Scripture Text _____

Memory Verse _____

Objective _____

Preparation

I have read the Scripture text and lesson materials.

Materials Needed _____

Other advance plans _____

Presentation

I. Welcome:

Attendance _____

Offering _____

Songs _____

Prayer _____

II. Focusing Attention:

Method _____

III. Communicating God's Word:

Method _____

Visuals _____

IV. Applying the Lesson:

Application _____

Response _____

Methods _____

V. Directions for Study Guide:

Use now _____

Assign _____

VI. Closing:

Activity _____

Prayer _____

Evaluation

Accomplished Objectives

Followup Ideas _____

Other lesson ideas _____

Memory Activities

The Bible Curriculum is based on one text, God's Word. The goal of every lesson is a better knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and then a deeper relationship with its Author. Students will read, understand, and memorize Scripture for every lesson. This unit contains 10 lessons, which results in 10 key memory verses. The list of verses can be found on page 12. We also want to provide you with several creative ways to help your students memorize these verses. Following you will find ways to enrich this learning process by adding variety and skillful techniques.

Scriptpix

Repetition is a key to memorization, and ICI University has developed a special tool to facilitate that process. In some cases your students may lack reading skills, making it difficult to read and memorize Scripture. *Scriptpix* is a specially designed system of simple line drawings that help the student follow the thought content of a verse using picture concepts. *Scriptpix* is not intended to be a word-for-word translation of Scripture, but it uses symbols to aid in the process of understanding and recall.

Scriptpix materials are being developed for the use of the entire church to aid in Scripture memorization. A special *Scriptpix* instructor's chart and individual student practice cards are available for direct use with your Bible Curriculum. Each memory verse for the unit has been developed using the drawings and format of this special program. *Scriptpix* can be a wonderful tool for helping your students memorize God's Word.

Memory With Motions

Adding motions or gestures to a verse as it is repeated can help the students understand the meaning of the text as well as increase the level of retention. Some verses may be acted out. The students must silently dramatize the context or actual action stated in the verse as they repeat the words. This can help them think about what the words are really saying. Some motions can also help the students to remember various parts of an extensive verse or passage.

Music

One of the most effective aids to memorization is music. Adding a tune and then singing a memory verse can help the student. You may want the students to help you fit a tune to the verse or even get the help of a musically talented person. A simple tune will aid in retention or long-term memorization. Younger students also like to tap, clap, or stomp out the verse to an added rhythm. You may also want to add simple rhythm instruments to the memory verse time.

Erase-a-Word

One effective way of learning a memory verse is through a technique often called "erase-a-word." Write the verse out clearly and have the students repeat that verse a number of times until they are sure of it. Now remove a word from the verse and have the students repeat the verse without seeing that word. Word by word remove parts of the verse and have the students continue to repeat the verse until they are able to repeat the whole verse without any help from words or picture clues.

This technique can be used on a chalkboard or whiteboard with words being erased. You can also use it with a poster by covering the words, or with word cards by removing words or phrases.

Group Activities

Dividing your students into groups or teams can create competitive situations that challenge some students to work even harder at memorization. Develop your own games and activities or

use some of the ideas on these pages in team situations. Bible quiz programs also increase the memorization of Bible verses.

Rewards

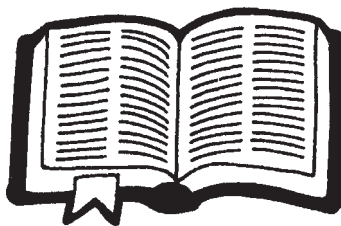
Encourage students to memorize Scripture and recognize them for their achievements. Each grade level has a different ability to memorize and every student has his own unique ability. Know your students and find ways to recognize their achievements. This guide provides you with reproducible masters for the memorization of the Unit's memory verses. A simple word of praise and a certificate can be a big source of recognition for your students. You may want to plan an award ceremony, or just send the certificate home with the students who have earned them at the end of the unit. Encourage students to memorize God's Word because of Psalm 119:11 and not for earthly rewards.

Final Note

Vary your memory verse activities. Try some new ways. No really effective method will remain effective when used forever. Try to bring variety to your presentation; never feel that you must use or even try every new idea. These pages, along with added ideas found in your lesson Resource Pages offer you new ways to add variety. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your lessons and any teaching technique for the glory of our God.

Memory Verse List 1-1

1. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
2. Matthew 6:11 "Give us today our daily bread."
3. 1 John 3:1 "The Father loves us so much!"
4. Exodus 16:8 "The Lord will give you meat to eat... he will give you bread."
5. John 3:16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."
6. Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'"
7. 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins... he will forgive us our sins."
8. 1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."
9. Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
10. Matthew 28:19 "Go and make followers of all people in the world."



Bible Memory Award

Bible Curriculum

This certifies that

has memorized all 10 key Bible verses in 1-1.

Date

Signature

Bible Memory Award

Bible Curriculum

This certifies that

has memorized all 10 key Bible verses in 1-1.

Date

Signature

Using Drama and Puppetry

Drama and puppetry are powerful tools for capturing attention, presenting the message effectively, and clarifying concepts. Whether these methods are used at the beginning of a presentation to gain the students' attention or as a means of actually conveying the message, there are guidelines for their use.



Drama

The simple forms of drama known as skits or pantomime can add a new dimension to your lesson presentation without much added work or resources. Choose to have students participate in this technique, or invite people from outside your group to make a special presentation.

Student participation may include the group acting out a real-life situation of sharing the gospel with friends at school, or a quick drama of a family dealing with a decision or illness. These short breaks from lecture-style lessons can encourage students to think through the application of the lesson in their own lives.

Outside participation may include examples like a lady from the church coming dressed as Tabitha, or a man dressed like Paul coming to share his life experiences. Bible heroes can come to life with the help of a simple cloth or robe. Without a lot of preparation, props, or space, a single person can bring the ancient past to your students.



Puppets

Puppets can dramatize either a story or the life application of your lesson. Whether your students or those outside your group use puppets, it is important they not become just entertainment. They must enrich your presentation. Puppets can also help with other activities in your group like announcements, greetings, or special events. The key is to have them enrich your lesson, not just provide variety or entertainment.

Both drama and puppetry can be helpful teaching tools.

Evaluating Learning

Evaluation is a helpful process that measures the instructor's ability to communicate and the student's receptivity. Our teaching is constantly being evaluated by our students, their parents, others, and God himself. Evaluation can be the key to measuring your effectiveness, seeing areas for improving skills, communicating with parents, and measuring your students' progress. Plan what you will evaluate and how.

What To Evaluate

1. *Relationship to Christ*

Know if your students have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

(Followed Him in water baptism, evidence of lives committed to Christ?)

2. *Spiritual Growth*

Know if your students are involved in a personal devotional time.

(Read the Bible and pray daily, life-styles reflecting biblical principles, sharing their faith, good stewards of their resources, time, and talents, involved in the church?)

3. *Bible Knowledge*

Know if your students have an adequate understanding of the Bible for their age.

(Basic understanding of salvation, healing, Baptism, the Second Coming, developing Bible study skills?)

4. *Attitude and Actions*

Know if your students are developing positive attitudes, reflected in their actions, toward God, church, Christians, missions, and moral standards.

How To Evaluate

The Bible Curriculum provides a Unit Exam and a course evaluation at the conclusion of every 10 lessons. The Study Guide has the Unit Exam and the Evaluation Form. The Exam Key for this unit is on the next page of this Instructor's Guide.

Ways to evaluate your own teaching, and your students' progress can include:

- *Observation* of the teaching sessions can help the instructor and measure students' progress.
- *Files* of lessons and student notations can also give a good view of progress.
- *Tests, quizzes, assigned projects or activities* are good measuring tools.
- *Evaluation forms* can help you measure the effectiveness of both materials and teaching techniques.

Let us not be satisfied with teaching, but determined to disciple others.

Exam Key

I. Matching: Draw a line from the action on the left to the correct person or persons on the right.

fed by ravens	_____	The Israelites
ate manna	_____	Elijah
died on a cross	_____	Jesus
spoke in a gentle whisper	_____	Josiah
found God's Word	_____	God

II. Fill in the blanks to complete these memory verses.

1. "Give us today our daily _____ *bread* _____ ." (Matthew 6:11)

2. "If we _____ *confess* _____ our sins, he will forgive our _____ *sins* _____ ."

(1 John 1:9)

3. "Your word is a _____ *lamp* _____ to my _____ *feet* _____ and a

_____ *light* _____ for my _____ *path* _____ ." (Psalm 119:105)

III. Draw a picture to show how Jesus gave His life for you.

Unit 1

God Made Everything

Lesson 1

Unit Theme: Who God Is

Scripture Text: Genesis 1:1-23

Lesson Objective: The learner will recognize that all things come from God.

Memory Verse: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Focusing Attention

- ❑ *The learner will see some of the things God created.*

Before class, gather some pictures of God's creation. You might include pictures from space, mountains, trees, plants, wild life, sea life, deserts, etc.

As you look at them together with your students, say, "Look at these mountains. Aren't they amazing? God made them. Do you see all the different types of fish in this picture? God made every one of them too. How many snowflakes do you think it took to cover the ground as it is in this scene? Did you know every snowflake is different? No two are alike. God made them that way. God created everything. We will hear about all the things God made."

Communicating God's Word

- ❑ *The learner will hear the story of the creation of the world.*

Close your eyes. What do you see? Before God created the world, there was nothing. Everything was black, like you see now.

God said, "Let there be light," and, just like that, there was light. He made day and night on the first day.

On the second day, God made the sky above the waters. He said, "This is good." God was happy with what He had made. (*Show Visual 1.*)

On the third day, God made the land, mountains and valleys, deserts and plains. Then he put trees and grass, flowers and plants on the land He had made.

The next day, God made a special light for the daytime. It was the sun! For the nighttime, God made the moon and all the twinkling stars. This was the fourth day. (*Show Visual 2.*)

On the fifth day, God filled the sky with birds of every kind. He made robins, ostriches, and eagles. Then He made fish to live in the water. There are so many kinds of fish! From little tiny minnows to great big whales. God made them all. (*Show Visual 3.*)

The sixth day was a very special day. Do you know what God made on that day? God made animals, all kinds of animals! He made big ones, little ones, short ones, tall ones; striped, spotted, fast and slow ones. God made every one.

And then, can you guess what God made next? This was His best creation yet. God made a person! Yes, God made man and woman.

God was very glad that He had made all of these things. He made them all in six days. On the seventh day, He rested.

Applying the Lesson

- *The learner will recognize that God made the world and everything in it. The learner will respond by thanking God for His creation.*

We have heard that God made everything in the world. Everything includes a lot of things, doesn't it? Let's make a list of some of the things God made. Each of you can name something that God made. I will write them down on the board. (*Allow time for response.*)

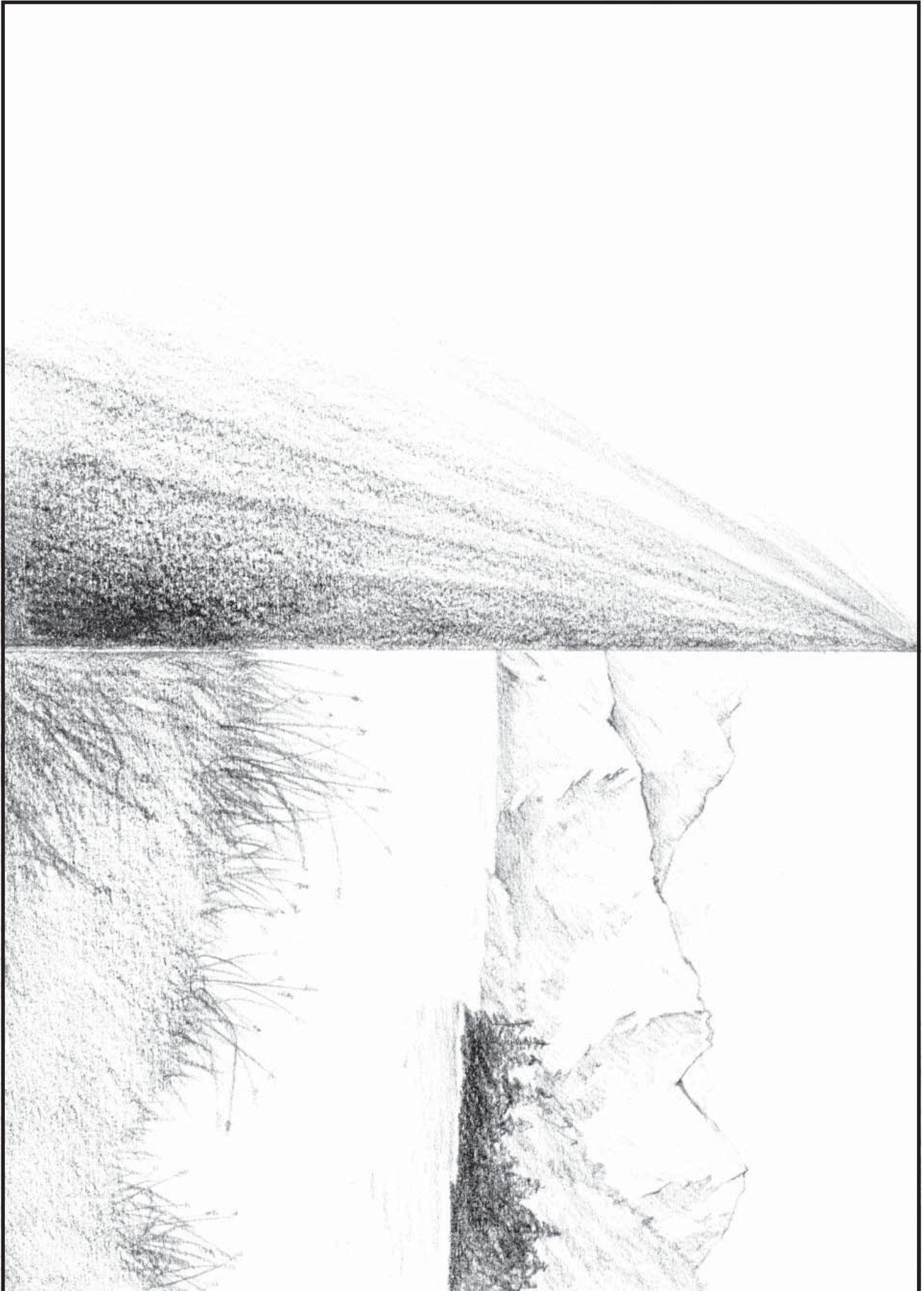
What would the world be like if God hadn't created plants? Think of all the good food we wouldn't have to eat: apples, bananas, nuts, even bread! There would be no trees to shade us from the sun; no soft green grass to tickle your bare feet. I'm glad God made plants, aren't you?

Let's pray a prayer together to thank God for some of the things He made. Everyone can thank God for one thing. Just pray like this, "Thank you, God, for everything that You created. Amen." (*Allow each student an opportunity to pray.*)

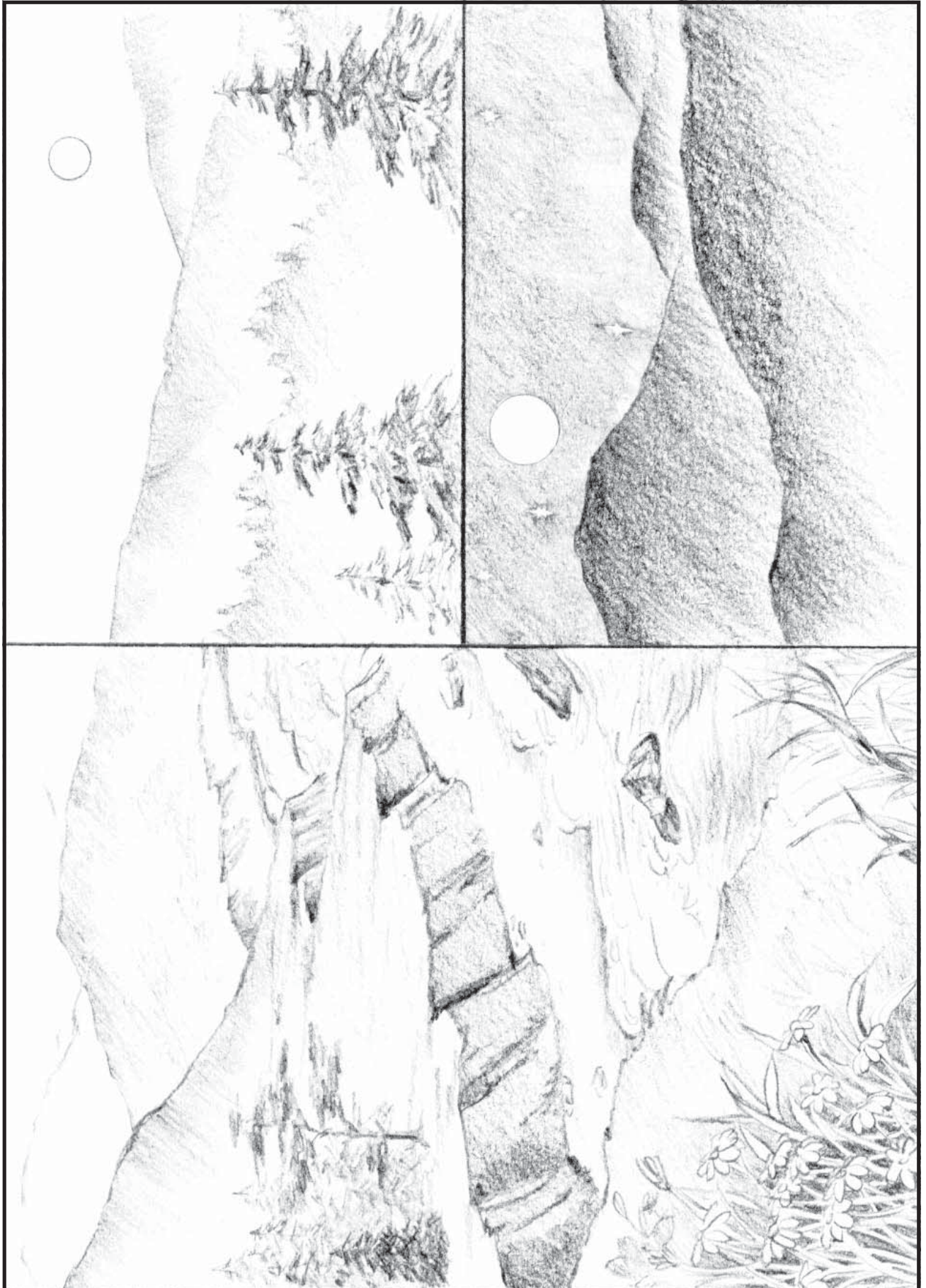
Directions for Study Guide

1. The students will show their understanding of the events of creation by drawing a line from the number to the item(s) that were created on that day.
2. The students will show their understanding of the lesson by identifying items which God created. They will circle items that God made, and will draw an "X" through the ones He did not make.
3. The students will find and circle in the picture five birds that God made.
4. The students will connect the dots by number to reveal one of God's creations.

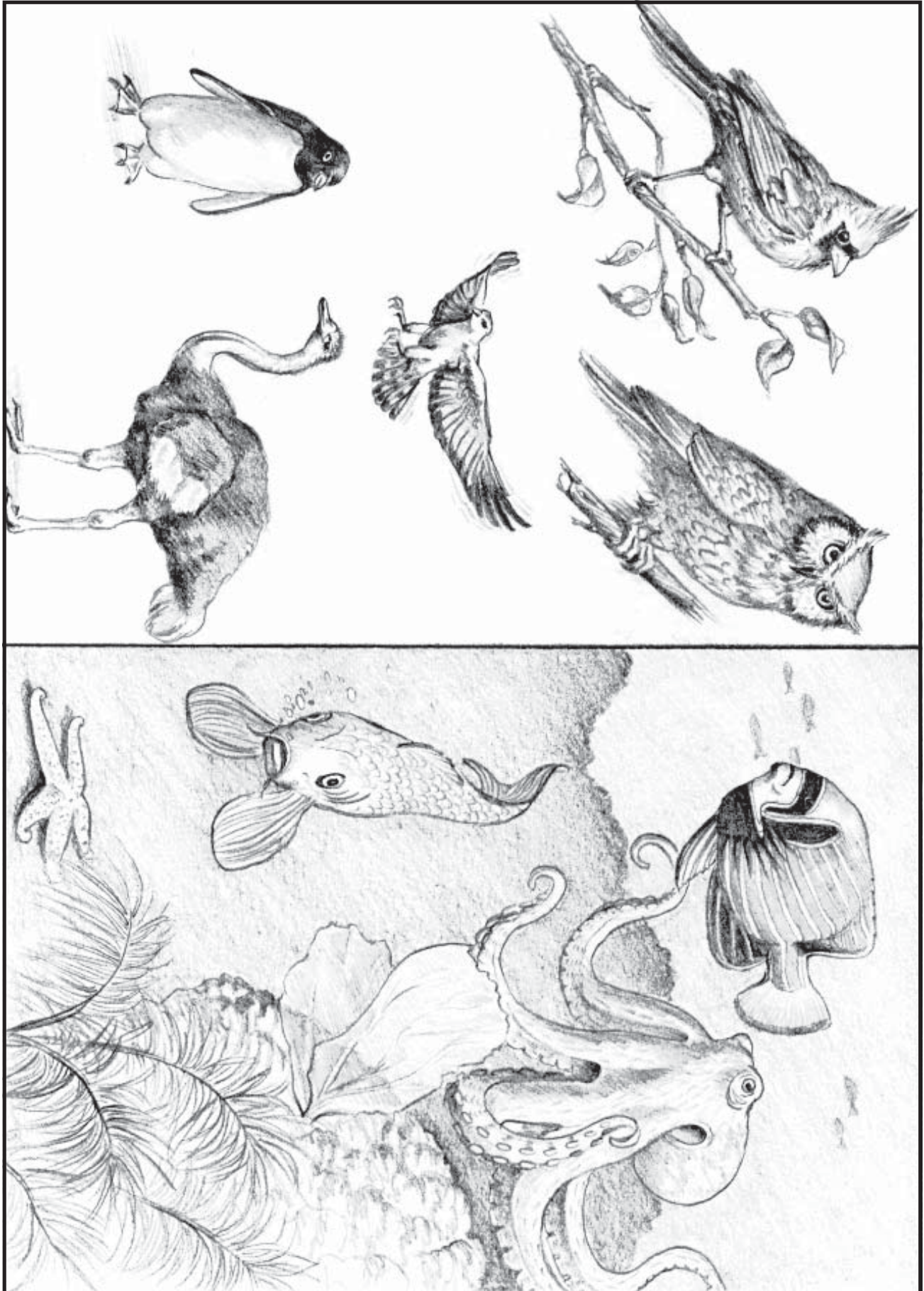
Visual 1



Visual 2



Visual 3





Resource Page

Nature Center

Setting up a nature center can be as simple or as elaborate as your time and resources allow, but it is guaranteed to be a great attention-getter for curious first graders. You can use a table, a corner of your classroom, or set aside an entire room for your learning center.

Label the items you can identify. If you plan to include any items that are fragile, put them out of reach and label them "DO NOT TOUCH." Try to include as many hands-on items as possible for the children to touch, handle, and examine.

Here are some items you might want to include:

books on nature

space

illustrations

plants

rocks

minerals

leaves

seeds

bird's nest

bird's eggs or eggshells

pets

birds

fruits and vegetables

local flora and fauna

magnifying glass

simple student microscope

feathers

skeletons

fossils

animal skins

shells

sand table

water table

globe

fish

flowers

maps

Nature Walk

Plan a short walk with the students to see some of the parts of God's creation. They can work as a team to point to as many different kinds of plants, trees, birds, or animals as possible. This may even be an opportunity to collect small leaves or rocks to take back to the classroom. Make sure that they see the sky, clouds, and the sun as part of the creation as well.

The final discovery will be to point to each other as part of God's creation. Talk to the students about praising God every day when they see the beautiful things that He has created for us to enjoy. Remind them that wherever they go they can see these examples of God's love. Tell them to look for more things around their own homes. They can try to find as many examples of God's creation as possible to tell their parents about.

