

Lesson 1: “by Him.” God is Creator of all things, including me.

**Passage:** Genesis 1, Psalm 139:13-15

**Supplies Needed:** Bible, pens/ pencils, camp booklets, poster boards (enough for small groups of 5-6 campers to have 1 each), markers, crayons, colored pencils, 1 new unopened bottle of water.

**Intro Activity: (15 minutes)**

ABC Creation Scavenger Hunt. This activity can be found in the camper booklet on the Day 1 Bible Study pages. Divide campers into small groups and on your “GO,” campers have 5 minutes to find as many things around them in nature that God created. As they discover these things, campers need to fill in the blanks using the ABC list on the page. Quickly & just briefly review their discoveries once time is up.

**Lesson (20 minutes)**

Ask students, “How many of you have ever drawn a picture?” Think of the best picture you’ve ever drawn. Choose 2-3 campers to describe the best picture they’ve ever drawn, and ask “why did you draw it? How did you feel about creating it?” As the sponsor, tell of a time when you made something artistic and explain how you felt about creating it. Today, we will be understanding why God chose to create the whole world... and YOU!

Summarize Genesis 1, with the following story, asking the included questions as you read and specifically emphasizing the noted verses as you go. (Genesis 1:4, 10c, 12c, 18c, 21c, 25b, 31)

In the beginning, God created everything in six days. How many days did it take God to create everything? (six days) That’s pretty fast to create everything, isn’t it? But remember that God is really powerful and He can do anything as quick as He chooses.

At first, everything was dark, but on the first day, God created the light. He said, “Let there be light!” and suddenly everything was bright. Then, at nighttime, it got dark again. Ask a student to read **Genesis 1:4**. God said the light was what? (very good)

On the second day, God made the sky. The third day, He made the oceans and all the dry ground came up out of the oceans. Ask a student to **read Genesis 1:10**. When God saw the dry land called Earth and the waters called Seas, what did He think? (that it was good)

Plants and trees started growing out of the ground and covering everything. **Read Genesis 1:12**. What did God think when He saw the creation of plants and trees and vegetation? (that it was very good) On the fourth day, God made the sun and the moon and the stars. How many stars do you think there are in the sky? Lots, right? There are more stars than we could ever count. And God made them all. Ask a camper to **read Genesis 1:18**. How did God feel about the sun, moon and stars He had just created? (that it was good) Hmmm... do you begin to see a theme of how God feels about all He is creating?

On day five, God made everything that lives in the water. What kinds of things can you think of that live in the water? (Fish, dolphins, whales, sharks, seals, seahorses, starfish, etc.) Then, on that same day, God made all the different kinds of birds that fly in the sky. What are some of the

different kinds of birds that you can name? (Pigeons, blue jays, robins, cardinals, eagles, hawks, crows, etc.) Let's **read Genesis 1:21**... God saw that it was what? (good) On day six, God made all the animals that live on the land. What kinds of animals live on land or used to live on land? (Dinosaurs, bears, horses, dogs, pigs, lizards, lions, squirrels, etc.) Ask a camper to **read Genesis 1:25**. Again what did God think when He saw all He had created? (that it was good)

Then, after God made all those different kinds of animals, He made a man and a woman. The man was named Adam and the woman was named Eve. God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and let them live there. Let's **read Genesis 1:31**, and for the last time, God saw everything that He had made, and proclaimed what? (that it was VERY good)

The question I want to ask you today is, Why do you think God made all those things? God wanted to make everything. Just like when you made your drawings that you told me about and I made mine, God made what He made – people and animals and the whole world – because He wanted to. He created everything so that He could be proud of it and so that He could love it. God loves the world and thinks it is all very good. He loves the mountains and the lakes and the animals, and He loves you.

Ask campers to **read aloud Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13-15**. The Bible tells us that God even made you “in His own image.” No other land, sky, sun, stars, ocean, plants, trees, birds, or animal have been created in His image... only you and me!!! How special is that? I'd say it's VERY GOOD! The Bible also tells us that God even made you when you were still inside your mother's womb. He made you in there because He loves you and He wanted to make you. These verses tell us that God is present and working in human lives even before birth, and that every human life is a unique work of God!

Display the unopened bottle of water. How much would you pay for this new bottle of water? Did you know that at a concession stand at a high school baseball game this bottle of water can be bought for \$1? Not too much, right? But the same bottle of water may cost you \$5-\$8 at the airport. Is the water inside any different? (no) Know your value. Tough family situations, mean kids at school, the “less than stellar” position you think you may play on that ball team do not determine your value or worth. Remember Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13-15. (“made in His image” and “fearfully and wonderfully made”) That's YOU! When we close in prayer today, thank God for making you fearfully and wonderfully in His image.

### **Activity**

Divide campers into small groups of 5-6 students each. Have students work together on a large piece of poster board, drawing a collage of all their favorite things that God has created. Display their posters on the walls of the dining hall for all campers to see.

### **Closing Prayer**

Complete that Prayer Box in your camper booklet on Day 1 Bible study. Once you've written all your favorite answers, quietly and prayerfully read through your prayer.

## Lesson 2: “through Him.” We are saved through Jesus and nothing else.

**Passage:** John 20:1-18, John 3:16

**Supplies Needed:** Bibles, pens/ pencils, camper booklets, 3 clear jars/ glasses, bleach, iodine, 3 labels (Jesus, You, Sin) for the jars

### **Intro Activity: (15 minutes)**

Turn in your camper booklet to Day 2 Bible study. Place an “X” on the image that does not belong with the other items in each row. Have you ever put something where it didn't belong? (Look for yes/no answers here not stories) For instance, have you ever come home and were so excited to be home that you left your bag, shoes, and coat all in a lump right by the door... Yes? No? Maybe? And then, a little bit later, when a friend invites you over to their place you go running to get your stuff where you left it...and...wait a minute! It's not there – your stuff is no longer all in a lump right by the door! What do you think? Any guesses where your stuff went? That's right! Your parent put your stuff away – most likely they put your stuff where it actually belongs. Just because you left something somewhere doesn't mean that's where it is meant to go, right? I mention someone putting stuff where it belongs because the same thing happens in today's Bible story. In the story, we hear that some women knew where Jesus' body had been buried. And so, on Sunday morning, they went to the tomb where His body was buried so that they could better prepare it for His final burial. Except when they arrived at the place of Jesus' body, it wasn't there... The women were pretty confused and didn't understand Jesus' missing body. But it turns out that being buried wasn't where Jesus belonged, which is why God had put Jesus back where He actually belonged: among the living. This is also why the angels tell the women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here, but has risen.” Let's read.

### **Lesson (20 minutes)**

Ask campers to **read aloud John 20:1-18**. Jesus has died on a cross. He has obeyed what God's plan was, and now God is about to WOW them all and perform the most special miracles! Today's story gives us reason to obey God's plan for our own lives and celebrate an eternity in heaven with Him. Even if we don't fully understand the future, we can trust God to take care of us.

Do you know what a miracle is? A miracle is when something completely impossible happens. When there is absolutely no way for it to be true, yet it is. And Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection give us lots of miracles for us to celebrate. I bet you can guess the biggest one. Jesus rose from the dead! After 3 whole days of being dead, Jesus was alive again! I can't imagine a bigger miracle than that. Miracle number 1. But it makes me so happy to think that Jesus didn't have to suffer for us forever.

When He took our place on the cross, He was whipped, beaten, and had huge nails forced through His hands and feet. And then, carrying all of our sins... so much suffering for an innocent man. But Jesus chose to suffer so that we wouldn't have to, so that we might be able to join Him in heaven. I think that amount of love is a miracle. For someone to love you SO much more than they love themselves, and to willingly suffer through so much pain; it's another miracle. Miracle number 2.

After Jesus rose from the dead there was another miracle. Jesus was buried in a small cave dug out of a rock, and to close it up they would roll a HUGE rock in the opening. It would take tons of men pushing together to get that rock to move. But when Jesus rose from the dead, that rock moved. With no one touching it, that HUGE rock moved out of the way. Miracle number 3. Do you think that's everything? Of course not!

Later that very day Mary Magdalene and other women went to visit the tomb. When they saw the rock had been moved and Jesus was gone, she got very upset. She thought someone had stolen Jesus! But the next time she looked, it wasn't empty at all. There were two angels sitting right where Jesus had been. Angels! Can you imagine? That sounds like miracle number 4. At first Mary didn't understand. She thought those angels had stolen Jesus, and she started to cry. Mary turned around and was shocked to see someone right behind her. She didn't know who it was, and asked if they were the one who stole Jesus. But as soon as Jesus said her name, Mary could tell it was Jesus. All with one word, this man went from total stranger to close friend. Miracle number 5. Then Jesus sent Mary back to the disciples so she could tell them what she had seen.

In such a short time, Mary was able to experience 5 miracles. 5!

Jesus suffered out of love.

Jesus rose from the dead.

The rock was moved and the tomb was opened.

Angels appeared and spoke to Mary.

Jesus appeared, looking first like a stranger, then as a beloved friend.

Because of Jesus' love and obedience, we can freely receive the gift of salvation... God's miracle to us. During Bible study yesterday, we learned that God created us, and He loves and values us. But our sin separates us from God, but we can be saved through Jesus...MY love and obedience to HIM.

Read **John 3:16**. And talk through the following questions.

Why did God act in this verse? (because He loves the world... His creation... YOU!)

What did God give? (His One and Only Son Jesus)

What does He call us to do? (believe in Him; confess Him our Lord and Savior)

What does God give us? (everlasting life- eternal life in heaven with Him forever)

Who is His gift through? (JESUS!)

### **Activity**

Fill 3 clear glasses half full with the following and label accordingly: Jesus: bleach, You: water, and Sin: iodine. Explain as you pour iodine from the "sin" jar into the "you" jar that the Bible tells us that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. But because of Christ's obedience, great love and sacrifice on the cross, we are saved and made new again. Pour from the "Jesus" jar into the "you" jar. Jesus took on all the sins of the world when He died on the cross- pour the "sin" jar into the "Jesus" jar.

### **Closing Prayer**

Turn in your camper booklet to Day 2 Bible study and quietly work through the Prayer Box.

Lesson 3: “for Him.” We are created and saved for Jesus, and we live life for Him.

**Passage:** Various- Colossians 1:16-17; Romans 3:23 & 6:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10, 13

**Supplies Needed:** Bibles, pens/ pencils, camper booklets, “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” 2 tracts per camper (provided by WOBA at camp)

**Intro Activity: (15 minutes)**

Good morning to the LAST morning of camp! But hang on! We aren’t going home just yet! God still wants to speak to each of us, so let’s not miss it! Choose 1 camper to lead a game of “Follow the Leader.” After a bit, change leaders giving several campers an opportunity to lead the game. Why do you think we chose to play “Follow the Leader” today? Allow for 3-4 quick guesses. Today our lesson teaches us that we live FOR Him, so who is it that we should be following as our leader? (JESUS!!)

**Lesson (15 minutes)**

Have you ever wondered if God has a plan for You? He does! God has a very good plan for your life that He started before you were even born. God’s plan is for you to know Him and love Him with your whole heart AND tell others about Him. Today we will learn how you can respond to God’s plan in 5 and share God’s plan in 5. Let’s get started.

#1- Guide campers to draw a crown in the #1 box by “God rules.” **Read Colossians 1:16-17.** Just like we learned Tuesday morning, the Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me. And He is in charge of what? (Everything!)

#2- Guide campers to draw an X in the next box by “we sinned.” We all choose to disobey God. Let’s see what Romans tells us about our sin. **Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23.** If I had a soccer ball right now, who thinks I could kick it and hit \_\_\_\_\_ (choose an object about 10 feet away)? Easy right? Who thinks I could kick it to the moon? No way! Impossible!! “Earning” my salvation is just like hitting the moon with this soccer ball. I can try and try and try to “be good,” but eventually (like every day) I will fall short just like my ball missing the moon. It’s impossible to earn salvation on my own. I am separated from God because of my sin. BUT... there’s good news!

#3- Guide campers to draw a cross in the third box “God provides.” If you know John 3:16, say it with me loud enough Terry can hear us! **Recite John 3:16 together.** God sent Jesus to be the perfect solution to our sin problem. We no longer have to be separated from God! Isn’t that just the best news ever?!?! Let’s **read Ephesians 2:8-9** together. Salvation is something we can never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us! And what a perfect gift He is! That’s our next box!

#4- Guide campers to draw a gift in the next box “Jesus gives.” Be sure to give it a pretty bow because Jesus is the BEST GIFT EVER! Let’s **read Romans 5:8.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for my sis and your sins, and rose again. Let’s **repeat John 3:16** one more time. So whosoever believes in Him shall receive what? Yes! Everlasting or eternal life! Wow! There’s

just no better gift than that! Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family and accept His gift of eternity with Him!

And finally, #5- Guide campers to draw a hand in box #5- this is where we respond to what we just heard. John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is the only way to God the Father. So how will you respond? Maybe you've already accepted God's gift of salvation– that's wonderful. But this lesson is for you too! If you've already accepted God's gift of salvation, you can use these steps to lead others and tell them about this most wonderful Good News! If you have not accepted this Gift we've talked about today, maybe now is that time for you. So let's look at 2 final verses in Romans. **Read Romans 10:9-10 & verse 13.** Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He did on the cross. If you feel a nudging or tugging in your heart to repent, please talk to myself or another sponsor before we leave camp.

Living "for Him" is like "Follow the Leader." Our leader is Jesus, and our purpose is to tell others about Him.

### **Activity**

Ahead of time, enlist 1-2 sponsors AND 1-2 campers mature enough in their faith and that would be willing to share their testimonies of their salvation experience. Each testimony should be limited to less than 5 minutes.

Afterwards, pass out 2 tracts to each camper. One tract is theirs to keep; it can help guide and answer their questions about salvation OR help the already believer in sharing the Gospel with others. The second tract is for each camper to give one to a friend or family member who has not been to camp this week.

Campers once you're home, find time this afternoon or tomorrow to practice sharing the Gospel with your parents and siblings using the tract. If the 5 symbols we drew in our booklets helps you remember what to share, grab a piece of paper and draw them with your friends and family.

### **Closing Prayer**

Go to the prayer box in your camper booklet. Today, take time to write out your prayer, thanking God for His free gift of salvation. Ask Him for boldness and courage for you to respond and obey how He leads you to live FOR Him.