



UNIT 1 | SESSION 3

CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

PSALM 19

KEY PASSAGE:

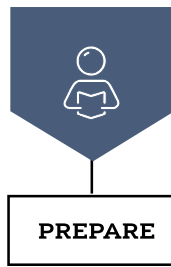
Psalm 19:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

All of creation displays the glory of God—how great He is—although not perfectly. The perfect revelation of God’s glory is found in Jesus, who came to show us exactly what God is like. Because Jesus is God, He is the perfect display of God’s glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In the first two sessions of this unit, we have seen a common thread of God’s glory. God created everything, including people, to display His glory. In this session, we want to make sure that our kids understand what that means. What is God’s glory?

God’s glory can be thought of as God’s greatness. The Bible often uses the picture of a brilliant white light when it comes to God’s glory. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai after spending time with God, his face shone. When Jesus was transfigured, He shined like a brilliant white light. And when Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he saw a blinding light. Such an intense light helps us understand how pure and powerful God’s glory is.

But we don’t just see God’s glory revealed in bright light. In this session, we will look at a Psalm that King David wrote many years after Adam and Eve. David used creation to speak of God’s glory. For David, it was easy to see God’s glory—at least its fingerprints—all around him.

If you have ever looked up into the heavens on a clear, dark night, maybe you have sensed it too as you consider all the stars that cannot be counted and think that each is a giant sun, like ours—only our sun is relatively modest in comparison—and that

they stretch over billions and billions and trillions and trillions of miles. And that is just what we can see!

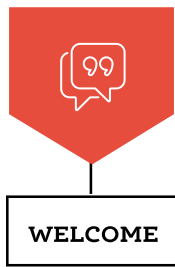
Or maybe you have caught a glimpse of God’s glory as you looked over a stunning mountain range or walked on a beach. Creation is full of beauty, wonder, and power—all of which hints at the greater beauty, wonder, and power of the Creator who made it all. God is glorious indeed.

But one of the greatest ways we can know of God’s glory is that the Creator who made everything not only made us too, but wants to have a friendship with us. That is why He gave us the Bible—so that we might come to know Him, love Him, and live for Him.

As you teach, seek to leave your kids in awe of how big and how good and how loving God is.

TERMS TO KNOW

Glory: God’s glory is His greatness and is often described in the Bible as a brilliant white light. That picture is used to show how pure and powerful God’s glory really is.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “What’s the most incredible thing you’ve ever seen? How did you react?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “Bright Books” on the activity page.

| **SAY** “What word did you find in the shaded boxes? (glory) The word glory describes God’s power, greatness, and importance. Listen in the Bible story today for ways we can see God’s power, greatness, and importance all around us.”

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: DESCRIBE IT CHALLENGE

Form two teams of kids. Call one player from each team to stand at the front of the room. Explain that you will name a noun (person, place, thing). You will give the two players a few seconds to write on their dry erase boards one adjective to describe what you named. Then both players will show what they wrote.

Suggested nouns: sunset, baby, elephant, tree, baby, giraffe, house, refrigerator, car

If players wrote different adjectives, award each team a point. If players wrote the same adjective, award a point only to the team who finished writing first.

Play additional rounds with new players as time allows.

SAY “Great job! What adjectives would you use to describe God? [Allow kids to respond.] Today, we’ll discover how we can know God and see His greatness, value, and beauty.”

OPTION 2: ON-THE-SPOT TALENT SHOW



Ask for a few volunteers to perform in an on-the-spot talent show. Give them a couple of minutes to think about special talents or skills they could show off to the rest of the group. Volunteers should be able to perform the skill without additional props. Encourage kids to recite a poem, tell a joke, dance, show a physical talent, sing, lip sync to music, and so forth.

Explain to the rest of the group that when a volunteer finishes her performance, they should clap and cheer as loudly as they can. Give each volunteer a chance to show her talent.

SAY “Why do we like to watch people who are good at things? We were created to behold glory! We give a performer glory by clapping and cheering as a way of saying, ‘Wow! That was amazing! You are awesome!’ God is more amazing and awesome than anything He created because He is the Creator. Today, we will hear how creation glorifies God.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Psalm 19. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Creation Glorifies God.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

“**King David** loved God. He **wrote a psalm**, or song, to celebrate how great God is. This is what he wrote:

“**The heavens show us the glory of God—how great He is.** When we look up into the sky we can see what God created. **Every day and every night what we see in the heavens continues to tell us about God.** The heavens we see don’t tell us about God with words, but the message that they show us about God is seen by all the people of the world.

“**We can see God’s glory in the movement of the sun.** It is like an athlete running a course. **It rises in the same place every morning and then sets at the end of the day in another place. Everyone and everything can feel its heat.**”

David continued:

“**The Lord’s instruction is perfect. It renews life. What God says is trustworthy.** The Lord’s instructions make our hearts glad and help us see clearly. **When people respond in awe and love of God, it is pure and lasts forever. Instructions from the Lord are reliable and righteous. They are more desirable than pure gold and they are sweeter than fresh honey.** In addition, God’s instructions warn His servants. When they are kept, there is great reward.

“**No one can keep track of all his sins; sometimes we don’t even realize we are sinning when we disobey God! God, clean up our hidden flaws.** Keep your servant from choosing to sin too, and don’t let sin be in control. Then, I will be blameless and cleansed from my rebellion against You. **I want everything I think or say to be acceptable to You, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.**”

Christ Connection: All of creation displays the glory of God—how great He is—although not perfectly. The perfect revelation of God’s glory is found in Jesus, who came to show us exactly what God is like. Because Jesus is God, He is the perfect display of God’s glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display art: Hang pictures around the room of God’s creation. Include scenes from nature and photos of people.

Make eye contact: As you read David’s words, make eye contact with kids to draw in listeners.

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Open your Bible to Psalm 19. What are some of the parts of creation David mentioned that show God’s glory? Look at verses 1-2. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ps. 19:1-2.] Everything in the sky—the sun, moon, and stars—are declaring God’s glory. They don’t use words to do this, but their message is clear.

Think about the sun. It is the center of our solar system and is a giant ball of hot, burning gas. The sun is 93 million miles away, and its gravity keeps the planets in orbit. It gives us light to see and warms the earth so we can live. Everyone can see the sun! God created the sun. He cares for us and provides everything we need. We can know God through creation. He is good!

David also thought of another way we can know God. What is it? Look at Psalm 19:7. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ps. 19:7.] David wrote about the instruction of the Lord. Some translations say ‘the law of the Lord.’ David was talking about God’s words—the Bible! We can know God through the Bible. We can read His words and understand that He is powerful.

God didn’t just create everything and sit back and leave us alone. God wants us to know Him! He makes Himself known through the things He made and through His Word. **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.**

Psalm 19 helps us understand that everything exists to make much of God—to show how amazing He is. Big, powerful things like waterfalls give us a hint of how much bigger and more powerful God is. Beautiful fields of flowers give us a hint of how beautiful their Creator is. And like we talked about last week, that is why we exist too—to help others see how amazing God is. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ All of creation displays the glory of God—how great He is—although not perfectly. The perfect revelation of God’s glory is found in Jesus, who came to show us exactly what God is like. Because Jesus is God, He is the perfect display of God’s glory. Jesus died on the cross to pay for all the ways we fall short of being perfect. He rose from the dead. If we trust in Him as Lord and Savior, God forgives our sin. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What is God’s glory? What does it mean to bring God glory? ”

Help kids understand that God’s glory can be thought of as His greatness. We give God glory by pointing others to His greatness. We can give Him glory by living out our purpose. God created us to know Him, love Him, and live for Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 6:3.)

| **SAY** “ What can you know is true about God by looking at His creation? ”

Let kids share their observations and conclusions. Point out that God is knowable. He created us to be in a relationship with Him. Encourage kids to study the incredible design of creatures and people. When we see beauty, wonder, and power in creation, we see hints of God’s greater beauty, wonder, and power as the Creator.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 17:3.)

| **SAY** “ How can we bring glory to God? ”

Lead kids to recall that God created people in His image. We can get to know Him by reading and studying His Word. We can glorify God by reflecting Him to the world around us by how we live and love others. We can praise Him and tell others about Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 5:16.)