
Lesson 1: Who Is God?

Taken from Psalm 104

BIBLE MEMORY

O Lord my God, You are very great!

Psalm 104:1b

FIRST CATECHISM: TEACHING CHILDREN BIBLE TRUTHS

Q. 3: Why did God make you and all things?

A: For His own glory

Thoughts for the Teacher

Children ask all kinds of questions. *Why can't I have another cookie? Are we almost there yet? Do trees sneeze?* Some questions are easy to answer. Some questions are impossible to answer. Some questions make us pause because the answer is so complex—the understanding needed is so vast—that we stop and think and sputter as we search for just the right words.

“Who is God?” is certainly one of those questions in which the answer seems so boundless. God certainly can never be put in a box. No adjective can completely describe His majesty and perfection.

Psalm 104 touches on the creative preciseness of God as the Creator of everything seen and unseen. He orchestrates relationship between living and non-living things. He is the Inventor of seasons and cycles. He is Provider and Protector. The language of Psalm 104 urges colors, sounds, and smells out of our imaginations as we read the text.

Take time to visualize each verse as you savor the passage as you read. Don't rush. Creation is the first story in the Bible. It's our first introduction into the character of God. Take the time to slow down and get to know your Creator a little better.



Song Suggestions

- “My God Is So Big”
- “The Doxology”



Mystery Bag

Mystery bag items: pictures or figurines of doctor, fire fighter, ballerina (or any profession your students might be familiar with)

I have some pictures in my bag of jobs people can have. I'm going to give you some clues to see if you can guess the people I have in my bag.

The first person I have is someone who uses a stethoscope, helps people feel better when they get hurt, and tries to keep people healthy and takes care of them when they're sick. Who are they? *Pull out doctor/nurse picture.*

The second person is someone who rides in a big truck with sirens on it, sprays water at fires, and rescues people from danger. Who are they? *Pull out firefighter picture.*

The third person is someone who wears her hair in a bun, dresses in pretty costumes, and dances and twirls on her toes? Who are they? *Pull out ballerina picture.*

You are good guessers! We can tell a lot about who someone is by looking at what they do. In today's lesson, we are going to hear about amazing things that God has done. Psalm 104, where our memory verse is found, tells about some marvelous things God has done. By finding out some things that God has done, we get to learn a little bit more about who God is and what He is like.



Bible Story

“Who is God?” you ask. You gaze at the sky and wonder how anyone could be brighter than the sun, faster than the clouds, or mightier than the wind.

But that’s just how great God is! God controls the powerful wind and the hungry fire with a word.

As you pull a shirt over your head to dress, God is clothed all over with the brightest light. As you zoom up and down the street on your scooter, God moves faster than the clouds.

He builds the earth from the very bottom to the tippy-top. He pulls the mountains up. He pushes the valleys low. He squishes all the water into its place and tells it not to move away.

He turns on the rivers so that thirsty deer and horses have cool water to drink. He gives strong, green branches for birds to chirp their cheerful songs. He gives penguins their chilly nests and foxes their secret dens.

He makes juicy leaves for hungry caterpillars. He makes corn and wheat grow tall in the farmer’s fields. He creates berries and sugar and music for people to taste and enjoy.

He gives the night a moon and the day a sun. He gives rhythms and routines for each month of the year. When the sun goes to bed, the owls and lions come out to hunt. They soar and roar and feast on the food God has provided just for them. When the sun wakes up again, the night creatures go to sleep in the shade, while people work in the heat of the day.

Wonderful creatures explore the land God has made. Even more life bursts from the splashy seas and oceans deep. Rainbow fish and jellyfish, thunderous whales and slimy snails, pinchy crabs and toothy sharks all swirl and circle and crash through the ocean waves. God feeds each water creature from His hand. Each day is a gift He gives.

God smiles at every delightful creature He has made. Every single one is perfectly made. God is the Giver of life and the Counter of all the days. A look from His eye makes the spinning world tremble. A touch from His finger makes the mountains smoke.

God’s glory will never fade away. Praise God!

Hands-on Learning

1

Activity 1: Creation Collage

Materials:

- 8 ½" x 11" cardstock paper (one per child) OR poster board for class to share
- Nature magazines or calendars or catalogs*
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Bible memory verse cutout — p. 20 (one per collage being made)

Before class:

- Cut out pictures of animals, plants, flowers, etc. from nature magazines, catalogs, or calendars.
- Cut out copies of the Bible memory verse (Psalm 104:1b), one for each child or write the memory verse in the center of the poster board.
- Make a sample collage to show the children.

During class:

- Tell students that God made all sorts of creative, wonderful creatures. Tell them they will get to make a collage—a collection of pictures—to remember some of the wonderful things God has made. (Show students an example of a collage you have made.)
- Allow students to choose nature pictures they like.
- Next, have children glue the Bible memory verse to their sheet of cardstock (if they are making individual collages).
- Have students glue the nature pictures onto their paper, being careful not to cover up the Bible verse.

- As the students create their collages, talk about what makes each item in nature special.
- Ask the students what their favorite animals, flowers, food, etc. are.
- Marvel with your students about how great God is!

*Option: nature stickers can be used instead of cutting pictures out.

2

Activity 2: Psalm 104 in Action!

Read excerpts from Psalm 104 aloud to students. Have them act out the verses. This activity can be used throughout the year.

Oh LORD my God, You are very great! **(Bend arms to make muscles.)**



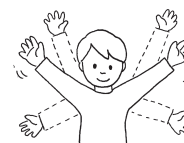
He lays the beams of His chambers on the waters; **(Point arms, one at a time, straight out in front of body – like laying down beams for a building project.)**



He makes the clouds His chariot; **(Pretend to ride a horse.)**



He rides on the wings of the wind; **(Flap arms like wings.)**



He makes His messengers winds, **(Hold arms straight up, waving arms back and forth like grass in the wind.)**



His ministers a flaming fire. **(Hold up hands and wiggle fingers like flames.)**



He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.
(Circle arms above head.)



The mountains rose, **(Touch fingers together like a teepee in front of chest. Raise hands above head.)**



The valleys sank down to the place You appointed for them. **(Squat down to the floor.)**



You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
(Leap up and then make a wave motion with arms like a river back to the floor.)



they give drink to every beast of the field; **(On hands and knees, pretend to drink water from a river.)**



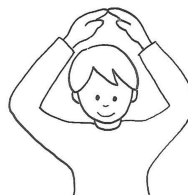
Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. **(Open and close fingers in a pinching motion to mimic chirping bird beaks.)**



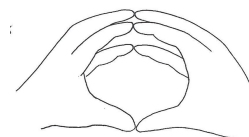
The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, **(Stand up and spread arms out like branches of a tree.)**



The high mountains are for the wild goats.
(Hold arms over head in a triangle shape.)



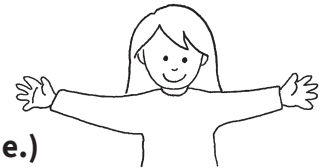
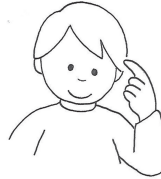
He made the moon to mark the seasons, **(Touch fingers and thumbs of both hands together to make a circle.)**



The sun knows its time for setting. (Circle arms above head.)



In wisdom have You made them all. (Touch pointer finger to temple.)



May the glory of the LORD endure forever; (Spread arms out wide.)

May the LORD rejoice in His works, (Jump up and down for joy.)



Who looks on the earth and it trembles; (Hug yourself and tremble.)



I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; Praise the LORD! (Fold hands in prayer.)



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