

# Unit 1: In the Beginning

**Unit Description:** The story begins with God creating everything from nothing. Of all of God's perfect creation, people were most special, alone being made in God's image. All that God created was created to reveal God's glory—how amazing He is.

**Big Picture Question:** Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.



## **SESSION 1: God Created the World** Genesis 1



## **SESSION 2: God Created People** Genesis 1–2



## **SESSION 3: Creation Glorifies God** Psalm 19



UNIT 1 | SESSION 3

## CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

PSALM 19

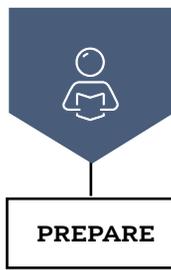
**KEY PASSAGE:** **The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Psalm 19:1NIV**

**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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

### Activity Page

- “Bright Books” activity page

### Session Starter (Option 1)

- small dry erase boards or sheets of paper, 2

### Session Starter (Option 2)

- music (optional)



LEARN

### Introduce the Session

- countdown video

### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

### Tell the Bible Story

- “Creation Glorifies God” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

### Questions from Kids

- “Unit 1, Session 3” questions from kids video

### Missions Moment

- Printable: “Embera Bead Project”
- world map

### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “The Heavens Declare (Psalm 19:1)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- index cards



LOVE

### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set



LIVE

### Activity Choice (Option 1)

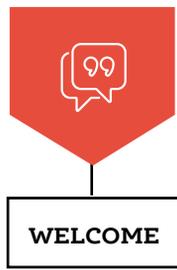
- Printable: “Share in Spanish”

### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster
- blank postcards or 4-by-6-inch pieces of cardstock, 1 per kid
- postcards with destination photos (optional)

### Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Light It Up” activity page



## 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 (5 minutes)

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 (10 minutes)

#### 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. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Welcome, everyone! I am so glad you are here. Hold up your Bible if you have it today. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of ... what? [Let kids respond.] It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

We study the Bible because it is one way we can know God. He is our Creator. The more you know Him, the more you will love Him. He gives us His Word so we can know what is true. I am so excited for you to hear today’s Bible story. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “ Our big picture question is, **Why did God create everything?** Do you remember the answer? [Let volunteers respond.] Let’s all say our big picture question and answer together: **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.**

Can you think of some ways creation is for our good? God provides everything we need, and we enjoy the beauty of creation. In what ways does creation give God glory? We are going to think more about that today. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ The first story we heard was about how God created the world. On the sixth day, God created people. People are not like the other things God created. How are people different? [Allow kids to respond.] People are special because they are made in God’s image. Why did God create people in His image? For His glory!

We have talked quite a bit about glory so far, haven’t we? That’s an important big truth of the Bible—not only here, but throughout the rest of Scripture. Today, we will spend more time making sure we understand what God’s glory means. To help us do that, we are going to look at Psalm 19. Many years after God created Adam and Eve, He chose a man named David to be king over His special people. We can read King David’s words in Psalm 19. ”



## 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.

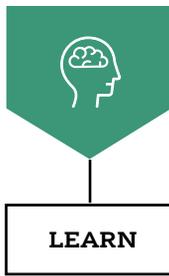
“**No one can keep track of all his sins; sometimes we don’t even realize we are sinning when we disobey God! God, clean up our hidden flaws**. Keep your servant from choosing to sin too, and don’t let sin be in control. Then, I will be blameless and cleansed from my rebellion against You. **I want everything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



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 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.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 1, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we learn about God just by looking at things He created?
2. When was the last time you saw something in creation that made you say, “Whoa!”?



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Choose a volunteer to locate the country of Colombia on a world map. Display the photos and ask a volunteer to read about the Embera Bead Project in Colombia.

**SAY** “ Missionary Beth Burkhalter found a way to help the Embera women make money to take care of their families but also a way to tell them about Jesus. Now the people have money that they need to live and they know how to have eternal life. ”

Point out that beautiful beads show something about the people who made them—like their creativity and skills. In a similar way, creation shows us about God’s creativity and power. Ask a volunteer to pray for the Embera people and for any missionaries your church supports.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write the key passage on index cards—one word per card. Make multiple sets if you choose to form teams. Mix up the cards and stack them. If your group is large, prepare additional sets. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 19:1 together.

**SAY** “ This key passage comes from today’s Bible story. It reminds us that God wants people to know Him. Let’s see if you can remember the words. ”

Distribute the index cards and challenge kids to arrange them in the correct order. Consider forming teams and competing to put the cards in order the fastest.

**SAY** “ Why do we spend time memorizing God’s Word? Can you think of any reasons why it’s important to remember these words? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. You might not always have the Bible with you, but you can keep God’s Word in your heart. If you are outside and notice a beautiful sunset, these words from Psalm 19:1 might come to mind! ”

Lead kids to sing “The Heavens Declare (Psalm 19:1).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

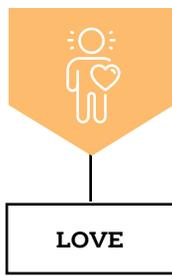
### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from **LEARN** to **LOVE**.

**SAY** “ Lord God, thank You for speaking to us through Your creation and Your Word. All of creation glorifies you—showing that You are great! Help us notice Your wonderful creation and praise You. You are powerful and good. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Guide kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 19. Ask kids how many chapters are in Psalms. (150) Explain that David wrote about half of the Book of Psalms. We don't know exactly when David wrote Psalm 19, but we know he lived many generations after Adam. (See 1 Chron. 1:1-27.)

Consider showing the Old Testament Israel Map and explain that David was king over Israel about one thousand years before Jesus was born. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 19:14.

**| SAY** “ David could look around and see through creation that God is great. David wanted everything he said and thought about to be pleasing to God. God created us to show His glory in how we live and love others. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

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.)

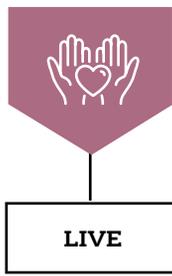
**| SAY** “ How can we bring glory to God? ”

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.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** the Mission

#### **1** ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### **OPTION 1: SHARE IN SPANISH**



Ask kids if they have Spanish-speaking friends or friends who speak a language other than English. If a child in your group speaks Spanish, invite him to help his friends learn a few words.

**SAY** “It’s very important for missionaries who live in other countries to learn the language so that people can understand them.”

Display the Spanish phrases from the “Share in Spanish” printable and practice them with the kids. Let kids write them on paper and practice speaking to one another.

Point out that more than 400 languages are spoken in the United States, and about 6,500 languages are spoken worldwide. Learning a new language can help you tell others about God the Creator.

##### **OPTION 2: SEE THIS! POSTCARDS**

Give each kid a blank postcard. Instruct kids to draw on the postcard a picture of a place they have visited or want to visit. After a few minutes, let kids share their drawings. Challenge the group to guess where it is. Then prompt kids to reveal what place they drew. Consider sharing travel photos of various destinations.

Encourage kids to send the postcards to friends or neighbors as an invitation to church or to share what they learned today. Kids can share the big picture question and answer: **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.**

**SAY** “Is the picture you drew on your postcard just like the real place? No, it is far better to actually visit a place than to look at a picture on a postcard. A postcard is just a hint of how wonderful the place really is. Today, we heard how God’s creation is a hint of how wonderful He really is!”

#### **2** JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His creation and His Word. Praise Him for His power and goodness. Pray that your words and thoughts would be pleasing to Him. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Light It Up” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FOLD



Unit 1 • Session 3

## CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

Psalms 19

### **WHY DID GOD CREATE EVERYTHING? GOD CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD.**

King David loved God. He wrote a psalm to celebrate how great God is. This is what he wrote:

“The heavens show us the glory of God. When we look up into the sky we can see what God created. 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 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:

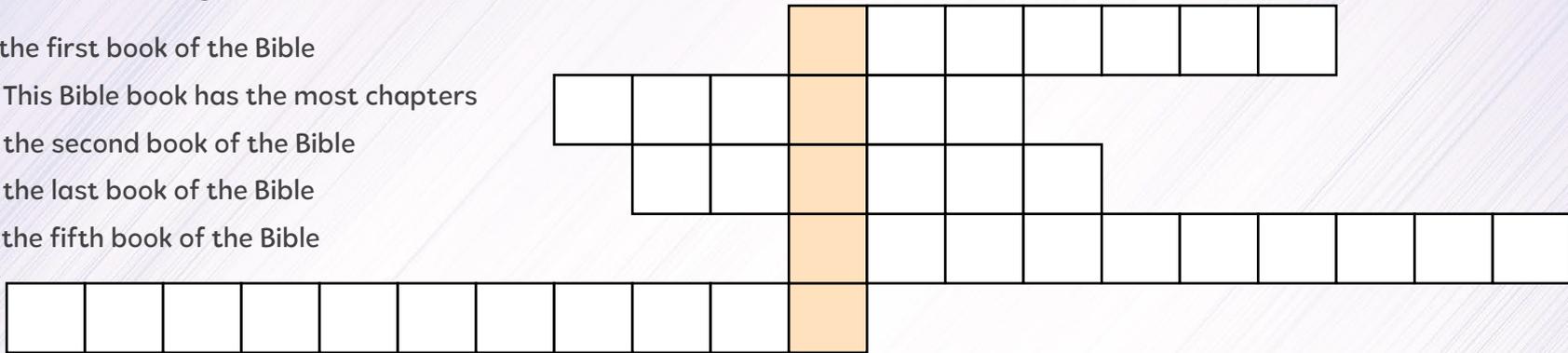
“What God says is trustworthy. The Lord's instructions make our hearts glad. They are more desirable than pure gold and they are sweeter than fresh honey. When they are kept, there is great reward.

“God, clean up our hidden flaws. Keep your servant from choosing to sin too, and don't let sin be in control. 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.

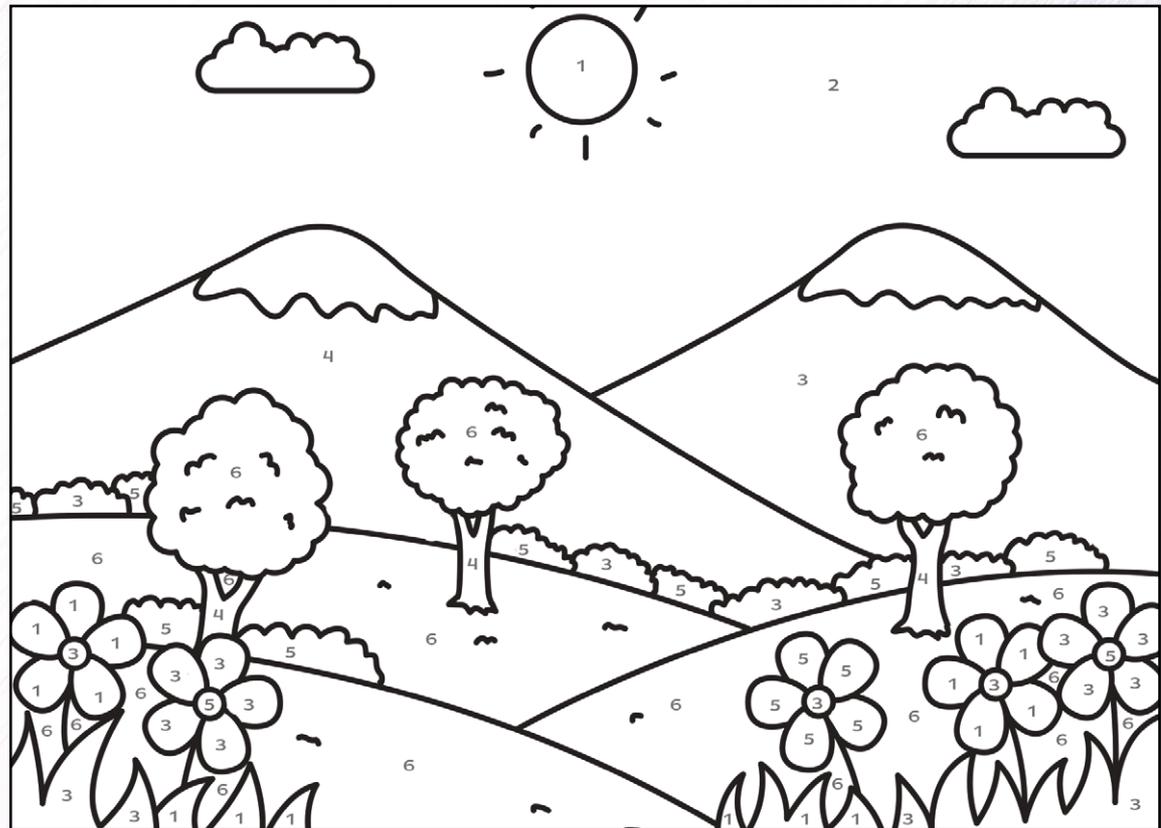
**Bright Books** | Use the clues to identify books of the Bible. Fit them into the grid. The shaded column will contain a word that describes God's greatness.

1. the first book of the Bible
2. This Bible book has the most chapters
3. the second book of the Bible
4. the last book of the Bible
5. the fifth book of the Bible



**Light It Up** | Use highlighters to fill in the pictures according to the key.

-  1 Yellow
-  2 Blue
-  3 Pink
-  4 Orange
-  5 Purple
-  6 Green



NAME:



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT



## Creation Glorifies God

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God's glory is like a combination of all the things that make Him great—like His power, His beauty, His holiness, and His love.
- Creation shows us many things about God's glory.
- God's Word, the Bible, tells us even more about God's glory.
- God's Word tells us how to have a relationship with God.

### 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.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 19:1

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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