

# Day 1: God is an Artist



## Overview

**Theme:** The Artistic Nature of God

God was the very first artist. He created our world and everything in it. He has quite an imagination!

**Opening Activity:** Professor Prenn Introduces the Time Machine

**Puppet Skit Introduction:** “The Unveiling” (This skit will go longer than usual today only—closer to 10 minutes instead of the standard 5 minutes)

**Music:** Hallelu, Hallelu, Praise Ye the Lord  
Get on Board, Little Children  
This is my Father’s World  
Ah, Lord God

I’ve Got Peace Like a River  
Praise Him, Praise Him  
This is the Day

**Lesson:** “Come to the Garden”--Creation/The Garden of Eden  
Genesis 1-2

**Game:** Creation Line Soccer

**Craft:** Tie Dye Bandannas

**Snack:** Cupcakes or Celery with filling

**Application Object:** A picture or painting

**Memory Verse:** “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things...” Revelation 4:11

<b>Closing:</b> Puppet Skit	Offering	Recap
Press Releases	Announcements	Prizes

**Attendance Prizes:** Rub on body tattoos





## Opening Sequence

### Welcome

**Today only Professor Phil Prenn should do the “welcome” portion.** He will introduce the Time Machine and the over all theme for VBS. The character of Professor Prenn (Uncle Phil) could be a puppet as well, but would perhaps be more effective if he were acted out by a real person. (Phil should be dressed in a lab coat with maybe graying hair and glasses.)

### **Phil enters and begins to speak:**

Hello everyone. Welcome to my lab! I’m so excited you’re here today because I’ve got something very special to show you. I’ve been working on a top secret project for a very long time and now it’s finally finished! I can’t wait to show it to you!

We’ll have to wait just a few minutes though. I’m waiting for my niece. I asked her to meet us here. Her name is Jordan and she’s a reporter for a big newspaper in Kansas City. (insert your closest city’s name). Do any of you know what a reporter does? (Allow for answers)

Reporters write stories about things that happen in the world or in your town. Reporters always ask a lot of questions. They want to know all the “who’s” and the “why’s” and the “where’s.” They want to know “when” and “how.”

For example, a reporter would want to know *who* the gingerbread man is. *What* is he made from? *Why* did he run away? *How* did he get out of that oven? *Where* is he going? *When* is he coming home? See what I mean?

Reporters ask a lot of questions then write stories based on facts—things they can see, hear or feel—things that can be proven to be true or false.

In a way, reporters are similar to scientists like me, except that instead of asking questions, I do experiments. I mix things together and hope I don’t blow up my lab! I experiment. I test things until I get the answers I want. I deal with facts too.

One of the things that’s different between Jordan and I, is there are some things I can believe in without having to see them--like God. I can’t see God with my eyes, but I know He’s real. I can’t reach out and touch Him with my hands, but I know He’s there. He’s been a good friend of mine for a long time.

I’m not sure if Jordan believes in God. Or maybe she believes in Him, that He does exist and that He’s real, but I don’t think she *knows* Him very well. That’s why I built this. (gestures with his hands, indicating the building, the time machine.)

Wait a minute, I almost gave it away! I told you, we have to wait for Jordan. Then I’ll explain everything...to all of you. She should be here in just a minute.

Oops, I almost forgot about Jerry! He’s my dog. I forgot to warn him Jordan was coming. I’ll be right back. (He exits behind puppet stage)



## **Introduction Puppet Skit**

*As soon as Phil disappears behind the puppet stage, Jordan enters and the introduction puppet skit "The Unveiling" begins.*

## **Phil's Conclusion**

*After the puppets disappear, Phil speaks to the kids:*

Well, Jordan and Jerry are on their way. They're going to learn a lot about God this week, and I have a feeling, so will all of you. Maybe you'll see God in a way you've never seen Him before or think about Him in a new way. Or maybe this will be the first time some of you have ever thought about God at all.

I'll be keeping my eyes on you. Enjoy the time machine!

## **Music**

*The music leader takes over at this point, and leads the kids in the songs you have chosen to sing.*

## **Suggestions:**

Hallelu, Hallelu, Praise Ye the Lord  
Get on Board, Little Children  
This is my Father's World  
Ah, Lord God

I've Got Peace Like a River  
Praise Him, Praise Him  
This is the Day

## **Bible Lesson (Puppets)**

Puppets perform the Bible lesson with the skit "Come to the Garden."

## **Dismiss**

*Dismiss kids to smaller groups.*





## “The Unveiling” Introduction Puppet Skit Props & Characters

**Props:** *A dog translator: can be anything worn around Jerry’s neck that looks or resembles something that would be a translator*

**Live Person Character:** *The character of Professor Phil Prens (Uncle Phil) could be a puppet as well, but would perhaps be more effective if he were acted out by a real person.*

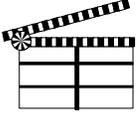
Uncle Phil—Scientist/Inventor of Time Machine

### **Puppet Characters:**

Jerry—Uncle Phil’s Dog

Jordan—Reporter/Journalist and Phil’s niece





## Puppet Skit Introduction: The Unveiling

Jordan: *(running in, out of breath)* Uncle Phil, I'm here! Where are you?

Phil: *(shouting from offstage)* I'll be there in just a minute Jordan.

*(Phil and Jerry talk offstage)*

Phil: You stay right here boy. I'll call you when I'm ready.

Jerry: Why can't we tell her now?

Phil: Because we need to do this slowly. Jordan is going to have enough to deal with as it is. Let's do this one thing at a time, okay?

Jordan: *(looking around, getting suspicious)* Uncle Phil, who are you talking to? What's going on?

Phil: *(offstage)* I'm coming dear. Give me a second.

Jerry: I don't want to wait anymore. I've been waiting all my life. I want to talk to her now! *(he pops up, but Jordan is facing the other way and doesn't see him)*

Phil: *(pops up after Jerry and pushes him down)* No! I said not yet!

Jerry: I can't wait! *(pops up again)*

Phil: *(pushes him down again)* You're gonna have to!

*(Scuffling is heard from backstage, along with some groans and dog barks.)*

Jordan: *(turns toward the noises concerned)* Uncle Phil, are you all right?

Phil: *(enters, straightens his clothes a bit, smooths his hair)* Yes, dear I'm fine. Sorry to keep you waiting.

Jordan: I heard voices. Who were you talking to?

Phil: Oh that, it was nothing. I forgot to feed the dog and he wasn't too happy about it that's all. *(howling is heard from offstage)* Everything is fine.

Jordan: If you say so. So, what's up Uncle Phil? You call me and tell me you've got big news, and that I should get over to the church right away. I came as fast as I could. What's going on? What's the big news? Why did you ask me to meet you at the church?

Phil: You sure do ask a lot of questions Jordan.

Jordan: I'm a reporter Uncle Phil. That's my job, remember? Now, spill it! What's the big news?

Phil: Remember that big project I've been working on?

Jordan: The top secret project you've been working on for the last five years? The one you've dedicated your heart and soul to finishing? Yeah, I remember!

Phil: Well, I finally did it! I completed the project. I invented something that's going to change people's lives. I'm hoping it will change your life Jordan.

Jordan: (*anxiously awaiting*) Well, what is it? What did you invent? Tell me!

Phil: I invented a time machine.

Jordan: A time machine? I don't believe it!

Phil: It's true. I invented a real life time machine and it really works!

Jordan: Where is it? I want to see it!

Phil: You're looking at it.

Jordan: Where?

Phil: Right here.

Jordan: This is a church.

Phil: I know. *This* is the time machine.

Jordan: You built a time machine out of a *church*?

Phil: I figured it would be just as good as anything else.

Jordan: How does it work?

Phil: It runs off of praise.

Jordan: Praise?

Phil: Yes. Any type of praise to God: music, songs, prayers, words of thankfulness--*any* kind of praise to God.

Jordan: That's crazy!

Phil: It's not! It works!

Jordan: So, you start singing...

Phil: *Praising.*

Jordan: Okay, praising then. You start praising and you can go back in time?

Phil: Pretty much, yes. You have to specify where you want to go of course, but once you decide, you let the praises fly, and "Poof!" you're there.

Jordan: What do you see once you're there?

Phil: That's what I want to show you.

Jordan: Me? No way! I'm not going anywhere in this thing!

Phil: What happened to the reporter in you Jordan? Don't you want to be a part of the scoop of the century?

Jordan: Sure, this is big news, but...

Phil: But what?

Jordan: I don't know that much about God Uncle Phil. He's so mysterious. I can't see Him, I can't hear Him, I can't touch Him. How do you know He even exists?

Phil: Oh, I know He does, and that's what I want to show you. I invented this time machine for you Jordan, and others like you—people who aren't so sure. I want to give you a glimpse of God so you can get to know Him better.

Jordan: But I'm a reporter, I stick to the facts.

Phil: And I'm a scientist. I like facts too. That's what I want to give you Jordan, some facts for you to think about.

Jordan: I don't know. It all sounds.....

Phil: Nuts?

Jordan: Yeah! You have to admit, it's kind of hard to believe--a time machine made out of a church that runs on praise? The idea of God? It *does* sound nuts!

Phil: How do you feel about talking dogs?

Jordan: Impossible!

Phil: Not really.

Jordan: You're kidding, right?

Phil: Nope. (*calls to offstage*) Hey Jerry, it's time! Come here boy!

Jerry: (*bouncing in, licks Jordan's face*) Hi Jordan. How are you today?

Jordan: But...but....that's not possible! You're a dog!

Jerry: I know. Isn't it great? Your uncle, Professor Prenn, is a genius!

Jordan: (*in shock, speaks looking at Phil*) H..h...how?

Phil: I invented a translator. See, Jerry is wearing it around his neck. Jerry still barks, but with the translator on, instead of barking, we hear words.

Jordan: A time machine? A translator? You *are* a genius Uncle Phil!

Phil: I'm just a scientist.

Jerry: With some great ideas!

Jordan: Wait until the paper hears about this! I can't wait to begin writing my story about it. Give me all the details!

Phil: I know you're excited about the inventions Jordan, but the inventions aren't the real story.

Jordan: What do you mean? Of course they're the story! These inventions will change the world!

Phil: No, *getting to know God* is the story. That's what will change the world. That's what will change people's lives. I'm hoping it will change your life.

Jordan: How?

Phil: You'll see. Are you ready?

Jordan: I guess so. I still don't know about this!

Phil: Just trust me. You'll be fine. For your first trip, I'm sending you back to where it all started.

Jerry: Where's that?

Phil: The garden of Eden—the most beautiful place on earth.

Jordan: What do I do when I get there?

Phil: Look around. Enjoy God's creation. Learn something about God—even if it's just one thing. You can tell me about it when you get back.

Jordan: I'm scared Uncle Phil. I don't want to go alone. Can't you come with me?

Phil: No, I have to stay here and monitor the time machine. But I can send Jerry with you. He'll be good company for you, and he's a great sniffer. That will be helpful.

Jordan: Why?

Jerry: For sniffing out Trouble.

Jordan: What kind of trouble?

Phil: You'll find that even among God's beauty and His peace Trouble may find you.

Jordan: What does he look like?

Phil: Trouble appears in many forms—he may look different each time, but inside he's the same. He's dangerous, so be careful! Be on the lookout.

Jordan: But how can I be on the lookout for him, if I don't even know what he looks like?

Jerry: It won't take long to figure out who he is.

Phil: If you listen carefully to his words they will be different from God's.

Jerry: With God, you feel warm and happy—like someone bringing you a fresh bone, and letting you lay right in front of a warm fireplace.

Phil: With Trouble, you will feel cold and afraid.

Jerry: Like being left outside alone in the rain.

Phil: If Trouble finds you get away from him as soon as you can.

Jordan: How?

Phil: By praising God. Remember what I told you? Praise can be singing, a prayer or a word of thankfulness.

Jordan: And that will help?

Phil: Yes. Trouble doesn't like to hear praises about God.

Jerry: It's like a dog with fleas. (*He begins to scratch himself*) All the bitin and scratchin and itchin! It's downright painful! (*howls*)

Phil: I think she understands. You do understand, right Jordan?

Jordan: I think so: praise God and stay away from Trouble.

Phil: Right. Just focus on getting to know God. He'll help you with any Trouble you may find.

Jordan: Got it!

Phil: So, I think you're ready. Jerry, are you ready?

Jerry: Ready! Let's go!

Phil: Okay, everybody start praising!

Jerry: *(begins to sing the words to the song "Hallelu/Praise Ye the Lord—he "howls" the words)*

"Hooowwwlelu, Hooowwwlelu, Hooowwwlelu, Hooowwwlelu!

Phil: Praise Ye the Lord! Come on, everybody sing!

All 3: *(All 3 characters begin to sing. Encourage your kids to sing with them)*

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord!  
Praise ye the Lord!  
Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord!  
Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord!  
Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord!

Jordan: It's working Uncle Phil! We're moving!

Phil: Hold on tight! I'll see you when you get back!

Jerry: Hooowwwelll alujah!

*(Puppets exit)*

End of Introduction



## Music

### **Songs that fit with today's theme:**

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

This is my Father's World

Hallelu, Hallelu, Praise ye the Lord

I've Got Peace Like a River

Get on Board, Little Children

This is the Day

God of Wonders

Ah, Lord God





## “Come to the Garden” Puppet Skit Props & Characters

**Props:** Small Bone (for Jerry)

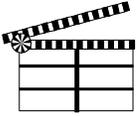
### **Other puppets besides Jerry & Jordan:**

**Fish**--This can be easily made from a sock if you don't have a fish puppet or a picture of a fish glued to a popsicle stick would work

**Trouble**—the bad guy. He changes forms in each skit. He comes in the form of a **snake** this time. This can be made from a sock but should be cute, not scary or threatening.

**Adam**—the first man God created. He is dressed in a “Tarzan” type of outfit, possibly made of leaves





## Lesson: Come to the Garden

### Genesis 1-3

Jerry: *(from off stage)* Are we there?

Jordan: I think so. It's kind of hard to tell with your tail wagging in my face.

Jerry: Oops. Sorry!

Jordan: *(Jordan and Jerry enter)* Wow! Look at this place—it's beautiful! The colors are amazing! I've never seen such deep greens before. And take a look at that sky. I've never seen such a bright blue sky in my whole life.

Jerry: Look over there—it's a cloud shaped like a bone. And over there by that tree would be the perfect place to bury a bone. See how rich and soft the dirt is? Perfect for digging and hiding bones.

Jordan: We're in this beautiful paradise and all you can think about are bones?

Jerry: I'm a dog. What did you expect? I wonder if there are any cats around here to chase.

Jordan: That's not what we're here for remember? We're supposed to get to know things about God. Let's look around and see what we can find.

Jerry: What are we looking for?

Jordan: I don't know--anything that can tell us about God, I guess.

Jerry: There's a lot of trees and plants around here. Lots of flowers too. Maybe God is a gardener.

Jordan: Maybe, but there's lots of water too.

Jerry: He likes to surf?

Jordan: Look at that waterfall over there. Watch the way the water moves and flows downward. It's so pretty and perfect.

*(A fish puppet swims by)*

Jerry: Hey, there goes a fish! Here fishy, fishy! Hey, *(he jumps back)* He splashed water in my eyes!

Jordan: He's a fish...what did you expect?

Jerry: Very funny. Ha, ha.

Jordan:       *(looking up)* Forget the fish Jerry; look up in those trees. Do you see those birds?

Jerry:         Yeah. They look like rainbows with wings.

Jordan:        I know. They're gorgeous.

*(Adam enters)*

Adam:          They're called "Birds of Paradise."

*(He startles Jordan and Jerry)*

Jordan:        *(lets out a light scream)* Aaah! Who are you?

Adam:          I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you. My name is Adam.

Jordan:        *(in shock)* Adam, as in the very first man? "Adam and Eve"--*that* Adam?

Adam:          That's me!

Jerry:          I don't believe it! We're talking to *the* Adam!

Adam:          *(looking at Jerry, Adam lets out a light scream)* Aaaaah!

Jerry:          *(looking around, screams back)* Aaah! What is it? Is it a bear? I'm afraid of bears! Hold me Jordan! *(snuggles close to Jordan)*

Adam:          That dog talks!

Jerry:          *(relaxing)* Yeah, so?

Adam:          So?! I've been around this place a long time and I've never seen a talking dog before! Who are you guys? Did Trouble send you?

Jordan & Jerry: NO!

Jordan:        No, Trouble didn't send us. My uncle sent us. Look, it's a long story and you probably wouldn't believe me even if I told you. So, let me say this: we're not here looking for Trouble. We're actually here to find out about God.

Jerry:          Her uncle thinks she should get to know Him better.

Adam:          I see. Well, you're uncle is a very smart man, whoever he is. God is a great person to know.

Jordan:        What can you tell me about Him?

Adam:          For starters, He made all of this. He's quite the artist.

Jordan: Artist? What do you mean God is an artist?

Adam: Just look around you. Look at all the colors. Look at the brilliant blues in the sky and the oceans. See how majestic the mountains are clothed in purple, and how fiery are the flames of red and orange?

Jordan: (*catching on*) See how the yellow of the sun fills you with warmth and laughter?

Adam: Exactly!

Jerry: See how the white fluffy clouds are shaped like dog bones?

Adam: Exact...wait, huh?

Jordan: Never mind. Go on.

Adam: God made and designed all the animals too.

Jerry: Dogs are my personal favorite!

Jordan: I like the fluffy bunnies. They're so cute!

Jerry: What's up with the giraffes though? Those skinny legs, long necks and big patches all over them—they're kinda funny lookin' if you ask me!

Adam: That's part of what I meant when I said God is an artist. Who else could create something like that? He has a lot of imagination to be able to design so many different kinds of animals.

Jordan: Yeah, he made some that flew, some that crawl on the ground and some that swim in the water. Some have feathers, some have fur, and some have leathery skin.

Jerry: Some of us have it all: good looks, charm and personality.

Jordan: Don't forget modesty!

Adam: Wait until you see the garden at night. When the moon reflects off of that dark water, it makes the water glow. The stars twinkle and shine so bright it can give you goose bumps because of its beauty!

Jordan: I don't know if we'll be able to stay that long, but I'd sure like to see it!

Adam: Looking around at all the beauty of nature and seeing all the things God created, I can't help but think of Him as an artist.

Jerry: Are you sure he isn't a surfer too?

Jordan: Jerry...

Jerry: He does like to swim though, right? I mean, what else is He going to do with all this water?

Jordan: Behave Jerry or I'll turn that translator off!

Jerry: *(gulps loudly)* I'll behave.

Jordan: Can you show us around the garden? I'd like to see more of it from someone who knows it very well. You can tell us more about God that way.

Adam: I'm afraid I can't do that.

Jerry: Why not? Will you get in trouble with the Mrs.? Is she expecting you home for dinner? Speaking of dinner, do you have any bones? I like the ones with meat left on 'em. They're the best! I can taste it now! You got any bones Adam? *(He starts to jump up and down)* Huh, do ya? Huh? Huh? Do ya? *(he pants wildly)*

Jordan: That's it! I warned you! *(She leans over as if to push a button to turn off the translator)*

*(Jerry barks as if trying to talk. He jumps and turns wildly, then finally gives up and sits still)*

Adam: Is he okay?

Jordan: He'll be fine. You were saying?

Adam: I don't exactly live here anymore.

Jordan: Why not?

Adam: See that angel over there?

Jordan: *(gasps)* The one with flames of fire for a sword?

Adam: Yes. That angel is there to make sure Eve and I don't come into the garden again.

Jordan: That's terrible! How could God do that to you?

Adam: It's not his fault. It was our fault. God made this beautiful place for us to live in. He gave us everything we could possibly want. We could eat anything we wanted—all except for the fruit of one special tree. He told us not to eat from that one.

Jordan: So what happened?

Adam: Trouble!

Jordan: Oh no! My uncle warned me about him. What happened?

Adam: He came to my wife Eve, and made her doubt God. He convinced her to eat from that tree, then she convinced me and we both ate the fruit.

Jordan: Adam, no!

Adam: I'm afraid so. God was pretty upset when He found out. Part of our punishment was we had to leave the garden and we could never come back. That angel guards the entrance making sure we don't go in. This is as close as I can get.

Jordan: I'm so sorry Adam.

*(Jerry makes whining noises as if to sympathize)*

Adam: Not nearly as sorry as Eve and I are. We miss the Garden of Eden. God is still with us out here where we are, but it's just not the same as it was when we lived in there. It was so pretty and perfect. Life was so easy. Well, I better get back home. I'm sure Eve is waiting for me. I hope you find what you're looking for.

Jordan: Thanks.

*(Adam exits.)*

Jordan: That's sad isn't Jerry? To think, Adam and Eve lived in this beautiful place and because they didn't listen to God, they had to give it all up.

*(Jerry barks)*

Oh, sorry. *(She leans over to turn the translator back on)*

Jerry: Thank you. Oh, that's so much better than barking. More pleasing to the ears, don't you think?

Jordan: It is for now anyway.

Jerry: Uh-oh. *(begins to sniff)* Something doesn't smell right. I smell Trouble!

Jordan: Don't be silly Jerry. There's no one here but you and me.

*(Trouble enters. He is a cute snake)*

Trouble: *(speaks very elegantly--he is very charming)* Good day young lady. And hello to you too, my furry little friend.

Jerry: Who are you calling "furry," you slimy little snake!

Jordan: Jerry stop it! That's no way to talk to a creature of the garden. He seems harmless.

Jerry: But he can talk!

Trouble: Apparently, so can you. And you're a harmless little puppy, are you not?

Jerry: *(growls)* Don't count on it!

Jordan: Jerry, stop it!

*(Jerry stops)*

Jordan: Who are you?

Trouble: As you said my dear, I am a harmless creature of the garden. I was just out for my daily walk.

Jerry: You mean daily "slither."

Trouble: Do you like bones Jerry? I happen to have one right here. Why don't you go fetch? *(He makes an action as if he has just thrown a bone)*

Jerry: Bone? Gotta go! *(he runs after the bone)*

Jordan: So, have you lived in the garden long?

Trouble: Oh yesssss, I've been around a very, very looonng time. I know everything there is to know about this place.

Jordan: It's beautiful isn't it?

Trouble: Actually, I don't think it's that lovely at all. I've seen much better.

Jordan: Really, where?

Trouble: My own place for starters. You see, I just visit this garden from time to time. In truth, it can't compare at all to where I'm from.

Jordan: That's hard to believe. This is the most gorgeous place I've ever seen.

Trouble: Then you haven't seen much. Don't you think it's too hot here?

Jordan: Now that you mention it, it does seem awfully warm.

Trouble: Too warm if you ask me. I prefer a cooler climate myself. And haven't you noticed all the bugs around here?

Jordan: Ouch! I think a bee just stung me!

Trouble: See what I mean! *(a buzzing noise is heard)* Isn't that a mosquito?

Jordan: I hate mosquitoes! *(begins to swat at them)*

Trouble: They sure seem to like you. You must be awfully sweet.

Jordan: I never noticed them before.

*(A loud growl is heard offstage)*

Jordan: What was that?

Trouble: It sounded like a lion--a hungry lion. This garden really isn't the safest place for you my dear.

Jordan: But it seemed like such a paradise when we first got here.

Trouble: Yes, looks can be so deceiving, can't they? Perhaps we should get you out of here.

Jordan: But I was trying to find out about God and my uncle said this was the best place to start. The place where it all began, here in the Garden of Eden: paradise.

Trouble: Does this really seem like paradise to you--scorching hot weather, creepy crawly bugs, hungry, ferocious lions?

Jordan: No, it doesn't. Why, this place isn't paradise at all! God's not an artist. He's a bully!

Trouble: Yes, my dear!

Jordan: God is a bully who just tells people this is paradise so He can lure them in here. Then once they're here, He's mean to them. He makes them eat awful things and when they eat some good fruit, He kicks them out! God is mean!

Trouble: Yes Jordan. God is mean. You don't want any part of Him. Why don't you come with me? I'll get you out of this terrible place.

Jordan: Okay.

*(Trouble goes to Jordan and begins to push her, as if leading her away)*

Jordan: Wait a minute.

Trouble: What is it my dear?

Jordan: When you touched me, I felt cold all of a sudden. And afraid.

Trouble: Maybe you're getting sick my child. It's all the time you've spent in this awful place. We need to get you out of here. Come with me—I'll take care of you. You don't have to be afraid.

Jordan: *(begins to sing gently)* "Praise ye the Lord!"

Trouble: *(groans)* Arrrgh! What is that piercing sound?

Jordan: I knew it! You're Trouble! You're a liar! This *is* paradise and you're trying to make me doubt God. Just like you did with Eve.

Trouble: Nonsense, child. I'm only trying to rid you of this terrible place.

Jordan: It's not a terrible place! It's the most beautiful place I've ever seen and God is the artist who created it! You're the liar Trouble! *(begins to sing louder)* "Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!"

Trouble: *(screams)* Noooo! I hate that song! Stop singing!

Jordan: Get away from me Trouble! "Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!"

Trouble: Noooo! You haven't seen the last of me!

*(Trouble exits)*

Jordan: Jerry! Jerry, where are you?

Jerry: *(enters with a bone in his mouth. He puts it down to speak)* I'm right here. What's the matter?

Jordan: I just ran into Trouble. We need to get out of here.

Jerry: I knew that was him! I could smell him! I'm sorry I left you alone with him, but it's hard for me to resist a good bone.

Jordan: It's okay Jerry. I understand. Trouble was almost too much for me to resist too. But at least I know what he looks like now, so I won't be fooled again.

Jerry: What do we do now? Do we keep looking for clues of God?

Jordan: I think I've got what we came here for. Let's get back to Uncle Phil's. I can't wait to tell him what I've learned. Ready to go?

Jerry: Yeah. Do you want to praise or shall I?

Jordan: I will. "God, thank you for the beauty you created. I praise you for such beautiful mountains and crystal clear waters. I praise you for the clear skies and fluffy white clouds. I praise you for all the wonderful colors we see as we look all around us. Thank you for all the animals you made."

Jerry: "Even the funny looking ones!"

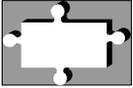
Jordan: "Thank you God for being such a great artist."

Jerry: Hold on tight! Here we go!

*(The puppets begin to shake a bit and then disappear)*

End of Bible Story





## Game: Creation Line Soccer

### Materials:

Soccer ball or kick ball  
Masking tape  
List of nature names (see below)  
Poster board, 1 for each team  
Pictures of various “nature” items: sun, clouds, trees, grass, water etc.  
Large area for running

### Getting Started:

Using masking tape, create a straight line on the floor of about 10 feet. (Enough for a group of children to stand on.) On the opposite end of the room, create another identical line.

Divide the group into two teams in this way: assign 2 children the same “nature name.” Be sure to keep track of what names you assign (write them down, as you will need them later in the game). Instruct children to remember their nature names.

*Name suggestions: stars, sun, moon, wind, lions, ocean, bears, fire, sky, trees, flowers, mountains, snow, spring etc.*

Once the child has been assigned a name, one child goes to team “A” and the other child to team “B.” (For instance, Jack and Fred have been given the name of “Lions.” Jack is on “Team A” and Fred is on “Team B.”)

Assign the next pair of children a different nature name, and one child proceeds to team “A” and the other to team “B.” This continues until all the children have been assigned a name and teams have been formed.

If you have an uneven number of children, include the “odd” child with the name given to the last pair of children, and one child would proceed to team “A” while two children proceed to team “B.”

Once teams are formed, each team is given a poster board along with several pictures of nature items, which will eventually form a “scene.” For example, the pictures may include a house, a lake, a sun, a boat, some clouds, a bird, and a boy. These will be used when the team scores a goal.

### **Playing the Game:**

Each team stands on their line. A soccer ball is placed in the middle of the room. The teacher calls out one of the nature names on the list, and the child from each team assigned that name runs toward the soccer ball. The object of the game is to score a goal, by kicking the ball across the other team's line.

So, if the teacher called out "Lion," Jack and Fred would come running toward the ball, each trying to kick it across the other team's line.

The only children who may run after the ball at this point are the two children whose nature names were called, so Jack and Fred are the only ones on the field at this time. All the other children must stand on the line and "defend" their goal. They may kick the ball away if it comes to them while standing on the line, but they may not run onto the "field."

If play continues for longer than a minute or two with no goal scored, call out another nature name to assist the children already on the field. The teacher may call out "Stars," and Molly and Sarah run onto the field to help their teammates, Jack and Fred. More and more names can be added until a goal is scored. The teacher may call several names at the *beginning* of play as well, to have several children on the field at once.

If at any time the teacher calls "The Whole World," *all* players run onto the field.

Once a goal has been scored, (the soccer ball crossing the line of the opposing team) the scoring team gets to put up a picture from their "scene." Pictures can be put on the board in any order. (This is a form of keeping score.) All children return to their lines, to await the calling of the new nature names, and play begins again.

A team wins, when they have completed their entire scene. If time runs out before a scene is completed, whichever team has the most items on their board, wins.



## Craft: Tie Dye Bandannas

### Materials:

1 Bandanna per child  
Permanent bold tip markers in several colors  
Rubber bands (8-10 per child)  
Several bottles of rubbing alcohol  
Spray bottles  
Butcher paper

### Directions:

#### For “striped” look

Fan fold the bandanna. (*Fold over an inch of the bandanna, then flip over and fold another inch, flip over and fold again etc. Repeat until the whole garment is complete. See example.*)

Rubber band the bandanna every 1--1 ½ inches. Scribble with marker between the rubber band sections. For best results, be sure to scribble in between the folds. Choose no more than 3 colors overall to achieve the best look. The more color that is applied in each section, the better the completed garment will look.

Once the color has been applied to each section, remove the rubber bands. Lay garment flat, onto surface covered with butcher paper. (*Or something similar to absorb the alcohol. **Do not use newspaper**, as the ink from the paper will absorb into the garment and ruin your project.*) Lightly spray with rubbing alcohol. This will blend the colors to get the tie dye effect. Let sit for 10-20 minutes.



### For “starburst” look

Lay bandanna flat. Randomly bunch the garment together with the rubber bands. (*See example*) Scribble each “bunch” completely, choosing no more than 3 colors overall to achieve the best look. Remove rubber bands once all color has been applied.

Lay garment flat, onto surface covered with butcher paper. (*Or something similar to absorb the alcohol. **Do not use newspaper**, as the ink from the paper will absorb into the garment and ruin your project.*) Lightly spray with rubbing alcohol. This will blend the colors to get the tie dye effect. Let sit for 10-20 minutes.





## Application

### **Props: A picture or painting of any kind of nature scene**

Isn't this a pretty picture? *(Tell what it is you like about the picture—the colors, the way the water looks like its bubbling, the way the clouds in the sky look, how the trees look real etc.)* Someone painted (or drew) this picture. *(If the artist's name is listed at the bottom, point that out)* This person was the artist—that's what we call the person who painted the picture.

When the artist started to paint, there wasn't anything on this canvas. *(Explain what a canvas is for younger children.)* The canvas was blank. Then the artist got an idea of what he (or she) wanted to paint, and he picked up his paintbrush, dipped it in some wonderful paint colors and began to put that paint on the canvas.

*(Begin to describe your painting)* He may have started with the sky and then added some clouds and birds. Or he may have started with the water and added the boat later. The artist kept going until he was happy with what he had painted. Then the painting was finished. It's pretty isn't it?

God did the same thing when He created our world. He started with a blank canvas too, only His canvas was a lot bigger than this one, wasn't it? God used the whole world as His canvas! God began with making the light and the darkness. (Night and day). Then he made the sky and the water. Next came the land with all the trees and plants, and then came the water.

On and on He went. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, and the planets. He put fish in the oceans, birds in the air, and animals on the land. He made cute puppies and kittens, soft bunnies, and feathery birds. He made long necked giraffes, slithery snakes, and wiggly fish. He made hoppity frogs and slow moving turtles, and all kinds of other animals: animals of every shape and size and all different colors.

God had quite an imagination, didn't He? He created all of our colors: all the beautiful blues, reds, greens, pinks, purples, yellow etc. He put all those colors together in our world, in animals, and even in people. He gave some of us red hair, some of us brown hair, some of us have green eyes, while others have blue or brown. God created Adam and Eve—the very first people in His world. And God made each one of us too.

God made the seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. Which season do you like best? Why? *(Let the children respond. The teacher can share which season he/she likes best as well)*

Our world and everything in it is beautiful because God made it. God is an artist. He was the very *first* artist! Other artists can paint beautiful pictures and we can all enjoy them very much, but there aren't any paintings that can compare to the real thing. God is, was and always will be the best artist!

## Memory Verse

*(This can be written on an overhead or poster board, so all children can see it.)*

*“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things...” Revelation 4:11(NIV)*

When I look at the painting I showed you earlier I think, “Wow, that person has a lot of talent! After all, look what he/she made.”

When I look around at all the things God has made, it gives me the same kind of feeling. When I see all the beauty around us, it makes me want to praise Him and thank Him for His great work.

That’s what this verse says too. It tells us that God is worthy (meaning He *deserves*) all the praise and thankfulness we give Him. He created all things, and He made them beautiful. God is truly a great artist.

*(Repeat the verse and have the children say it with you. Ask them what this verse means to them or have them paraphrase the meaning of the verse in their own words.)*

If time allows, ask & discuss the following:

1. How many of you like to draw or paint? What is your favorite thing to draw or paint?
2. What are your favorite colors?
3. In nature, what is your favorite thing God created? (Ex.-mountains, snow, ocean etc.)
4. If you could create something (anything) what would it be?
5. What would you like to tell God about His world?



## Snack: Cupcakes or Celery with Filling

Cupcakes with frosting, sprinkles, candy etc. Let children decorate their own cookies.

OR

Celery w/ peanut butter or other filling. Use raisins, nuts to decorate.

**(Snack today can be anything children can decorate to show off their creative/artistic side)**



## Closing Sequence

### Closing Puppet Skit

*The puppets perform the closing skit with Professor Prens.*

### Recap

*The teacher recaps the day's events and highlights any key words, by asking the questions reporters ask: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How*

**Who** was the story about: *Adam, God*

**When** did the story take place: *the beginning of time*

**What** happened in the garden: *Adam was kicked out, Trouble tried to convince Jordan the garden was not a nice place*

**Where** did it take place: *Garden of Eden*

**Why** were Adam and Eve banished from the garden: *They ate of the one tree God told them not to eat from*

**How** did Trouble try to convince Jordan the Garden was awful: *told her there were too many bugs, it was too hot, it wasn't very pretty etc.*

**What did we learn about God today:** *He's an artist*

### Offering

*An offering may be taken at this time if desired.*

### Announcements

*Any announcements that need to be made can be done so at this time.*

### Press Releases & Prizes

*Hand out the Press Releases (review sheets) for take home, and the prizes for attendance, if desired.*

### Dismissal

Dismiss children to go home.



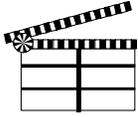


## **Closing Puppet Skit Props and Characters**

**No props**

**Characters:** Jordan, Jerry and Uncle Phil





## Puppet Skit Closing

*(Jordan & Jerry enter)*

Jordan: We did it! We're back! Uncle Phil, are you still here?

*(Phil enters)*

Phil: I'm here. How was your trip?

Jordan: It was great Uncle Phil!

Phil: Did you learn something about God?

Jerry: He's a *surfer dude!*

Phil: What?

Jordan: He's just kidding. Sending us to the Garden of Eden was the best place to begin Uncle Phil. I learned God is an artist. He has the imagination to create such beautiful things!

Phil: He sure does, after all, He made you didn't he?

Jerry: And me too! I think God outdid himself when he made me! He must have been so proud of such a magnificent creation! Don't you think?

Jordan: At least he doesn't lack self-confidence!

Phil: I'm glad you saw the artistry of God's work.

Jordan: I think I appreciate it more now. I see grass and trees and water everyday but I never really stopped to think those were things God *created*. He *made* the mountains, He *made* the stars, He *made* the snowflakes.

Phil: So, He's not only the artist, he's the designer too.

Jordan: Exactly! Thank you for showing me that part of God's personality!

Jerry: It wasn't all rainbows and roses though. We did run into some Trouble.

Phil: I was afraid of that.

Jordan: I see what you mean about him Uncle Phil. Trouble likes to twist things around and make God look bad. He even had me doubting the goodness of God's creation there for awhile.

Jerry: He distracted me with a bone! He's a sly one!

Phil: Yes, he is. But just remember what I said, when you run into Trouble, all you have to do is praise God, and Trouble will leave you. He hates to hear God's praise.

Jordan: Oh Uncle Phil, that trip was so exciting! I can't wait to write my article! I want to get started right away.

Phil: Not so fast Jordan. I've still got lots of things I want you to learn about God. This was just your first trip. I want you to go home and think about all that you learned today, and then I want you to come back tomorrow and I'll send you back in time on another trip.

Jordan: Where will I go tomorrow?

Phil: I won't tell you yet, but I will give you a clue. Ask around and see if you can guess where you'll be going next.

Jerry: Oh goody, I love a good mystery!

Phil: Here is your clue:  
  
*"God is as dramatic as a flame, but soft as a whisper."*

Jordan: That's supposed to help me?

Phil: I don't want to give too much of it away, now do I? Then it wouldn't be a surprise!

Jordan: I'll be surprised all right—I don't have any idea! What about you Jerry? Do you have any guesses as to where we'll be going?

Jerry: Nope. But maybe if I had a good bone to chew on, it would help me think. Don't you agree?

Jordan: You never give up, do you?

Jerry: It's one of my best qualities.

Jordan: Good bye Jerry. Bye Uncle Phil. Until tomorrow!

End of Closing