

# Creation



Welcome to Large Group Openings for the Creation Rotation. Enjoy your time (about 10 minutes) with kids as you sing, learn, and pray together. Choose a song or two to get things started, move into the object lesson that introduces kids to the story, invite kids to discuss questions with their Shepherds, and finish up your time with a prayer.

## Spark Songs

Use one or more of the following Spark Songs during your Large Group Opening. Use them in the order that suits your group's size, format, and time frame.

**Spark My World (Track 1, Songbook page 4):** Sing the chorus and general verses as written. Then teach the following verse to the kids and invite them to sing it with you:

God creates, let's sing good news.  
All of creation, live good news.

Invite the kids to create more story-related verses.

**Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord! (Track 8, Songbook page 44):** We praise God for creating everything! Sing this song with the traditional words once, and then change the second phrase to "God Made the World." Encourage kids to sing with enthusiasm and excitement.

**Books of the Old Testament (Track 2, Songbook page 13):** Emphasize to kids that the story of creation is at the very, very beginning of the book of Genesis. Remind them that Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. In Genesis we can learn the beginning of God's story. Help kids learn ALL of the books of the Old Testament—from Genesis all the way to Malachi.

## Introduce the Story

**Set Up:** Write each of the letters in the word Genesis on separate pieces of paper. Make the letters large and bold enough to fill the entire piece of paper so they will be visible from a distance.

Play Spark Words to introduce the word Genesis. Ask 7 volunteers to come to the front. Give each volunteer one of the pieces of paper. Have the volunteers hold their paper so that the letter is facing their chest. Put the volunteers in order, left to right, so that their letters will spell the word correctly. The object of the game is for the rest of the children to guess the letters, and eventually to figure out the word.

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook  
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or  
Slides



### Supplies

CD player

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

7 pieces of paper  
Marker

Ask kids to raise their hands to guess a letter. If the letter is in the word, the volunteer holding that letter turns their paper around. (When they guess E and S, both papers with that letter can be turned around.) If an incorrect letter is guessed, move on to another child. Once the word has been figured out, give your volunteers a round of applause for helping, and send them back to sit with their Shepherd group.

**Genesis is the name of the first book in the Bible. It is the first book of the Old Testament. The word "genesis" means "beginnings." At the very beginning of Genesis we can read about how God created the world and everything in it.**

## Shepherd Questions

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Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- Is Genesis a good name for the first book in the Bible? Why or why not?
- What do you know about the story of Creation?
- What do you know about what happened "In the Beginning?"

## Closing Prayer

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To close the Large Group Opening, use the following prayer, inviting kids to echo each line.

**Creator God,  
You are awesome!  
You created everything from the beginning of time.  
Thank you for your beautiful creation.  
Amen.**



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## Spark Songs

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Use one or more of the following Spark Songs during your Large Group Opening. Use them in the order that suits your group's size, format, and time frame.

**Jesus Loves Me (Track 14, Songbook page 76):** God made all of creation—including each one of us! God created each of us to be special followers of Jesus. Remind kids how much Jesus loves them by encouraging them to raise their hands and shout “ME!” each time it occurs in this song.

**He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (Track 7, Songbook page 39):** God created and still holds everything in God's hands. After singing through the verses one time, ask kids to suggest things that God created for additional verses, such as “He's got the crunchy yummy apples” or “fuzzy furry kittens.”

**Spark My World (Track 1, Songbook page 4):** Sing the chorus and general verses as written. Then teach the following verse to the kids and invite them to sing it with you:

God creates, let's sing good news.  
All of creation, live good news.

Invite the kids to create more story-related verses.

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook  
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or  
Slides



### Supplies

CD player

## Introduce the Story

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**Set Up:** Create a friendly sea monster costume. Use brightly colored fabrics or plastic tablecloths. Tape or sew them together. Create some tentacles or googly eyes. Beauty isn't important, but color and friendliness are! Find a volunteer from your congregation to dress up in the costume and visit your large group opening today. Make a copy of the script so your sea monster can practice.

Have everyone sit together, ready to hear the story. **Today we are talking about the 7 days of creation. On each day, God created something in our world that was new and exciting. Let's look in our Bible to see what it was like. On the first day of creation . . .** Have your sea monster guest enter and look up to acknowledge his or her presence. **Well who is this?** When the sea monster arrives at the front of your gathering, ask these questions:

### Spark Resources

Spark Bible or Spark Story  
Bible

### Supplies

Sea monster costume  
Adult volunteer

Leader: **Are you part of God's creation?**

Sea Monster: **Yes.**

L: **What are you?**

S: **I'm a sea monster, of course!**

L: **You can't be! Sea monsters aren't even real. When were you created?**

S: **I was created on the fifth day of creation. It says it right there in your Bible. "So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves." See? God created me. And I'm even great!**

L: **Wow. What was creation like?**

S: **It was pretty exciting. When you only have seven days to create a whole world, it goes pretty fast. I popped my head out of the ocean and watched as the first birds flew through the air. It was good. It was even great!**

L: **That sounds pretty crazy. Well thanks for coming to visit us today. You're a super neat part of creation!**

S: **You're welcome. Have fun learning about all the great things God created! And don't forget about us sea monsters!**

Give your guest a round of applause as he or she exits.

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## Shepherd Questions

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Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What is your favorite part of God's creation?
- How do you think God felt when God looked at what was created? Why?
- God created you! What does this story tell us about how God feels about you?

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## Closing Prayer

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Invite kids to insert their favorite part of creation as you pray the following prayer.

**Creator God,**

**Thank you for creating all things good!**

**Thank you especially for creating . . .** Kids insert their favorite part of creation all at the same time.

**Help us to love all of your creation like you love each of us.**

**Amen.**



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## Spark Songs

Use one or more of the following Spark Songs during your Large Group Opening. Use them in the order that suits your group's size, format, and time frame.

**Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord! (Track 8, Songbook page 44):** We praise God for creating everything! Sing this song with the traditional words once, and then change the second phrase to "God Made the World." Encourage kids to sing with enthusiasm and excitement.

**He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (Track 7, Songbook page 39):** God created and still holds everything in God's hands. After singing through the verses one time, ask kids to suggest things that God created for additional verses, such as "He's got the crunchy yummy apples" or "fuzzy furry kittens."

**Books of the Old Testament (Track 2, Songbook page 13):** Emphasize to kids that the story of creation is at the very, very beginning of the book of Genesis. Remind them that Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. In Genesis we can learn the beginning of God's story. Help kids learn ALL of the books of the Old Testament—from Genesis all the way to Malachi.

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook  
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or  
Slides



### Supplies

CD player

## Introduce the Story

**Set Up:** Place the creation items you collected around your meeting space.

Model the game "I Spy" with the large group. Pick something in the room that God created—do not tell the kids what your item is. **I spy with my little eye, something that God created.** Allow volunteers to ask you yes or no questions to try to figure out what the item you spy is. When the group has figured out your item, instruct the Shepherd groups to play the game in their small group. The Shepherd should go first, and if time allows, others in the group can have a turn.

After a few minutes of play, gather everyone's attention and ask each group to report on the items they discovered.

**Wow! You are good detectives! God created everything we "spied!"**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Items representing creation such as pieces of fruit, sticks, plastic or stuffed animals, flowers, and a globe

## Shepherd Questions

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Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What was it like trying to discover what the “I spy” item was?
- How would this game be different if we played outside? At school? How would it be the same?
- What other parts of God’s creation do you enjoy seeing?

## Closing Prayer

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Close with the following prayer. Before praying tell the group that they will each insert the name of something from creation at the same time after you say, “Thank you for creating . . .”

**Creator God,**

**You created so many wonderful things!**

**Everywhere we look we see your creation.**

**Thank you for creating** (kids insert items) **and for creating it so that it was good!**

**Amen.**



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## Spark Songs

Use one or more of the following Spark Songs during your Large Group Opening. Use them in the order that suits your group's size, format, and time frame.

**Spark My World (Track 6, Songbook page 4):** Sing the chorus and general verses as written. Then teach the following verse to the kids and invite them to sing it with you:

God creates, let's sing good news.  
All of creation, live good news.

Invite the kids to create more story-related verses.

**Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord! (Track 8, Songbook page 44):** We praise God for creating everything! Sing this song with the traditional words once, and then change the second phrase to "God Made the World." Encourage kids to sing with enthusiasm and excitement.

**He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (Track 7, Songbook page 39):** God created and still holds everything in God's hands. After singing through the verses one time, ask kids to suggest things that God created for additional verses, such as "He's got the crunchy yummy apples" or "fuzzy furry kittens."

## Introduce the Story

**I've got two plants here.** Hold up the plants for all to see. **One of them is in better shape than the other one. Let's pretend that both of these plants were once beautiful and good and that they were gifts that you gave to me.**

**Obviously, I didn't take care of the two plants in the same way. Now let's pretend that it is three weeks after you gave me these gifts and that you have come to visit me. Show me what your face would look like when you see this healthy plant.** Kids can make excited/happy faces. **Now show me what your face would look like when you see this dead plant.** Kids can make shocked/sad/disappointed faces. **Oh, your sad and disappointed faces make me feel awful!**

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook  
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or  
Slides



### Supplies

CD player

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

One live plant and one wilted/  
dead plant (you can also  
use cut flowers)

**God gave people the responsibility of caring for creation. God also made us smart so that we can know how to do that. When we don't take care of creation, things start to look like the dead plant.** Hold up the dead plant. **God feels sad and disappointed when we don't take care of the good gift that we were given.** Hold up the live plant. **When we do take care of creation, God is pleased with us and says, "It is good!"**

## Shepherd Questions

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Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What is the best way to take care of a good gift that someone gives to you?
- How would you feel if you gave a good gift to someone and they did not take care of it?
- How is this story we've just presented like or not like God giving people the responsibility to care for creation?

## Closing Prayer

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Close with the following prayer. As you pray, ask kids to make a happy or a sad face after each sentence in this prayer.

**Creator God,  
You made everything good!  
Sometimes we don't take very good care of the things you made.  
We are sorry.  
Help each of us to take good care of your creation and everything in it.  
Amen.**



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Invite the kids to create more story-related verses.

**Jesus Loves Me (Track 14, Songbook page 76):** God made all of creation—including each one of us! God created each of us to be a follower of Jesus. Remind kids how much Jesus loves them by encouraging them raise their hands and to shout the word "ME!" each time it occurs in this song.

**Books of the Old Testament (Track 2, Songbook page 13):** Emphasize to kids that the story of creation is at the very, very beginning of the book of Genesis. Remind them that Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. In Genesis we can learn the beginning of God's story. Help kids learn ALL of the books of the Old Testament—from Genesis all the way to Malachi.

## Introduce the Story

**Set Up:** Write the letters of the alphabet on the top of each index card, one letter per card.

**We are going to do some brainstorming to discover and share some of the awesome things that God created.**

Divide the index cards among the Shepherd groups. Older kids can work in pairs or trios within their group, whereas younger kids will need the help of their Shepherd. Make sure each group has a pencil. Instruct the groups to brainstorm and write

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook  
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or  
Slides



### Supplies

CD player

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

26 index cards  
Marker  
Pencils

down things from creation that begin with the letter on the top of their paper. Give a time limit of 2-3 minutes.

After time is up, gather the group's attention. **You've been working really hard on your lists. Isn't it amazing to think of all the things that God created?**

If time allows, groups can share their lists.

## Shepherd Questions

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Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- Was it hard or easy to make a list? Why?
- Which is the most unusual thing on each of our lists?
- How does making a list help us understand God's creation better?

## Closing Prayer

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The closing prayer will incorporate the most unusual item from each list that the kids have made. Ask each group to designate one person who will read their most unusual item aloud for the whole group at the appropriate time.

**Creator God,**

**You have created so many wonderful things!**

**Thank you for . . .** Start with the reader for the letter A. Have the reader read their item for the whole group to hear. Continue with the letter B and so on until the alphabet is complete.

**Everything you created is good!**

**Thank you for loving me and creating me to enjoy your world!**

**Amen.**



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## Introduce the Story

**Set Up:** Invite a special guest from your church or community to bring their pet to the Large Group Opening. Someone who owns a different or exotic pet would be especially interesting. Help your guest prepare by giving them a copy of this opening, so that they know the questions you will ask.

Introduce the pet owner to the group and interview them:

- **What kind of pet is this and what is its name?**
- **Tell us about how you take care of your pet.**
- **What would happen if you didn't do those things for your pet?**
- **We are learning that God gave us the responsibility to care for creation. How does having a pet help you care for God's creation?**

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook  
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or Slides



### Supplies

CD player

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Special guest (see Set Up for details)

## Shepherd Questions

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Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- Do you have any pets?
- How do you take care of your pets?
- What are some other ways we can care for God's creation?

## Closing Prayer

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Close your time with the following prayer. Before praying, tell the group they will echo each line and insert their pet's name. For kids who don't have pets, they can say the name of a friend or family member's pet, or name a favorite stuffed animal.

**Creator God,**

**You have created many beautiful animals.**

**Thank you for my pet whose name is . . .** Kids insert the name of a pet or stuffed animal.

**Help me to take good care of your amazing creation.**

**Amen.**



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