

Creation

Welcome to the story of Creation! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Creation Name Game**
Help kids remember one another's names, especially if group members change frequently. Sit in a circle and invite each kid to say their name aloud and name a favorite part of creation that starts with their initial. Example: My name is Becky and I like badgers. After each kid's turn, the rest of the group should respond, "Hi, (name of kid)!"
- **Care or No Care**
Try out a nature version of "highs and lows." Kids can take turns sharing a time in the past week when they saw care of creation or no care of creation. Examples: I saw care of creation when I saw someone picking up trash at the park. I saw no care of creation when I saw someone stepping on a pretty plant. Help kids brainstorm ideas as needed, and make sure that everyone gets a chance to share.
- **Introduce Your Neighbor**
Divide kids into pairs (or a group of three if needed). Invite the kids to take a minute to learn their partner's name and ask about their favorite animal. Then ask each kid to introduce his or her partner by name and state their favorite animal.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- If you could be any animal, what would you be? Why?
- How do you take care of creation? What else could you do?
- What is your favorite thing that God created in nature? Why?
- Who takes care of you? Who do you take care of?
- What is your favorite animal? Why?
- God called creation “good.” Why do you think God saw that it was good?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Animal Walk**
God created all of the animals of creation! As you move from one place to another, walk like some of those animals. Start out with a monkey, snake, and kangaroo. If you have more time, ask the kids for suggestions. Remember, you are an important role model! If you're enthusiastic, kids will be, too.
- **Alphabet of Creation**
God's creation spans the entire alphabet! Walk in a single file line and invite the person in the back of the line to walk to the front. As they do, invite them to list a part of creation that starts with the letter A. Once they've done so, the next person in back can do the same using the letter B. Continue as long as your journey. If you have more than one transition, continue with the letter where you left off.
- **Creation Cheer**
As you move between activities, say a group cheer: **God made creation and it was goood. So take care of it 'cause God said we shoould.** Be silly as you stretch out “good” and “should.” If time allows, try saying the cheer like various animals. Examples: For fish, wiggle your finger between your lips as you cheer to sound like you are underwater. For gorilla, say the cheer loud and deep. For mouse, recite the cheer in a high, squeaky voice.
- **Days of Creation Quiz**
During transitions, challenge kids to remember what God made on each of the days of creation using this sentence: On the first day of creation, God made _____. As kids remember what was created, they can name it aloud. Continue through each day as time allows. The Spark Story Bibles are a helpful resource if kids need a hint!

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- **What Are You?**

Gather in a circle and stand in the middle to demonstrate the game. As the middle person acts like a particular animal, someone from the circle steps inside and asks, “What are you?” The middle person then names an animal that’s different from the animal they are acting out and steps into the circle. The person who asked is the new middle person and starts acting out the animal that was named. Example: the middle person acts like a monkey. When asked, “What are you?” the person responds, “a dog” and joins the circle. The person who asked then stays in the middle and begins acting like a dog.

- **Creation Re-creation**

Divide kids into pairs or groups of three. Give paper and a pencil to each group. Have kids write the words “God’s Creation” at the top of the paper. Invite kids to work together for 2 minutes to list as many words as they can that can be formed from the letters in “God’s Creation.” When the 2 minutes are over, regroup and discuss. Find out what group had the most words, the longest word, and most creative or funny word.

- **Dust to Dust**

There are two stories of creation in the book of Genesis. The first one doesn’t give many details about how God created people. In the second one, God makes a man from dust. In the next chapter of Genesis, God tells Adam and Eve that they are dust and to dust they shall return. These words are often said at Christian funerals. Ask kids to describe a funeral they have attended. What words do they remember being said there? Why do they think these words are spoken? (Be sensitive to kids who may have experienced recent and/or especially painful losses.)

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- If you could create a new animal or plant, what would you call it? What would it be like?
- God called creation “good.” What other words would you use to describe creation?
- What animal do you think God had the most fun creating? Why?
- What part of creation seems most amazing to you? Most ordinary? Most useful? Most useless?
- How are people harmful to creation? What can you do about it?
- If you could change one thing about creation, what would it be? Why?

Transition Tips

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- **20 Questions for Creation**

As you are transition from one place to the next, think of an animal, plant, or other element of creation with which kids are familiar. Invite kids to ask yes or no questions to figure out what it is. For example: Is it a plant? Does it have 4 legs? Does it live near us? Try to guess in no more than 20 questions. Whoever guesses correctly gets to pick the part of creation and answer questions.

- **If I Made Creation . . .**

Play a word game in a single file line. Invite the person at the front of the line to say, “If I made creation, I’d make an _____” and fill in the blank with an animal, plant, or other element of creation that starts with the letter A. The next person in line must say, “If I made creation, I’d make a _____,” naming what the first person named, as well as an item that starts with the letter B. If kids move through the line once, keep playing.

- **Skeleton Walk**

In the creation story, God took one of Adam’s ribs to make a woman. Challenge the group to name other bones as you move to the next place. Start with ribs, then see if kids can name skull, backbone (vertebra), pelvic bone, collarbones, shoulder blades (scapulas), arm bones (radius, ulna, humerus), leg bones (femur, tibia, fibula), hands (carpals), feet (tarsals), and other parts of the skeletal system!

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- **Creation Rap**

As a group, create a Creation Rap that tells the story of each day of creation. First, invite kids to create a simple beat that can be used across the verses. Divide kids into pairs or small mixed-age groups to create the words to each verse. Assign each pair or group a day of creation. When everyone is finished, put the verses together.

- **Creation Relation**

When you have a few spare minutes, invite your group to stand in a circle. Instruct every person but one to take off one of their shoes and place it in between their feet. The person with both shoes on is the person in the middle. That person stands in the middle and says, "Hi, my name is _____!" The group heartily responds, "Hi, _____!" The person in the middle then says, "And I like _____!" The person names an element of creation such as mountains, the ocean, or panda bears. Anyone who likes the thing named must leave his/her shoe, and find another vacated shoe. The last person who's not standing with a shoe between their feet is the new person in the middle. Play continues in the same manner.

- **Hipparoo**

Gather as a group and pair kids together (a younger with an older whenever possible). Kids can also work in a group of three as needed. Invite each pair to think of a new animal. The animal can either be a hybrid of a few existing animals (a hipparoo is a hippopotamus and kangaroo combination) or a completely unique creation. Have the kids brainstorm physical characteristics of the animal, as well as behavioral traits. If time allows, invite kids to share their creative animals with the rest of the group.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What is your favorite day of creation? Why?
- Is there anything you wish God hadn't created? Why?
- If you could be any animal, what would you be? Why?
- How do you take care of creation? What else could you do?
- If you had a day to create anything you wanted, what would you create?
- Who takes care of you? Who do you take care of?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Weird Creation**
Call out a letter of the alphabet. As you move, encourage kids to think of a weird and wacky part of creation that starts with that letter. Try to get through the whole alphabet of weird, wacky creations!
- **Creation March**
As you walk from one thing to the next, encourage kids to come up with a fun marching rhyme. Kids can create verses like, "I don't know what you've been told, God made plants and birds and mold." Experiment with other first lines of the verse.
- **Days of Creation Quiz**
During transitions, challenge kids to remember what God made on each day of creation. Organize their answers by saying, "On the first day of creation, God made _____" or "God made day and night on day _____." Allow kids to determine the answer. Continue through each of the days as time allows. Their Spark Bibles and Spark Story Bibles can be a helpful resource!