

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God has a purpose for your life.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will discuss how every time they see the sun, moon, and stars they can be reminded that God has a purpose for their life.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 1:14-19, The Fourth Day

MEMORY VERSE:

“The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it.” Psalm 24:1 (NirV)

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SUMMARY:

Day 4 - On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars. Kids will learn that God made the sun, moon and stars to serve a purpose; and He has a plan and purpose for your life too.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the plans you have for us!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A smart phone with a map app

If you wanted to find your way to the nearest McDonalds, and you've never been in our town, what could you do? You could ask someone in the lobby or the parking lot where the nearest McDonalds is. Or, if you want step by step directions, you can pull out your phone, open Maps, and do a quick search.

Demonstrate the app for the kids. Find the nearest McDonalds, and show them how the Map gives directions. (If McDonalds is right across the street, pick something a little further away.)

On the fourth day, God gave us the sun, the moon, and the stars. Each one of these celestial bodies has a purpose. The sun lights the day. The moon lights the night. The stars not only give us light, but they also helped early explorers and navigators find their way. They were the "map app" for early man!

The sun, moon, and stars also remind us that we have a purpose. God has a plan for your life. He wants to use you to help other people navigate their way to Jesus. Maybe God wants you to lead worship one day. Maybe he wants you to lead a Bible study. Maybe he just wants you to have an open heart to share Jesus with a friend. Whatever that plan is, follow it. Do your best to fulfill God's plan, and he will bless whatever you do.

The sun, moon, and stars light our night and day. Ask God to light the way so you can follow his plan for your life.

FAMILY GAME TIME

1-2-3 RELAY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Orange cones to mark the starting/finishing point of a race and 3 stations in the race
Note cards

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two teams of three for this game. This is a relay race where players will run to three stations, in order, pick up a card, and do what it says.

Create the note cards ahead of time. You will need six cards at each station. Stack them face down on the ground. Players will pick up the cards, read them, and then do what they say.

Station one is animal sounds - each card should tell the player to make the sound of a different animal.

Station two is exercise. Each card will tell the kids to do five jumping jacks, sit ups, push ups, etc.

Station three will tell the players how they must make their way back to the finish. The cards can tell them to “fly” like Superman, or walk sideways, or crawl, or run backwards, etc.

The first team to complete the race wins.

VARIATION:

For younger kids, you can simplify the race by having them all do the same thing at each station, such as crow like a rooster, do five jumping jacks, and then crab walk back to their teammates.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God has a plan he wants you to follow.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 1:14-19, The Fourth Day

INTRO:

There's a lot of preparation that goes into the start of a new school year. As the summer starts to wind down, your parents get a little too excited about it all. They take you to the doctor to get your sports physicals and check ups. They take you shopping to get new clothes for school. And they take you to the store to buy a whole new year's worth of school supplies.

Starting a new school year may not be the highlight of your late summer, but school supply shopping can be fun and exciting. Every school gives out a list of supplies that students need, and each item on that list gives you some clue as to what you will do that year. Markers and crayons and colored pencils means there will be coloring activities. Flashcards in multiplication and division mean that some new math challenges are ahead. Switching from pencils to pens is a definite sign that you are growing up and facing new challenges.

You may never have thought about this, but there's a purpose and a reason for every supply on your list. All the colored folders, all the colored notebooks, everything from dry erase markers to pocket dictionaries to rulers with standard and metric measurements have a purpose. Your teacher has every lesson and every new subject already mapped out, and the supplies on your back to school shopping list all have a purpose.

Today as we move to day four of the creation story, we see God shift his attention from the things of Earth to the things above the Earth. God seems to take a step back by creating some heavenly bodies to govern the night and day. God had a practical purpose for these new, heavenly creations, and God's plan for these new creations can remind us that He has plans for us as well.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

READ GENESIS 1:14-19

MAIN POINT:

God created light and dark so that we would have day and night, but God wanted us to do more than mark the days. By creating the Sun and setting our planet in orbit around it, he gave us the ability to mark the years. He also gave us the moon so that we could track the months. And he gave us stars to not only help light the night sky and mark the seasons, but also allow us to navigate our world by following the signs in the sky.

The sun, moon, and stars have a purpose, even beyond night and day. Thanks to these heavenly bodies, we have a monthly and yearly calendar that allows us to remember holy days and other special events.

Just like the sun, moon, and stars, you have a special purpose. The Bible tells us that God had plans for you before you were even born, and if you seek God's will, he will light the way for you to fulfill those plans. You are God's special creation, and God has a plan only you can fulfill.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Every part of God's creation has a purpose, if you look closely enough. We already mentioned last week that every plant on Earth has a purpose. Not only do they create life-giving oxygen, they provide food that has all the nutrients we need to have healthy, strong bodies.

Each part of creation works in harmony to fulfill God's purpose. We see it in the animal food chain and in the life cycle of plants. We see it in the changing of seasons and in the shifting tides. If God has a plan and a purpose for created things, how much more does he have plans for you?

The ultimate plan for our lives is for us to find God, to know him, and to lead others to him. God wants us to seek him like the wise men who followed a star to Bethlehem. He wants us to know him, like the sailors who knew the star maps and used them to navigate the globe. And he wants us to lead others to him, just as the stars led wayward travelers home.

The sun, moon, and stars have another message for us besides revealing God's purpose. They remind us that time is short. Days turn into months, and months into years. God wants us to find our purpose and follow him now. Whether your purpose is to serve here in church, to serve outside, or simply to be a friendly witness to your friends, God wants you to seize your purpose just as the sun, moon, and stars did on day four and live it out every day.

There are no accidents. There is no "whoops" in God's creation.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

There is a purpose for every created thing, and there is a purpose for you being here. Ask God to reveal His plans to you, and God will use you to do great things!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the plans you have for us!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

What are some devices you use every day to help you stay on task at home and school?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 24:1

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 1:14-19

What did God create on the fourth day?

What purpose did the sun, moon, and stars have?

Can you think of a purpose for plants? Animals? Other things in creation?

Does God have a purpose for your life?

What can the sun, moon, and stars remind us about God each time we see them?

What can we do to find God's purpose?

How can the sun, moon, and stars remind us about God's plans for us?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us your plan for our lives so we can fulfill them.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

FAMILY REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANKS

God created the _____ for the day and the moon and stars for the night.

SUN

God hung the sun, moon, and stars on the _____ day.

FOURTH

God had a _____ for creating the sun, moon, and stars.

PURPOSE

_____ has a plan for your life.

GOD

The movements of the sun, moon, and stars remind us that _____ is short and we need to start following God's plan now!

TIME

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw stars using glow in the dark or neon markers or paint. Encourage them to place the stars in their room so they can be reminded of God's plan each night.