

# THE *Parable* OF THE MUSTARD SEED CRAFT



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THINKING KIDS PRESS



# *The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft*

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# The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft

Jesus told a number of parables that were wonderful word pictures to help his disciples understand truths that are difficult to understand. In private, he explained these parables to his followers. Those who opposed him, however, did not understand his meaning (Mark 4:33-34). Parables, like the mustard seed parable, are wonderful illustrations that lend themselves to a visual representation to help kids understand them better.

You can help your children better understand how the kingdom of God, or kingdom of Heaven, grows from a small seed to a giant tree. The gospel of Jesus is a small seed that takes root in the hearts of many, and throughout time and across nations, the family of God--the Church--is growing day by day!

This fun craft is a great way for your children to think about the parable of the mustard seed.

Read Mark 4:30-34 as a family before you begin your craft. In the ESV, Mark 4:30-32 says:

AND HE SAID, "WITH WHAT CAN WE COMPARE THE KINGDOM OF GOD, OR WHAT PARABLE SHALL WE USE FOR IT? IT IS LIKE A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED, WHICH, WHEN SOWN ON THE GROUND, IS THE SMALLEST OF ALL THE SEEDS ON EARTH, YET WHEN IT IS SOWN IT GROWS UP AND BECOMES LARGER THAN ALL THE GARDEN PLANTS AND PUTS OUT LARGE BRANCHES, SO THAT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR CAN MAKE NESTS IN ITS SHADE."

As you make your craft, discuss:

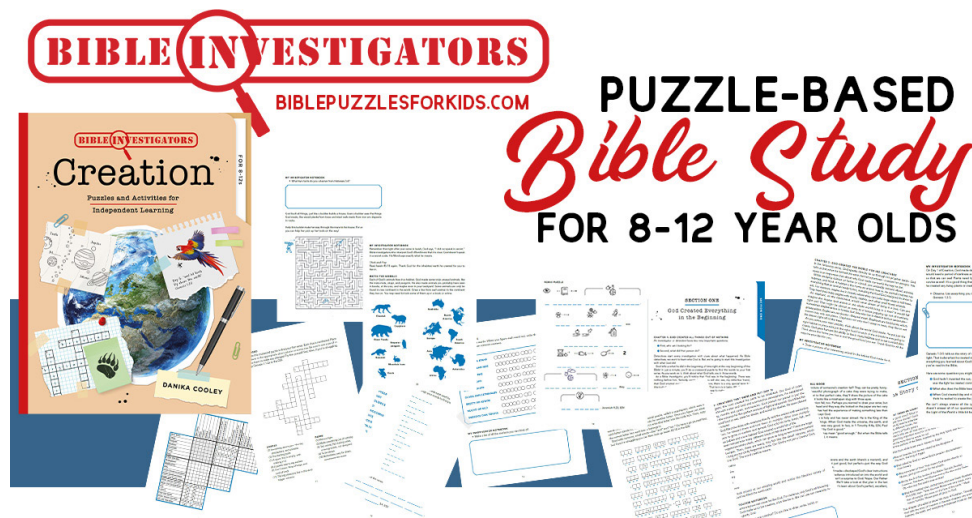
JESUS TOLD PARABLES--STORIES WITH A MORAL POINT--TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE KINGDOM OF GOD BETTER. WHO RULES OVER A KINGDOM?

JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS, AND HE RULES OVER THE KINGDOM OF GOD. WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN THE KINGDOM?

IS THERE A TREE IN YOUR YARD OR NEIGHBORHOOD THAT THE BIRDS ESPECIALLY ENJOY? HOW DID THAT TREE BEGIN ITS LIFE?

WHEN WE SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH PEOPLE WE ARE PLANTING A SEED. WHEN PEOPLE ARE SAVED THROUGH GOD'S GOOD NEWS, THEY BECOME A PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM. EXPLAIN HOW THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS.

Talk about what we should tell people when we share the gospel. Need help teaching the Gospel to kids? Grab your free poster and memory cards in the Thinking Kids Press store..



## Supplies Needed to Make Your Craft

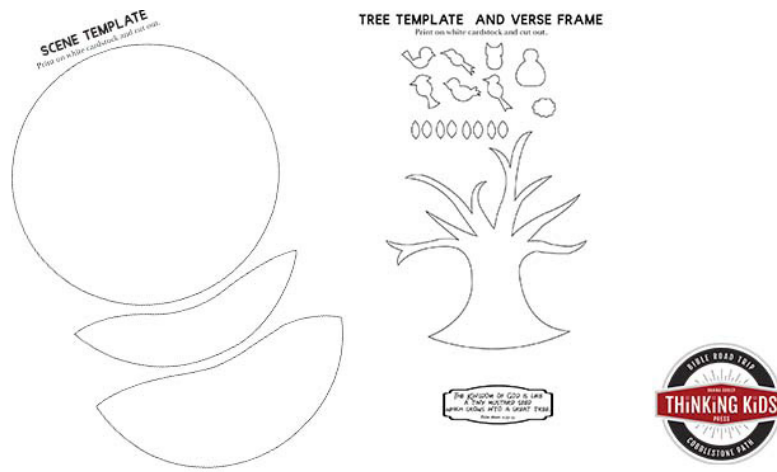
You'll need a few supplies to make your project. You may have a few of these items already. If not, these are all fairly inexpensive and will serve you well for multiple projects.

- Cardstock
- Paperplate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Permanent Markers
- Templates and Label (In this printable!)

# The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft

## INSTRUCTIONS

1) Print your templates and label.



Print your templates and the label on white cardstock and cut them out.



Trace the templates onto colored cardstock, as shown, and cut them out.

2) Create your scene.



Glue the green grass half-circle to the bottom of the blue sky circle, as shown.



# *The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft*

## INSTRUCTIONS



Glue the smaller grassy hill to the bottom of the circle, as shown.

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3) Create your tree.



Glue the tree trunk to the middle of your scene.



Glue the leaves to the end of the branches.

# *The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft*

## INSTRUCTIONS



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4) Add birds and a scoop of mustard seeds to your scene.



Glue the birds to the branches. Then, glue the seeds in the center of the wooden scoop, and glue the scoop to the hill.

# *The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft*

## INSTRUCTIONS



Draw details on the birds using a pencil, as shown. Then, outline the bird wings, beaks, and eyes with permanent markers. Use the permanent marker to draw small seeds in the wooden scoop, as well.



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5) Finish your parable of the mustard seed craft.



Glue the scene to a paper plate.



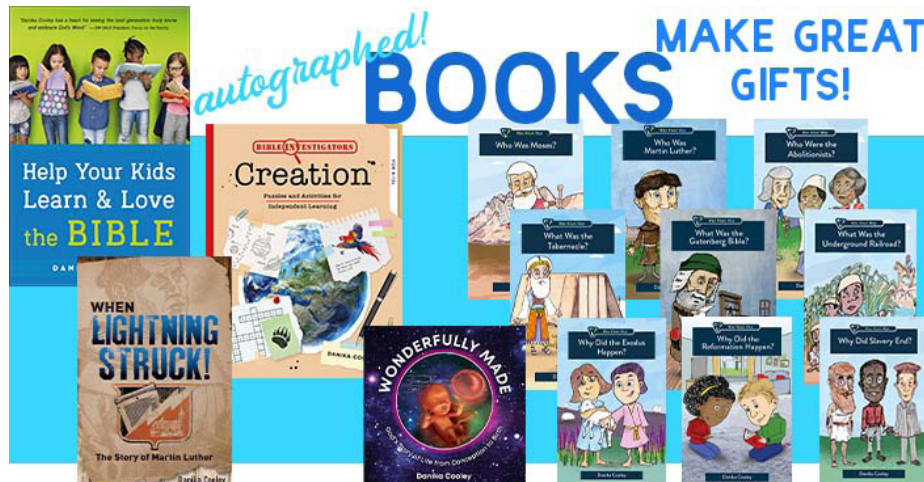
# The Parable of the Mustard Seed Craft

## INSTRUCTIONS



Glue your label to the bottom of the scene.

Display your child's craft somewhere they will see it often.

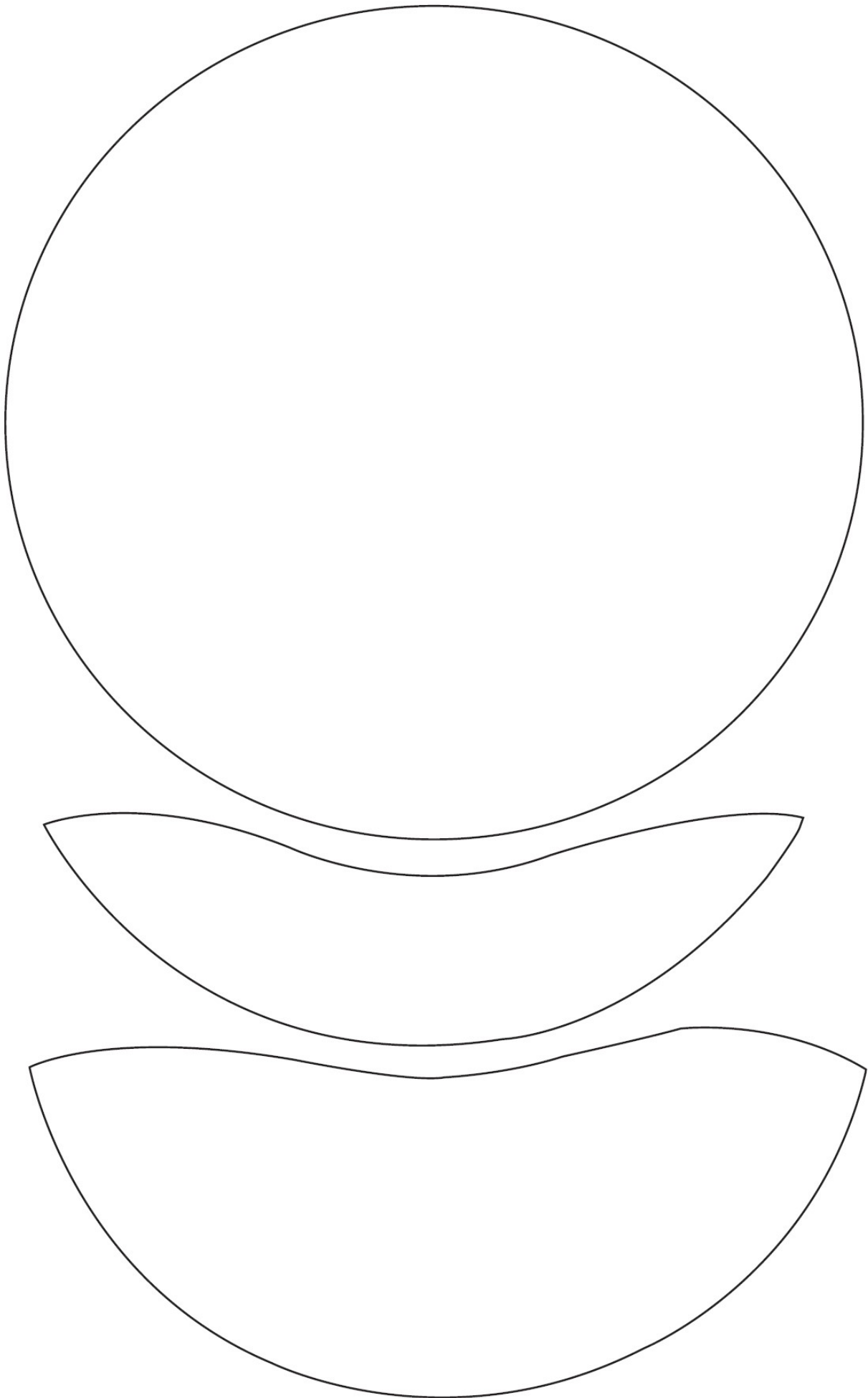


Check out books about the Bible and Christian history for your kids over at [ThinkingKidsPress.com](http://ThinkingKidsPress.com)!



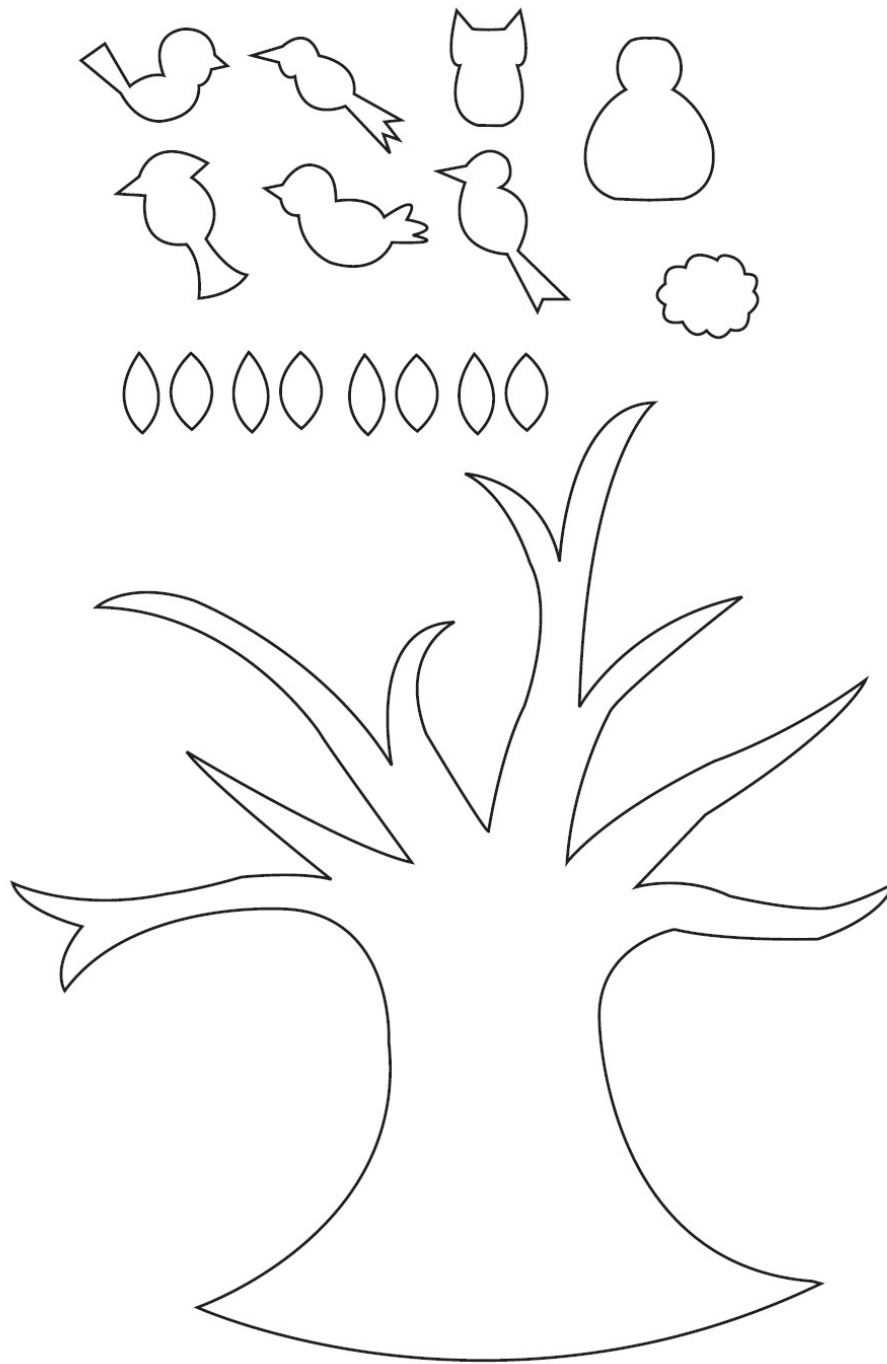
# SCENE TEMPLATE

Print on white cardstock and cut out.



# TREE TEMPLATE AND VERSE FRAME

Print on white cardstock and cut out.



THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE  
A TINY MUSTARD SEED  
WHICH GROWS INTO A GREAT TREE.  
FROM MARK 4:30-32

# BIBLE INVESTIGATORS

## PUZZLE-BASED BIBLE STUDY FOR 8-12 YEAR OLDS

### GOD'S WORD AND SOUND DOCTRINE MATTER FOR OUR KIDS.

We want our children to be able to process, understand, apply, and explain the biblical truths God has laid out in his Word to us.

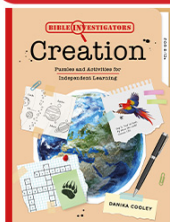
Not only that, we want our kids to become Bible investigators. We want them to be people of the Book who seek out and learn Scripture, so their minds are renewed and they are transformed, able to discern God's will.

#### Good Bible Investigators:

- \* **Observe:** They pay attention to what they're reading.
- \* **Interpret:** They figure out what the Bible means in that section.
- \* **Apply:** They decide how the truth of God's Word impacts their life today.

There are a great many truths in life to be found—some interesting, some boring, and some that really matter. You can be the kind of investigator who spends time puzzling out important truth so that you can know all the knowable knowledge that God has given us. That's right. God, the Creator of the Universe, gave you a great big letter from him to explore and study so that you can discover the truths that really matter to your life!" - *Bible Investigators: Creation*, (The Good Book Company, 2023), page 7

Bible Investigators is a joint project from Danika Cooley and The Good Book Company. The Bible study is 272-pages of learning, puzzles, and fun activities designed to help your kids become amazing independent Bible investigators—observing, interpreting, and applying God's Word as they learn what the Bible teaches on a particular subject.



"A GREAT RESOURCE TO TEACH  
TWEENS AND PRETEENS  
HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE  
FOR THEMSELVES!

DANIKA COOLEY OPENS UP **SERIOUS BIBLE DOCTRINES**  
IN A **FUN, ENGAGING** WAY,  
SHOWING YOUNG PEOPLE HOW TO **READ, INTERPRET,**  
AND BEST OF ALL, **APPLY THE WORD** TO DAILY LIFE.

KIDS WHO COMPLETE THIS BOOK WILL HAVE A **BETTER UNDERSTANDING**  
OF SOME **KEY BIBLE PRINCIPLES** THAN MANY ADULTS.

YOU WON'T FIND MANY RESOURCES THAT ARE  
**BOTH ENTERTAINING AND SOLID** - THIS ONE IS!

WE **HIGHLY RECOMMEND**  
**BIBLE INVESTIGATORS: CREATION**  
**FOR YOUR FAMILY!**

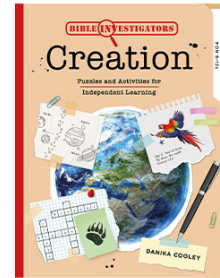
**HAL & MELANIE YOUNG**  
AUTHORS OF NO LONGER LITTLE:  
PARENTING TWEENS WITH GRACE AND HOPE

Elementary-aged kids need hands-on middle grade resources that engage them and equip them to process important truths.

Bible Investigators is the perfect resource to teach your kids about an important biblical doctrine, while helping them apply God's Word to their lives today.



"DANIKA COOLEY BRINGS  
A **VALUABLE RESOURCE** TO HELP YOUNGSTERS  
**DELVE INTO THE SCRIPTURES THEMSELVES.**



IT IS THE PERFECT WAY TO INTRODUCE  
A **PERSONAL BIBLE TIME FOR 8-12-YEAR-OLDS**,  
GUIDING THE STUDENT THROUGH **THOUGHTFUL TEXT**,  
**BIBLE INVESTIGATIONS** AND **CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.**"

**ISRAEL & BROOK WAYNE**  
AUTHORS AND SPEAKERS, FAMILYRENEWAL.ORG

**"DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD,  
BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND,  
THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD,  
WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT."**

**— ROMANS 12:2, ESV**

## **BIBLE PUZZLES FOR KIDS**

Middle grade kids, aged 8-12, love puzzles. After all, their brains are just built for figuring things out and memorizing facts. Puzzles are a wonderful way to help kids develop logic skills and retain important information. And, the book is written in a fun, conversational tone your children are sure to love!

What types of puzzles and activities will you find in Bible Investigators?

Word Searches

Crosswords

Rebus Puzzles

Dot-to-Dots

Logic Puzzles

Missing Letter Puzzles

Cryptograms

Word Sudoku

Mazes

How-to-Draw Pages

Matching Pairs

Word Scrambles

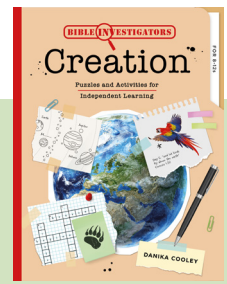
Journal Pages

Every child is sure to find activities they'll love!



# CREATION

Bible Investigators: Creation is an activity book bursting with brain-teasing puzzles, which helps kids investigate the Bible for themselves.



“The Bible author wants to remind you that nothing just magically appears. Everything has a creator.

For instance, have you ever been walking along, picking up acorns and leaves when—BOOM—a house just appears right in front of you? First of all, you’d probably be really glad you didn’t get squished by the mysteriously appearing house. But next, you’d wonder where that house came from. Who made it? How did it get there?

We all know that houses don’t appear out of nowhere. Houses are planned, designed, and built. In fact, building a house takes a really long time. Right?”

*Bible Investigators: Creation*, (The Good Book Company, 2023), page 18

With 90 brain-teasing puzzles, 40 Bible passages, and 30 concepts regarding God’s creation, this 272-page lesson, puzzle, and activity book gives kids aged 8-12 skills to investigate the Bible for themselves—just like a real investigator! As kids apply logic and solve challenging puzzles, they will dive deeply into Scripture and examine the Bible’s account of creation, picking up lots of skills for reading and interpreting the Bible. Your kids will also find lots of journaling boxes which allow them to reflect on, interpret, and apply what they have learned about God’s Word.

Creation is perfect as a six-week unit study for your homeschool, and it’s a great tool for churches to use with kids. It’s fun for road trips and rainy days too!

## BIBLE INVESTIGATORS: CREATION CONTAINS SIX SECTIONS:

Introduction: You Are a Bible Investigator!

### Section One: God Created Everything in the Beginning

God Created All Things Out of Nothing

Genesis 1:1-2a; Jeremiah 4:23

Every House Has a Builder Hebrews 3:4

God Created the World for His Creatures Isaiah 45:18

It Was All Good Genesis 1:31a; 1 Timothy 4:4

God’s Works are Wondrous Psalm 145:1-13

### Section Two: The Story of Creation

Let There Be Light! (Day 1) Genesis 1:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:6

The Sky Above (Day 2) Genesis 1:6-8; Jeremiah 10:12

Soil and Potatoes (Day 3) Genesis 1:9-13; Psalm 104:14

Time for the Universe (Day 4) Genesis 1:14-19; Psalm 104:19-23

Creatures That Swim and Fly (Day 5)

Genesis 1:20-23; Psalm 104:16-17, 24-25

Beasts of the Earth and People (Day 6) Genesis 1:24-27

### Section Three: God Made Me

God Gave Me Life Job 33:4

God Formed Me Wonderfully Psalm 139:13-16

God Gives Everyone Life and Breath Acts 17:24-28

God Created Me for His Glory Isaiah 43:6b-7

### Section Four: Our Creator God

God Is Eternal Psalm 90:2

God Is All-Powerful Psalm 33:8-9

God Is Uncreated Psalm 102:25-27; Revelation 1:8

God the Father Created Genesis 1:26a; Jeremiah 32:17

God the Son Created John 1:1-3

God the Holy Spirit Created Psalm 104:24, 30; Genesis 1:2

### Section Five: God’s Good Creation Gifts

Every Good Gift Is from God James 1:17; John 3:27b

God Blesses Us Genesis 1:28-29

God Gives Us the Sabbath Genesis 2:1-13; Exodus 20:8-20a, 11

God Gives Us Work

Genesis 2:15; Proverbs 28:19; Colossians 3:23-24

God Gives Us Marriage Genesis 2:18-24

### Section Six: God’s Great Salvation Plan

To Disobey God Is to Sin Genesis 2:16-17; John 14:15

Adam and Eve Sinned--And So Have I

Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 3:23

Jesus Paid for Our Sin Ephesians 2:4-9

Believe in Jesus and Confess Belief Romans 10:9-10