



God the Creator

OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand God as their loving Creator and experience themselves as children of God and stewards of creation.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

The eternal God of the Universe created you. So what? Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this thought: There is a God who has given you everything you are and everything you have and everything you ever will know. How shall we treat the gifts? How shall we treat the Giver?

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Isaiah 40:28a, 30-31, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink AC01.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Open a copy of Martin Luther's Small Catechism and turn to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed. Circle five words that describe God and write them on the Youth Handout.

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Why do people want to be noticed? Do you think God wants to be noticed? Why or why not? Affirm all thoughtful answers. People like to be noticed. It makes them feel good. However, God doesn't have this need. A better way to think about this might be: artists love to share the beauty of their work with others. God loves to share, too!

2. What can you notice about God by looking at creation? What do you think God wants you to know and notice about creation? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. From nature, we can see God is great, powerful, engaging and brilliant. God also knows how to put things together.

3. How would you answer a person who said, "You can't be much of a scientist and believe in God!" Einstein believed in a God who "stands behind the universe." With more and more being understood about the complexity of the universe, it might be tougher to be an atheist today than a person of faith!

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Belief: Faith and acceptance that something is true.

Creation: Bringing the universe into existence.

Creator: God, who made the seen and unseen world.

Faith: Trust or confidence in God's plan.

Science: Study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world.

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: Find a civic group or service organization that is responsible for cleaning up a two-mile stretch of highway or a waterway near your church. Call ahead and volunteer to join the group cleaning this piece of creation. If you can't find a local group that does this, choose a stretch of rural highway and clean up the litter.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!



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