

# WEEK 1: The Beginning

**Big Idea:** God created a good world, and sin polluted it.

## HANGOUT

1. Discuss: What's your favourite place to explore God's creation (e.g., park, trail, campsite, or even your own backyard)? Why do you like to be there?
2. Provide paper and drawing supplies. Guide the kids to divide their papers into four sections by folding their paper in half, then in half again. Label the sections See, Smell, Feel, and Hear. If possible, go outdoors; otherwise, ask the kids to imagine that they're in their favourite outdoor space. Direct everyone to write or draw what they see, smell, feel, and hear. Invite the kids to share their ideas.
3. Introduce this week's Big Idea: **God created a good world, and sin polluted it.**
4. Ask the kids if they know what pollution is. Highlight that it's the introduction of contaminants—bad stuff—into the environment. Sin is a pollutant because it contaminates God's good world.
5. Discuss: What are some examples of pollution (e.g., car exhaust, plastic garbage in the waterways, factory smoke)?

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at [youtube.com/themeetinghouse](https://youtube.com/themeetinghouse)

## HEAR

6. Tell the kids that today's God Story is found at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis. In this book, we can read about how God created the earth, all the animals, and people!
7. Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed. Encourage the kids to find Genesis on their own.
8. Read Genesis 1:27-31, 2:15-17, and 3:1-24. If you have confident readers in your group, invite them to take turns reading aloud.
9. Discuss:
  - In Genesis 1:31, how does God feel about his creation? (it was very good)
  - Why did God place the first man in the Garden of Eden according to Genesis 2:15? (to tend and take care of the garden)
  - What instructions did God give to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17? (he could eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil)
  - In your own words, what happened in Genesis 3:1-24?
  - What stands out to you from these passages?
  - Why do you think Adam and Eve decided not to listen to God? What were the consequences of their choice?

**HUDDLE**

10. Explain that from the very beginning, God had a plan to fix the pollution of sin and bring all of creation and people back into his original, good design. And that plan was Jesus! Jesus came to set us free from sin, show us God's love, and set up God's kingdom here on earth.
11. Review the Key Verse for this series ("Christ suffered once for sins. The one who did what is right suffered for those who don't do right. He suffered to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18). Challenge the kids to come up with actions to go with the words of the verse. Practise them together a few times.
12. Optional: Encourage everyone to get permission to use a dry erase marker to write this verse on a mirror or window at home.
13. Pray, "Thank you, God, for your amazing creation that reminds us of how beautiful and creative you are! Thank you for making and loving [mention each group member by name]. Thank you most of all for Jesus, who came to set us free from sin. We love you! Amen."

# Key Verse Word Scramble

Unscramble the words to discover this month's Key Verse!

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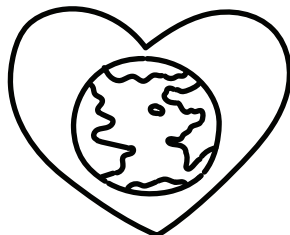
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Gdo.

1 Peter 3:18



**KIDS**