

Junior Teacher Guide – September 2018



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A Great Creation

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “Memory Verse Assembly.”

You will need 10 plastic cups. Use a Sharpie marker to write each word in the key verse on the bottom of a cup. Mix up the cups and give the class 30 seconds to arrange the cups in correct order.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

In the beginning...God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

KEY VERSE EXERCISE.

Tell students to use the missing words in the verse to remember to complete the crossword puzzle.

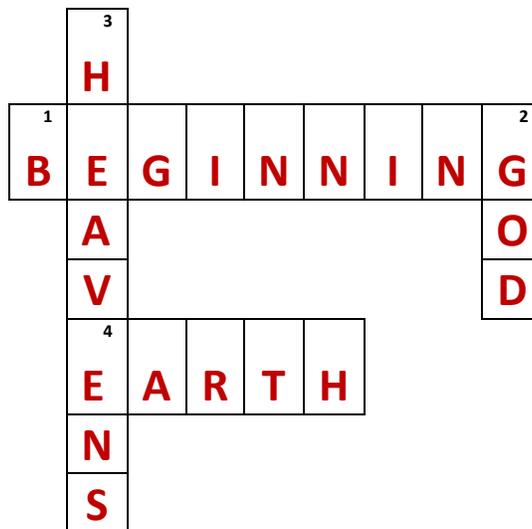
In the beginning ... God created the heavens and the earth.

1 across

2 down

3 down

4 across



Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created the Heavens and Earth aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created the Heavens and Earth

Zion – I've been thinking about what I want to be when I grow up.

Zaya – Well, Zion, you are always designing and building with LEGOs.

Zion – You are right! Maybe I should be an architect.

Zaya – That sounds great! Do you know who the Ultimate Architect is?

Zion – No! I guess I'll have to read up on that.

Zaya – You won't have to do a lot of research. All you have to do is read the first verse in Genesis which reads *"In the beginning."* God is the Ultimate Architect – God created the heavens and the earth. God created something out of nothing.

Zion – Yes, all God had to do was speak, and creation happened.

Zaya – Did you know that the account of the creation in Genesis is told in just 282 words?

Zion – Wow! It's amazing that from nothing to a whole world, including the creation of humankind, takes up only a small portion of the Bible– 282 words!

Zaya – God showed by the creation of the world how order can be created out of chaos. The first three words of the Bible are *"in the beginning."* These words indicate the start of God's creative power, the work of the Ultimate Architect!

Zion – Long before the earth and all things in it, there was God and God alone. God created the world out of nothing. God spoke the world into existence. At first, the earth had no shape and darkness was everywhere.

Zaya – God's creation was orderly and progressive. Because there was darkness everywhere after the formation of the heavens and the earth, God called forth light: *"Let there be light"* (Genesis 1:3).

Zion – Science tells us that light travels at 186,000 miles per second.

Zaya – What an awesome response of light done at God's command!

Zion – The Bible says: *"God saw that the light was good"* (1:4).

Zaya – God knew that the power of light would in time make vision possible.

Zion – Then God separated the light from the darkness: *"God called the light Day and the darkness, He called Night"* (1:5).

Zaya – On the second day, God created the heavens by dividing the waters above from the waters beneath. Now there was sky with clouds to carry moisture.

Zion – On the third day, God created the land and the sea as God spoke these words: *"Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"* (1:9). God called the dry land earth, and the waters that were gathered together He called Seas" (1:10).

Zaya – God also made the plants on the third day. All grass, herbs, and trees were created then. The fruit of all the plants had seeds in them for new plants. The fruit trees and plants would bear fruits and vegetables of different sizes, shapes and colors, such as oranges, grapes, squash, lemons, watermelons and peaches. Such were the first three days of creation.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Sing and discuss the hymn, *"This is My Father's World,"* #14 A.M.E. Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. (Limit to 5 minutes)

Name the various homes God made for the animals. (Answers will vary)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Ask students to write an action song to help Zion and Zaya teach their friends the order of creation. You can brainstorm the lyrics as a class or break the class into pairs or groups. Allow volunteers to share their song.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make creation art.

Materials needed: Copies of the Creation Art Sheet in Appendix A (one per student), construction paper scraps, glue, crayons, scissors

Instructions: Give each student a Creation Art Sheet. Allow students to create, draw and color what happened during the first three days of creation on their art sheet. Collect the art sheets at the end of class. Students will need them again for next week's lesson.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, we praise you for your wonderful creation. As we go throughout our lives may we continue to see your creation as a gift and give you praise and thanksgiving. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Lesson 2 – September 9, 2018 | Genesis 1:14-25

Light and Life

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity Sing “God in Heaven Made a World.”

Sing to the tune of “Old Macdonald” with a hip hop rhythm. Allow the children to insert different animals and sound. Example lyrics are below.

God in heaven made a farm Halle Halle lu
and on his farm he made a chicken Halle Halle lu
with a cluck cluck here and a cluck cluck there
here a cluck there a cluck everywhere a cluck cluck
God in heaven made a farm Halle Halle lu

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

God made the two great lights...and [created] every living creature that moves, of every kind. (Genesis 1:16, 21)

Before class print copies Lesson 2 Key Verse Puzzles Pieces in Appendix B on cardstock paper (one per student). Cut out the pieces and place each set of puzzles pieces in a Ziploc bag. During class give each student a set of puzzle pieces. Tell students to put the puzzle together to show the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created Light and Life aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created Light and Life

Zion – Our cousin, Michael Sekou, says that he wants to be an astronaut.

Zaya – Yes. He wants to *“fly to the moon and play among the stars!”*

Zion – Michael is always reading about the stars, moon, sun and planets. In fact, at age 5, he could name all of the planets and some of the constellations.

Zaya – When we read the creation account in the Bible, Michael was fascinated about the creation of the sun, moon and stars.

Zion – Michael learned that on the fourth day, God created the heavenly bodies. With just His voice, God set the sun, moon and stars in the heavens. God spoke and the lights in the sky separated day from night – the great light that ruled the day was the sun and the great light that ruled the night was the moon. These two great lights were for signs and seasons, days and years.

Zaya – Yes. God made the earth revolve around the sun – one revolution every 365 ¼ days (year). God made the earth rotate on its axis every 24 hours to give us day and night.

Zion – Did you forget about the seasons? Because of the position of the earth on its axis, as the earth revolves around the sun, we get the seasons – winter, spring, summer and fall.

Zaya – God spoke again and gave His approval of what He had done – *“God saw that all things were good”* (1:18).

Zion – On the fifth day, God created the sea animals and birds. God planned their home before God created them. The sea (waters) were filled with living things such as fish, ducks, geese, sharks, dolphins, crabs, whales, eels, crocodiles and octopuses. God created the birds of the air such as eagles, robins, owls, parrots, canaries, turkeys, blue jays and hummingbirds. God commanded the sea animals and birds to *“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas and let the birds multiply on the earth”* (1:22).

Zaya – On the sixth day, God created beasts, cattle and creeping things. This included four-legged animals like elephants, deer, sheep, horses, tigers, bears, lions, as well as animals that crawl on the ground like snakes and snails.

Zion – But God was not finished yet. See you next Sunday for the final chapter in the creation story!

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in *What Do You Think are underlined.*

What did God create on the fourth day? The sun, moon and stars

What did God create on the fifth day? Sea animals and birds

Create a “new” animal such as an “octoroo” – an animal that has eight arms and a pouch (combination of an octopus and a kangaroo). *[Answers will vary]*

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students to help Zion and Zaya come up with a list of creatures that were created on the fifth day by naming as many animals as you can in 60 seconds.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make more creation art.”

Materials needed: Creation Art Sheets from last week, construction paper scraps, glue, crayons, scissors

Instructions: Distribute the Creation Art Sheets. Allow students to create, draw and color what happened during fourth and fifth days of creation on their art sheet. Collect the art sheets at the end of class. Students will need them again for next week’s lesson.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for creating the sun, the moon and the stars. Thank you for creating sea creatures and animals. All of your creation is beautiful and shows us how real you are. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Lesson 3 – September 16, 2018 | Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4b-7

A Magnificent Creation

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Blow up a balloon

Blow up a balloon while the children are watching. Share with them what it takes to make the balloon inflate and why it needs air or your breath to blow it up. Explain how God blew into man and he became alive.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verses to remember aloud.

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image." (Genesis 1:26)

Ask students to decode the verse to remember.

G o d s a i d, " L e t u s m a k e
7 15 4 19 1 9 4 12 5 20 21 19 13 1 11 5

h u m a n k i n d i n o u r i m a g e."
8 21 13 1 14 11 9 14 4 9 14 15 21 18 9 13 1 7 5

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created People aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created People

Zaya – God is a God of order. God is the Master Designer. In God’s plan for the world, God created the heavens and the earth; light, day and night; the sun, moon and stars; fruits, vegetables and plants; and animals of the land, sea and air.

Zion – After God created “cattle and creeping things, and wild animals of the earth of every kind” (1:24), the world was ready for God’s most magnificent creation. God created humankind in God’s own image (1:26). What does this mean? Humankind is like the Trinity. God is three in one – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. As a trinity, humankind was created as one in three – body, mind and soul. God created humankind as unique beings in that God gave humankind the ability to think and make choices.

Zaya – When God created humankind, God gave them some special instructions: “Be fruitful and multiply” (1:28). God instructed them to reproduce themselves, to have a family. Then God told them to subdue the earth; that is, explore and learn about the earth and take care of it. This is the basis of scientific exploration and learning even today. Proverbs 25:2 says: “It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.”

Zion – God repeats previous instructions given for humankind to “have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:28). Humankind is God’s representative on earth to rule the earth, to be in charge. Then God told His special creation how provisions had been made for their survival: “I have given every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit, you shall have them for food” (1:29). God also provided for every beast, fowl and creeping thing.

Zaya – It is in the second chapter of Genesis where God describes the creation of His most magnificent Creation, human beings. God created man from the dust of the earth. God needed someone to tend to His creation, so He created man. In his sermon, The Creation, James Weldon Johnson described the creation of man this way:

*God looked around on all that he had made...
And God said, 'I'm lonely still.'*

*Then God sat down on the side of a hill where He could think...
With His head in His hands, He thought and thought,
Till He thought, 'I'll make me a man!'
Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay;
And by the bank of the river He kneeled Him down; ...
This Great God, like a mammy bending over her baby
Kneeled down in the dust, toiling over a lump of clay;
Till He shaped it in his own image;
Then into it He blew the breath of life,
And man became a living soul. Amen. Amen.*

Zion – God was pleased with everything He had made. On the seventh day, God rested. God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. God’s work was completed.

Zaya – In His creation, God hid diamonds and other reassures in the earth where we have to dig for them. The same is true about God’s Word – we must study God’s Word diligently to discover the brilliant jewels of knowledge God has hidden there.

Zion – What a wonderful gift God has given us!

Rise Up!

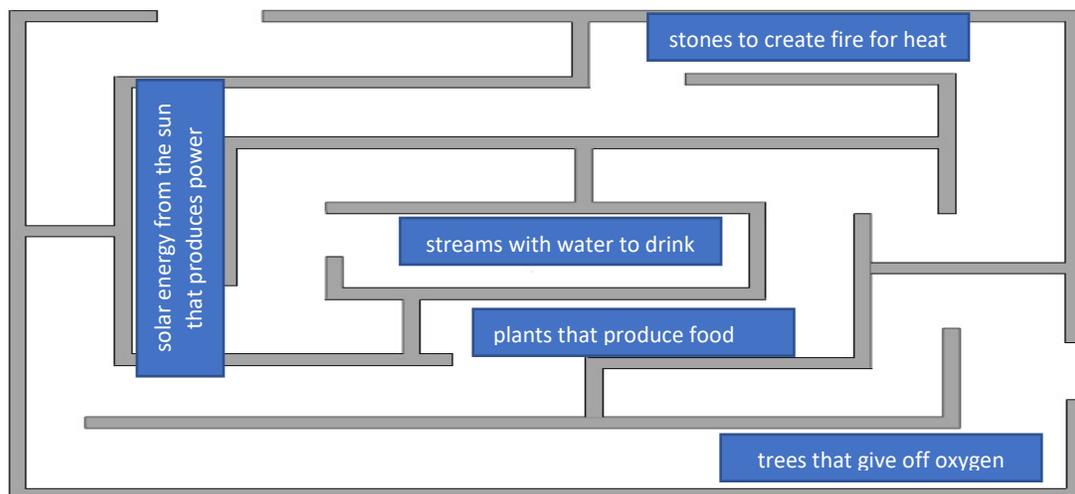
Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Read “*The Creation*” by James Weldon Johnson. (*Optional: Do this as a choral reading*)

List the wonders of creation that you can see, hear, smell, feel and taste. (*Answers will vary*)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Use blue painters tape to make a maze on the floor. Write down the provisions of nature on blank sheets of paper (like trees that give off oxygen, plants that produce food, stones to create a fire for heat, solar energy from the sun that produces power, streams with water to drink). Alternatively, you can print images instead of writing words. Place the sheets of paper throughout the maze. See the diagram below for a sample maze design. Tell students Zion and Zaya are learning how nature provides things for us. Help them by making your way through the maze in less than five minutes.



Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make even more creation art.

Materials needed: Creation Art Sheets from last week, construction paper scraps, glue, crayons, scissors

Instructions: Distribute the Creation Art Sheets. Allow students to create, draw and color what happened during sixth day of creation on their art sheet.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, we thank you for making us in your image. Let every breath we take remind us that you gave us life and we are important to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Lesson 4 – September 23, 2018 | Genesis 2:18-24; 4:1-2

We Live in Families

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Share why family is important.

Seat the class in a circle. Ask volunteers to share why their family is important to them.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." (Genesis 2:18)

Tell students to connect the dots in the order of the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya How God Created the Family aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Created the Family

Zaya – We often hear of a pastor's wife being called "*first lady*." But there was only one "*first lady*" and the story of her creation is told after the creation of man.

Zion – Yes. God saw that man was alone and decided to create a companion for him.

Zaya – It is interesting to note that God created woman from man.

Zion – God had created every animal and bird.

Zaya – God gave man the privilege of naming each living thing. Whatever the man called the living thing, it became its name.

Zion – Although the man was surrounded by tame animals, wild animals and birds, he was still lonely.

Zaya – We know God to be a loving and caring God. So was He with the man Adam. God saw that none of the animals or birds was suitable helpmates for Adam. So God addressed Adam's need.

Zion – God created Adam's companion differently from the way He created Adam and the other living things.

Zaya – God put Adam to sleep, in a very deep sleep. Then God performed surgery on Adam. God took a rib from Adam's body and closed the skin over the place from where He took the rib. From Adam's rib, God created woman.

Zion – Then God presented the woman to Adam. Adam exclaimed, *"She is from my bones. Her body came from my body! I will call her 'woman' because she was taken out of man"* (2:23).

Zaya – And so they were married – they became one.

Zion – The family came next in Genesis 4:2. The first son was Cain who became a farmer. Their second son was named Abel and he became a shepherd.

Zaya – So it was that God began to populate His world.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Why did God create a woman? God did not think it was good for man to be alone

How did the first family come into existence? God made a woman to be the special partner of man. The first family came from their marriage.

Who are the matriarch and patriarch of your family? (Answers will vary)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students to help Zion and Zaya highlight a child's responsibilities in the family by sharing the responsibilities they have in their families.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Family Coat of Arms.

Materials needed: Copies of the Coat of Arms template in Appendix C (one per student), crayons, markers, scissors, glitter glue, old magazines and other art supplies (like fabric, construction paper, tissue paper or stickers)

Instructions: Give each student a copy of the Coat of Arms template. Explain what goes in each section of the coat of arms as depicted below.

Draw a picture of your family.	Use the art supplies to make a symbol for your family. It could be a shape, a letter, an animal, or object.
Find a picture in a magazine that show an activity your family likes.	Write your city and state.

Write your last name.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Dear God, thank you for our families. Help us to be good family members by being kind to each other. Thank you for being our Dad and always caring for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Learn to Obey

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play a “Walk in the Garden.”

Ask children to form a straight line against a wall in the classroom. Tell them they are in the Garden of Eden. The instructions for this game are similar to the instructions for Simon Says. Students can only move forward when they hear you say, “God said” before an instruction.

God said you may eat fruit from all trees in the garden except one. Take three steps forward.

God said this is the tree whose fruit you must not touch or eat. Take one step to the right.

Fruit is good for you. Take one step forward. (*Students who move are out of the game.*)

Discuss how this is what happened to Adam and Eve when they did not obey specific instructions God gave to them in the Garden.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” (Genesis 2:18)

Tell students to unscramble the phrases in the verse to remember.

hTe oLdr	The Lord
dGo aisd	God said
thWa si sith	What is this
ttah oyu	that you
eavh node	have done

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Creates and We Disobey aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Creates and We Disobey

Zaya – A beautiful garden...a man and a woman who loved one another...God who made them...a snake...a trick... disobedience... and all was lost.

Zion – This is the story in a nutshell of how sin came into the world.

Zaya – After God created a man, (Adam) God provided a beautiful garden for the man’s home. In the Garden of Eden, God caused fruit to grow on every tree. But In the middle of the garden was the tree of life. God commanded the man: *“You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden except the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil”* (2:16-17). God warned the man of the consequences of eating from that tree – death. After the man was created, later God decided to create a woman.

Zion – Also in the garden was a cunning snake who approached the woman (Eve) one day. The snake twisted God’s words as he tried to tempt the woman. The snake (Satan) misquoted God’s words: *“Did God say you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden”* (3:1)?

Zaya – But the woman responded with an editorial of her own – *“We must not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden nor must we touch it or we will die”* (3:3).

Zion – Satan disputed the woman’s interpretation of God’s warning. Satan told Eve she would not die...*“You will be like God”* (3:4-5).

Zaya – Eve could not resist the beauty of the forbidden tree and its fruit was so tempting. No doubt her taste buds longed to experience the fruit. So ignoring God’s warning, Eve took some of the fruit and offered it to Adam who did not refuse it.

Zion – What a price Adam and Eve paid for being disobedient! They realized they were naked and tried to cover themselves with fig leaves sewn together.

Zaya – But when they heard God’s voice, they tried to hide. When God called to Adam, Adam told God that when he heard God walking in the garden, he hid because he was naked.

Zion – God questioned Adam, *“Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”* (3:11).

Zaya – Adam passed the blame – *“The woman you gave me offered me the fruit so I ate it”* (3:12).

Zion – Then God questioned the woman who responded, *“The snake tricked me”* (3:13).

Zaya – It was necessary for God to not only punish Adam and Eve, but also punish the snake. The snake was cursed to crawl on its belly and eat dust all of its days. As the final punishment, the child of the woman would crush the snake’s head. God punished the woman by causing her pain in childbirth and making her husband rule over her.

Zion – God punished the man by cursing the ground, making it difficult for Adam to make the land produce food. Man would only eat by the sweat of his brow. Adam no longer had the abundant produce of the Garden of Eden. He had to work to eat. Then when he died, Adam would return to the dust of the earth.

Zaya – The worst punishment of all was that Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden and from God’s presence. So it was that Adam and Eve’s disobedience brought sin into God’s perfect world. And God’s wonderful creation and creatures still sin and face punishment!

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

What was the result of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit? They had to leave the garden

What are some consequences you experienced for being disobedient? (*Answers will vary*)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students to help Zion and Zaya write a story about obedience. The story can be based on their own experiences at home or school.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Obedience Keys.

Materials needed: Copy of the Obedience Key Template in Appendix D, cardstock paper, scissors, markers, hole punch, pipe cleaners

Instructions: Cut the keys in the template so each student can use one key as a pattern. Students should cut out four keys. Punch a hole at the top of each key. Write the four words on each key. Use the pipe cleaner to assemble the keys together as if they are on a key ring. Explain what each key means after students assemble their key rings.

Imagine a door that has four different locks, each requiring a separate key. Though each one of these keys will work, *all four keys* are required to open the door. Similarly, true obedience is comprised of several keys and all keys are necessary.

1. Immediately

Delayed obedience = disobedience! Respond quickly to direction and instruction. Instant obedience may save your life! Consider a little boy running toward the road, into the path of an oncoming car. If he fails to obey when commanded to “STOP”, it could cost him his life.

2. Cheerfully

A cheerful attitude can make a difficult chore seem much easier to accomplish. A bad attitude makes simple tasks harder.

3. Completely

If you are asked to gather the trash and you immediately respond with a cheerful attitude, but fail to replace the trash bag in the trash can, you have not done the job completely.

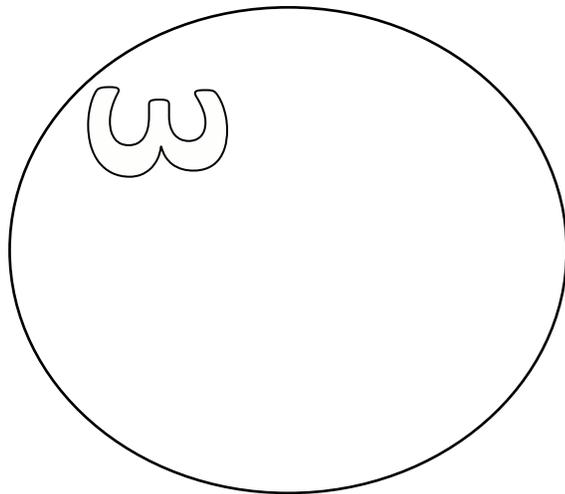
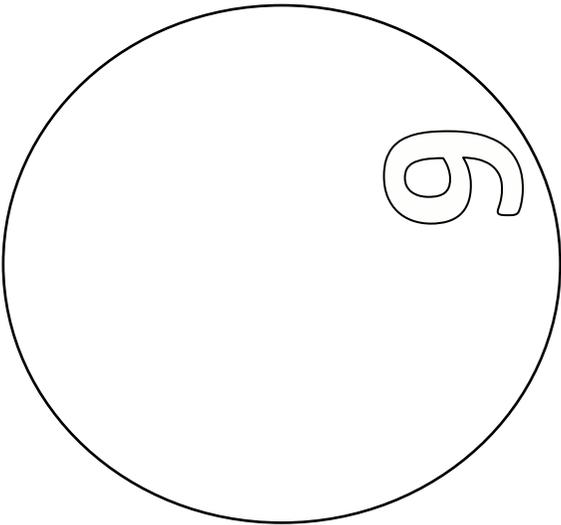
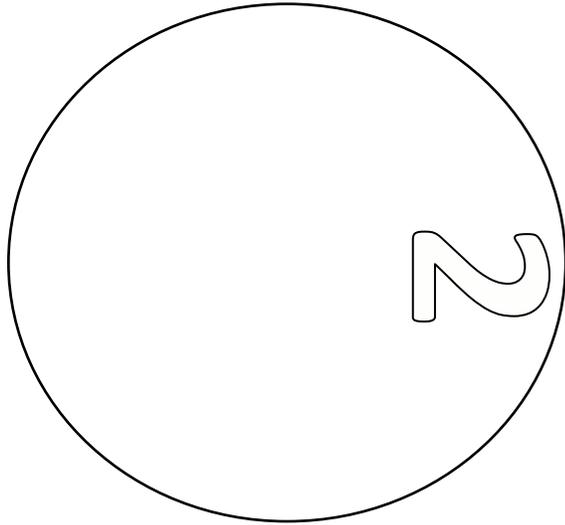
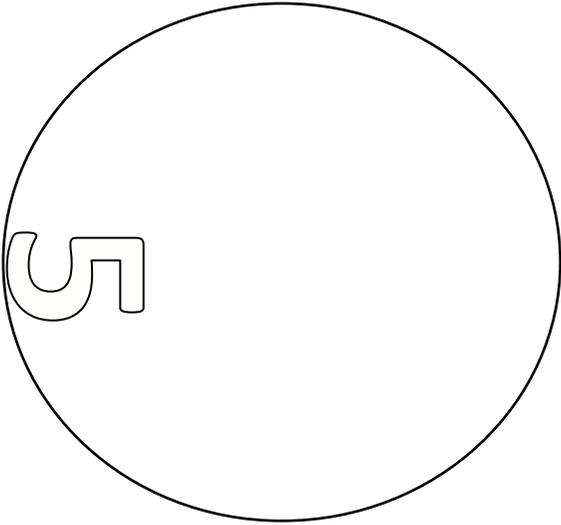
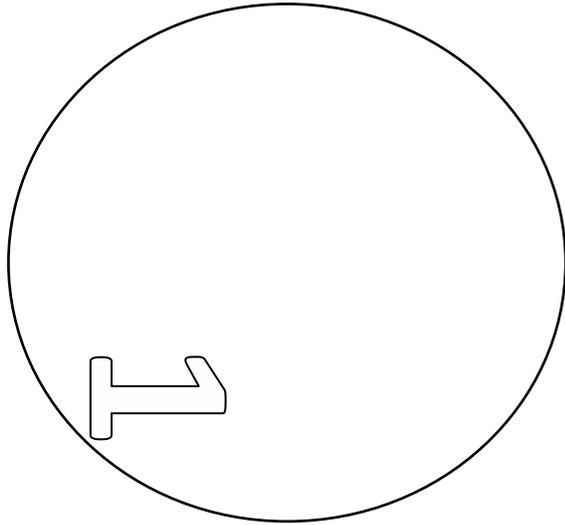
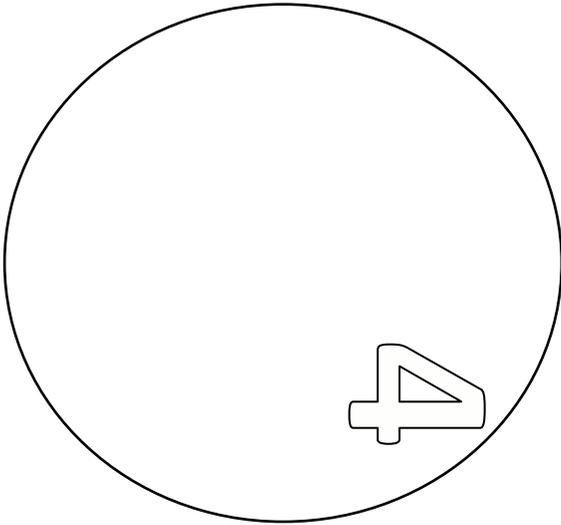
4. Without Complaining

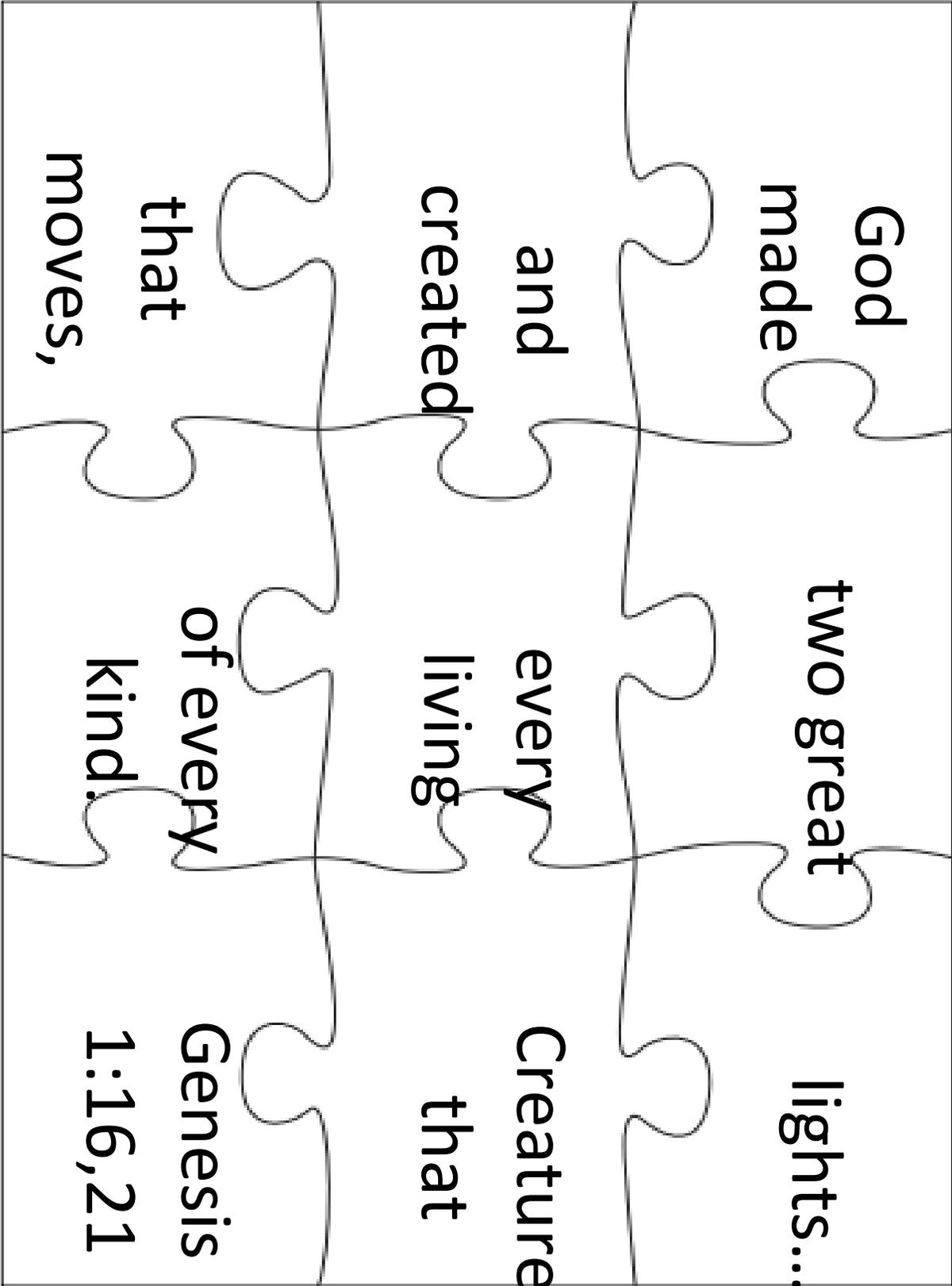
No grumbling or arguing is allowed. This includes statements such as “That’s not my job” or “I always have to do that.”

Close the lesson with prayer.

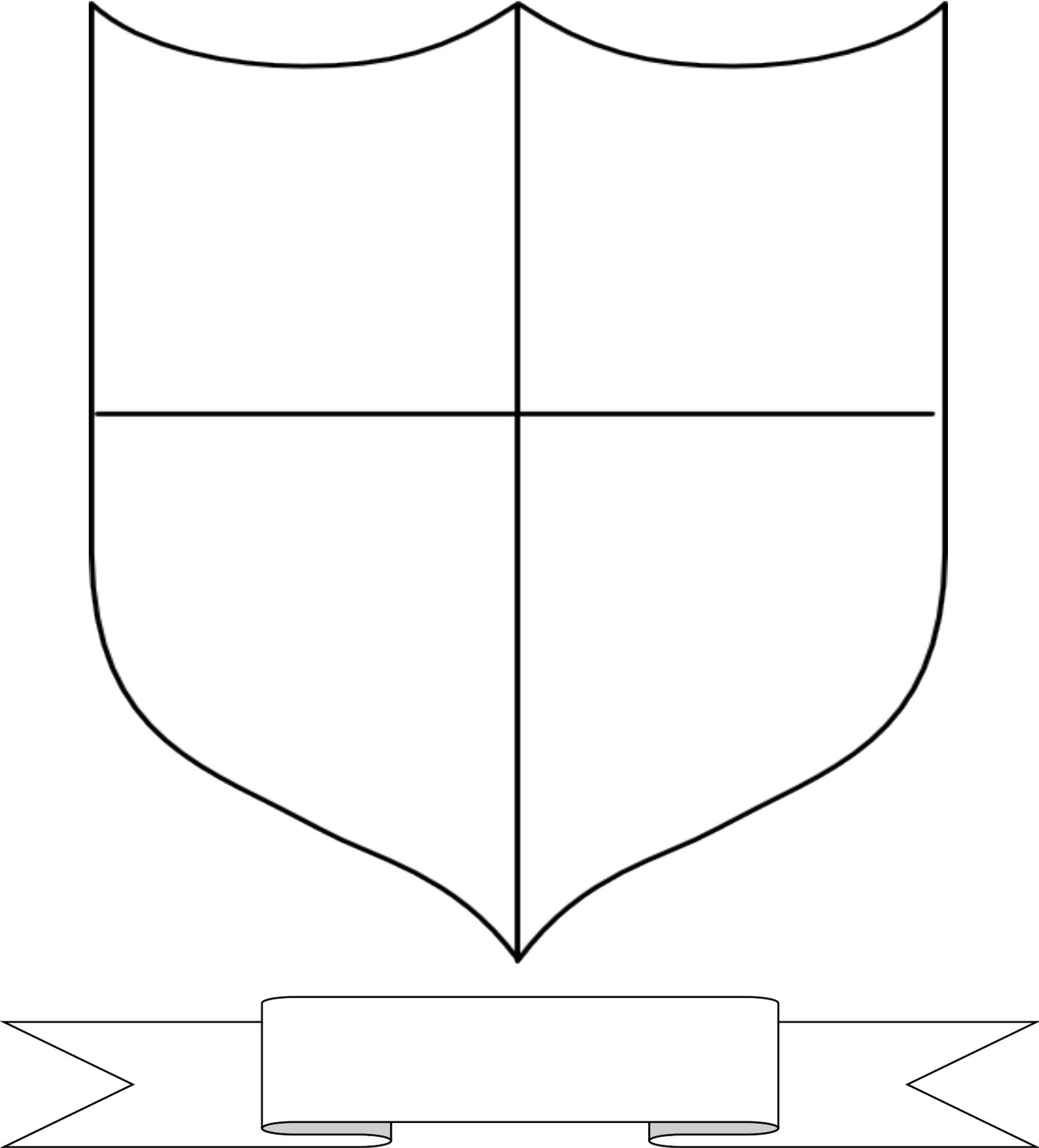
Lord, we commit our hearts to obeying you and the rules we are supposed to follow. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

DAYS OF CREATION





Appendix C | Coat of Arms Template



Appendix D – Obedience Key Template

